Logic and Conversation
Assignment 6

Please return the assignment in pdf by email to: floris.roelofsen@gmail.com
Due date: Wednesday 21/12

Do one of the following things:

1. Examine to what extent the *resource sensitive* inquisitive witness semantics, discussed in class and in the 'afterthought' note posted on the course website, is a suitable modification of InqW. We considered one specific example to argue that it improves on InqW. But does it really provide a general solution for the problem at hand? Can you prove, in particular, that in the resource sensitive semantics, every state that supports a formula ϕ is contained in a *maximal* state supporting ϕ? See the JPL paper for a proof of this crucial fact for InqB in the propositional setting.

2. Examine to what extent the proposal made in Ivano's note, posted on the course website, solves the boundedness problem. Some concrete questions are posed at the end of the note. The ultimate result would again be to show that in the proposed system, every state that supports a formula ϕ is contained in a *maximal* state supporting ϕ.

3. Write a 5-7 page essay comparing Gricean pragmatics with the pragmatics proposed in the Inquisitive Semantics and Pragmatics paper, the one proposed in the paper/slides about *might*, and the one proposed in Matthijs' paper. Are there any differences in the overall philosophy? Are there any differences at the level of the Maxims? What kind of phenomena can (not) be accounted for by the different theories? Do you see any outstanding problems (and perhaps ways to resolve them)?

4. Perhaps there was another topic discussed during the course that you have been thinking about and would like to write about. In that case, please contact us on Wednesday or Thursday, and we will discuss this option with you.