

## *Issues in Gricean and Relevance-theoretic Pragmatics*

Convenor: Valentina Bambini

H: 12

Credits: 2

Semester: II

Reading Group (type C)

### **Description**

The main challenge in pragmatics is how speakers fill the gap between what is said and what is communicated. Pragmatic accounts claim that communication is not simply based on coding and decoding of linguistic elements, but involves inferential processes that combine linguistic and non-linguistic (contextual) elements. Models, however, differ in how they describe the heuristics and the mechanisms that guide pragmatic inferencing. Moreover, models differ in the accounts proposed for different non-literal expressions. The aim of this reading group is to examine the relevant pragmatic models and their respective accounts of non-literal language, with special attention to metaphor and humor.

### **Readings**

Allott, N. (2010). *Key Terms in Pragmatics*. London: Continuum. [Introduction]

Grice, H. P. (1975). *Logic and conversation*. In P. Cole & J. Morgan (Eds.), *Syntax and semantics 3: Speech acts* (pp. 41–58). New York, NY: Academic Press. Reprinted in H. P. Grice (1989). *Studies in the way of words* (pp. 22-40). Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.

Wilson, D. & Sperber, D. (2004). *Relevance Theory*. In L. R. Horn & G. Ward (eds.), *The Handbook of Pragmatics* (pp 607-632). Oxford: Blackwell.

Allott, N. (2018). *Conversational implicature*. In M. Aronoff (Ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (online encyclopaedia). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Haug, M. (2013). *Inference and implicature*. In C.A. Chapelle (Ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics* (pp 2-8). Oxford: Blackwell.

Harris, R.J. & Monaco, G.E . (1978). *The psychology of pragmatic implication: Information processing between the lines*. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 107, 1-22.

Singer, M. (1994). *Discourse inference processes*. In M. A. Gernsbacher (Ed.), *Handbook of psycholinguistics* (pp. 479-515). San Diego, CA, US: Academic Press.

Wilson, D. & Carston, R. (2007). *A unitary approach to lexical pragmatics: relevance, inference and ad hoc concepts*. In: Burton-Roberts, N, (ed.) *Pragmatics*. (pp. 230-259). Palgrave Macmillan: Basingstoke and New York.

Carston, R. (2010). *Metaphor: Ad hoc concepts, literal meaning and mental images*. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 110(3), 295–321.

Carston, R. (2018). Figurative Language, Mental Imagery, and Pragmatics. *Metaphor and Symbol*, 33: 198-217.

Wilson, D. (2006). The pragmatics of verbal irony: Echo or pretence? *Lingua* 116(10): 1722-1743.

Attardo, S. (1996). Humor. In J. Verschueren, J. O. Östman (Eds.), *Handbook of pragmatics* (pp. 1–18). Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Attardo, S. (1993). Violation in conversational maxims and cooperation: The case of jokes. *Journal of Pragmatics* 19: 532-558.

Yus, F. (2017). Incongruity-resolution cases in jokes. *Lingua*, 197: 103–122.

### *Evaluation*

The evaluation will be based on classroom discussion.

### *Calendar*

January 24, 14:15-17:15

February 4, 11-14

February 14, 14:15-17:15

February 20, 10:15-13:15

Classroom 1-16