

# Exploring Anaphoric Dependencies

**Prof. Eric REULAND**  
**Utrecht University**

**Date:** October 13, 2020 (Tuesday)  
**Time:** 4:30pm - 6:15pm (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)  
**\*Seminar will be conducted via ZOOM**

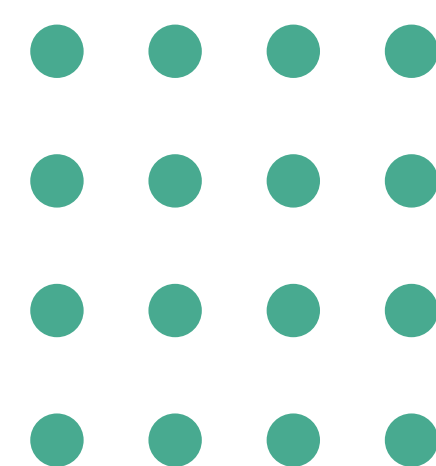
**Registration Deadline:**  
**12:00nn of 11 October 2020 (Sunday) – Hong Kong Time**  
**The Zoom Meeting details will be provided on 12 October 2020**



**Prior registration is required**

## Abstract

Over the years I have been intrigued by two related 'puzzles'. One involves the means languages use to express anaphoric relations. Why are there differences between local and non-local dependencies? What are the factors involved in the representation of these dependencies, and what governs their interplay? The other one is why languages use special means to express reflexive predicates. What they do may be quite different, what they share is that what they do is special. Sometimes a language carries its analysis virtually on its sleeve, sometimes only an in-depth study of a particular language reveals what is happening. The goal is, then, to find an explanation of this property and test whether it also holds for prima facie problematic cases. So far there is good evidence that for resolving the first puzzle economy considerations play an important role. The idea behind the explanation of the second puzzle is that the natural language system has trouble handling expressions that are fully identical in a local domain (a property that is not specific to language), and that languages employ a number of strategies to avoid this configuration. My presentation will be structured around a number of case studies of prima facie puzzling patterns.



## Speaker

Eric Reuland is Faculty professor of Language and Cognition (Em.) at the Utrecht institute of Linguistics OTS of Utrecht University. After a BA in Slavic languages he received his MA in General Linguistics in 1969 and his PhD in linguistics in 1979, all at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). In 1992 he was appointed to the chair of Linguistics, especially syntax of Utrecht University, where he served among others as scientific director of the Utrecht institute of Linguistics and the National Graduate School of Linguistics LOT. His research interests extend to the issue of how the language system is embedded in our general cognitive system, using the expression of reflexivity and anaphoric dependencies as a window. This led to his subsequent appointment to the chair of Language and Cognition. He authored and co-authored numerous publications, including articles in *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Cognition*, *Current Anthropology*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Lingua*, *Linguistic Analysis*, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioural Reviews*, *Studia Linguistica*, *The Linguistic Review*, various edited volumes, and a monograph on *Anaphora and Language Design* (MIT Press 2011). Since 1995 he serves as the European Editor of *Linguistic Inquiry*.

**All are Welcome**