

Diagnosing two sources of subjectivity
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This talk investigates the subjective interpretation of the comparative form of some but not all gradable adjectives. We might for example faultlessly disagree about which of two paintings is more beautiful, but not about which of two individuals is taller.

In Solt (to appear) I present experimental evidence that a wide variety of adjectives exhibit this sort of 'ordering subjectivity', and furthermore that such adjectives pattern into two groups: those that allow both subjective and factual readings for the comparative form, and those whose comparative forms are necessarily interpreted subjectively. I propose that this division corresponds to two distinct sources of ordering subjectivity: multidimensionality (dimensional uncertainty) and 'judge' dependence.

In the present talk, I review this account and delve further into the question of whether independent diagnostics can be found for these two posited factors.