

Relating Gesture to Speech

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Many gestures, especially iconic, co-verbal gestures seem to add semantic content to discourse, but how do we model their contribution? To answer this question, it is tempting to turn to formal semantic tools that have proven reliable in diagnosing various types of linguistic content, such as asserted or projective content. In this talk, I take a step back and outline some reasons why we shouldn't resort too quickly to these tools and argue that doing so runs the risk of circularity. I also review some reasons why pursuing a discourse-based model of gesture might be more promising.