



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

Contextual non-plural interpretations of 'some'

Mouse-tracking evidence for quick social reasoning in real time

Citation for published version:

Li, W, Rohde, H & Corley, M 2023, 'Contextual non-plural interpretations of 'some': Mouse-tracking evidence for quick social reasoning in real time', AMLaP 2023, Donostia–San Sebastián, Spain, 31/08/23 - 2/09/23. <<https://www.bcbl.eu/events/amlap/en/conference-program/su-107/>>

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



**Contextual non-plural interpretations of 'some':
Mouse-tracking evidence for quick social reasoning in real time**

Loy et al. (2019) showed that listeners are more likely to make an early commitment to the semantically-allowed meaning of 'some' as 'all' if it follows disfluent 'uh' in a context where larger values are socially undesirable (I ate, uh, some biscuits). Here, we varied the context to one where smaller values are socially undesirable interpretations of 'some'. In two experiments, we recorded participants' mouse movements in a web-based task as they heard fluent and disfluent utterances in a job interview context (I have, uh, some qualifications) and clicked on one of four images corresponding to specific interpretations of 'some'. Here, disfluency has the opposite effect, reducing the value participants associate with 'some': We found that participants are more likely to select images corresponding to one, or zero, qualifications, following disfluent utterances. However, their mouse movements show they are quick to commit to one qualification (experiment 1) and slow to commit to zero (experiment 2). This suggests that social context and manner of speech can combine to affect the interpretation of 'some' as an utterance unfolds. Extending its meaning to 'one' is relatively easy, but overwriting it with 'zero' (in effect, deciding that a speaker is lying) is more demanding.