Dave Ripley (University of Connecticut)

Title: Paradoxes of validity

Abstract: In this talk, I explore the prospects for a nontransitive treatment of paradoxes stemming from a validity predicate.

I focus on a notion of validity given in terms of social norms on coherent combinations of assertions and denials; in this setting, the logic of a validity predicate is a matter of how such norms apply to claims about the norms themselves. In this light, I explore some rules that might be used to characterize a validity predicate, and consider whether we ought to expect certain rules to be "internalized" by the predicate (in roughly the sense of Barrio, Rosenblatt, & Tajer (to appear)).

I argue that validity should be treated as a unary predicate of arguments, rather than as a binary relation on sentences (as much of the literature has it), and I show how to add such a predicate to a base system supporting both classical logic and a transparent truth predicate. It would sure be nice to have a proof that the resulting system is nontrivial, but at the time of writing this abstract it's too soon to say.