

## **Imperfective Aspect and Tense: Rethinking the Kleinian Semantics**

In this talk, I examine some new and existing data from English to argue for a revision of the widely accepted Kleinian approach to the semantics of imperfective aspect and tense (Klein 1994). Specifically, I argue that the progressive and stative aspects relate Event Time and Topic Time differently, and that the unified Kleinian approach to the Imperfective Aspect cannot capture this difference. I will also demonstrate that Klein's notion of Topic Time—defined as the contextually salient time about which an assertion is made and with which an aspectual phrase interacts—leads to incorrect predictions. To address this, I propose that Klein's concept of Topic Time should be divided into two separate components: the salient Context Time with which an aspectual phrase interacts, and the Topic Time, whose relationship to Utterance Time is reflected in tense. These revisions offer a new perspective on the interaction between tense and aspect, which better accommodates the problematic data.