

- DAVIDE FALESSI AND FABIEN SCHANG, *Thinking about Being, Existence, and Nothingness: Why 'Every thing' is not 'Everything' (among other 'thing's)*.

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The meaning of a special class of statements is studied in the present talk: quantifying statements, i.e. those statements including two occurrences of expressions like 'every', 'some', and 'no'. The talk is divided into two parts. A first general introduction is devoted to being and nothingness. First of all, an explanation of the several senses of "being" and the existential quantifier (quantifier variance) will be provided, showing the difference between a monist and a pluralist account of existence. Secondly, a distinction between the various senses of "nothingness" will be considered, examining its categorematic and syncategorematic uses in relation with "being". A second part will show that second order logic is required to make sense of quantifying statements by using mixed quantifiers that range both on individuals and predicates. Then an exhaustive set of logical relations is gathered by syntactic and semantic means, and a set-theoretical representation is proposed to make a calculus of logical relations in terms of ordered semantic values: this is a special numbering semantics for quantifying statements, where the logical value of a statement corresponds to the set of its models. This will be done by computing the set of logical relations between such formulas into an extended version of the theory or relations. Finally, a number of other kinds of formula will be mentioned that can be also explained into such numberings: categorical propositions, dyadic sentences, Barcan formulas, or epistemic statements. The general semantic method will be sketched with its two main strategies to construct characteristic numberings: language-adaptive, and model-adaptive strategies