

On the Semantics of Epistemic Vocabulary

Sarah Moss
University of Michigan
ssmoss@umich.edu

This talk motivates and develops a novel semantics for several epistemic expressions, including possibility modals and indicative conditionals. The semantics I defend constitutes an alternative to standard truth conditional theories, as it assigns sets of probability spaces as sentential semantic values. I argue that what my theory lacks in conservatism is made up for by its strength. In particular, my semantics accounts for the distinctive behavior of nested epistemic modals, indicative conditionals embedded under probability operators, and instances of constructive dilemma containing epistemic vocabulary.

For further details, the handout is available in advance: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~ssmoss/SALTHO.pdf>.