

Màster en Lingüística i aplicacions tecnològiques
Programa oficial de postgrau en Comunicació lingüística i mediació multilingüe
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

**Dr Istvan Kecskes, Professor of Linguistics
State University of New York, Albany**

Conferència del seminari de màster
El dia 20 de maig, de 17:00h a 19:00h, a l'aula 119
Edifici Rambla, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Rambla 30-32, Barcelona

**Dueling contexts: A dynamic model of meaning
Istvan Kecskes
State University of New York, Albany**

This talk focuses on the role of context in meaning construction. The dynamic model of meaning (DMM) is based on the assumption that context is a dynamic construct that appears in different formats in language use both as a repository and/or trigger of knowledge. Consequently, context has both a selective and a constitutive role. Unlike several current theories claiming that meaning is mostly dependent on situational context, I will argue that *meaning values of words* encoding prior contexts of experience play as important a role in *meaning construction* as actual situational context. According to this approach meaning is the result of the interplay of prior experience and current experience that are both socio-cultural in nature. Prior experience is encapsulated in the meaning values of lexical items that make up the utterances used by the interlocutors, and current experience is represented in the actual situation context in which communication takes place, and which is interpreted (often differently) by the interlocutors.

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