

# Center for Cognitive Science

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

**Wednesday, October 1, 2003**

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

**Gregory Ward**  
**Department of Linguistics**  
**Northwestern University**

## **Who's the Ham Sandwich? A Pragmatic Analysis of Deferred Equatives**

Previous accounts of DEFERRED REFERENCE (e.g. Nunberg 1995) have argued that all (non-ostensive) deferred reference is the result of MEANING TRANSFER, a shift in the sense of a nominal or predicate expression. An analysis of deferred equatives (e.g. *I'm the ham sandwich*) suggests an alternative account based on the notion of PRAGMATIC MAPPING: a contextually licensed mapping operation between (sets of) discourse entities neither of which undergoes a transfer of meaning. Moreover, the use of a deferred equative requires the presence of a contextually licensed OPEN PROPOSITION whose instantiation encodes the particular mapping between entities, both of which remain accessible to varying degrees within the discourse model. Finally, it is shown how a complete account of deferred reference must provide for transfers of reference as well as meaning.

**Refreshments will be available.**  
**Open to the Public.**

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[http://wings.buffalo.edu/cogsci/Activities/Colloquium/colloquia\\_schedule.htm](http://wings.buffalo.edu/cogsci/Activities/Colloquium/colloquia_schedule.htm)