

**Eleni Kapogianni**

**A multi-level approach to verbal irony**

In this talk I will present an approach to verbal irony that considers its presence and functions on three levels: the explicit, the communicative, and the interpersonal. This distinction will allow me to address three prevalent misconceptions about the phenomenon, which have led to methodological errors in its study: (a) the assumption that irony and sarcasm are interchangeable concepts, (b) the assumption that irony can be defined on the basis of its strategies (e.g. “irony is echoic mention”), and (c) the assumption that irony is only ever used to convey negative evaluation. Arguing against the latter, I will present early findings of an on-going study that investigates the cross-linguistic (/cross-cultural) variation in speaker preferences and intuitions when it comes to the evaluative attitudes expressed by irony.