

CENTER FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE
University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

280 Park Hall
North Campus
2:00 pm –4:00 pm

Greg Carlson, Ph.D.

Department of Linguistics
University of Rochester

"Meaning and concepts"

Meanings of lexical items are often identified with concepts by many psychologists and linguists alike. I will agree with this. I will also agree that meanings of entire utterances are not concepts (at least, not of the same type). This appears to create a fundamental conflict about the nature of meanings expressed by language. I am going to argue that the conflict is apparent. Using evidence from linguistic theory, this talk is aimed at squaring the two conceptions of meaning by proposing an integrated system of semantic interpretation which takes meanings of lexical items to be concepts exactly of the sort (some) psychologists and linguists say they are and mapping them into meanings of the type (some) linguists, chiefly formal semanticists, say they are. The linguistic structures examined most closely are "weak indefinites" found, to my knowledge, in all languages, and object-incorporation structures found in many languages.

Refreshments will be available

Open to the Public!

For information please or check

<http://www.cogsci.buffalo.edu/Activities/Colloquium/CLLOf04/2004fall.htm>