On the information status of iconic meaning contributions and a concept of graded at-issueness

Structures such as conventional implicatures and presuppositions have long been described as being not at-issue and therefore considered to contribute information in a different manner to other linguistic structures. As semantic research has turned towards investigating the meaning contributions of iconic enrichments such as iconic gestures and ideophones in recent years, there has been particular interest in the at-issue status of these iconic enrichments as compared to arbitrary items. While experimental work has shown that iconic enrichments appear to be predominantly not at-issue (cf. Ebert et al. 2020 for gestures and Barnes et al. 2022 for ideophones), there is also evidence that at-issueness may not necessarily be a binary category, but rather a gradient one. The gradient nature of at-issueness has also been indirectly shown for other not-at-issue items by Tonhauser et al. (2018), in experimental work on projectivity. In this talk, we will proposes a new approach to at-issueness, whereby it is analysed as a gradient property based on a given structure-inherent at-issue status and the corresponding proposition's relevance to a Question Under Discussion in a given context.