The Department of Linguistics
is pleased to present

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speaking on

Socio-pragmatic analyses of functional morphemes

Saturday, March 12, 2022
3:30 PM
Via Zoom

Abstract:

All phenomena in linguistic pragmatics have important (but often neglected) sociolinguistic dimensions relating to style, agency, and variation. This creates opportunities to achieve deeper results by bringing pragmatic and sociolinguistic theories together. In this talk, I'll highlight a range of recent socio-pragmatic analyses of functional elements of language, from Eric Acton, Lelia Glass, Sunwoo Jeong, and others, and I'll offer an extended case study (joint work with Lewis Esposito) involving English singular 'some', guided by early insights from Donka Farkas. I'll use these examples as a chance to conjecture about why functional elements are rich in social meaning. In addition, all my examples follow a general pattern of using semantic meaning and broadly Gricean ideas as basic ingredients, and so I am hoping we can reflect on alternative perspectives and modes of analysis in this area as well.