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# Linguistics Program

LINGUISTICS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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## Referential Domains in Language Processing

Definite referring expressions, such as “the upcoming talk” assume a uniquely identifiable referent within a relevant context or domain. I’ll review recent work from my laboratory that uses eye movements in relatively natural tasks to investigate how listeners circumscribe referential domains as an utterance unfolds. Factors widely viewed as relevant to defining referential domains within the “language-as-action” tradition influence the earliest moments of reference resolution, including, salient visual context, goal-specific properties of objects, and the listener’s knowledge of the speaker’s perspective, even when it conflicts with his or her own immediate perceptual experience. I’ll highlight the theoretical and methodological implications of this work, argue that further understanding of referential domains requires investigating real-time processing of interactive conversation and review recent work that shows how eye movements can be used to study moment-by-moment language comprehension in fully interactive, non-scripted conversation

**April 11 at 3:30pm  
Gambrell 153**

**Reception to  
follow in the  
English Department  
Lounge**