

**Referent:** Johan Bos

**Titel:** Computational Semantics and Knowledge Engineering

### **Abstract**

Computational semantics is the business of associating meaning representations with natural language expressions and drawing inferences from them. It is an area that has matured to a state in which we have seen the arrival of broad coverage systems capable of producing deep semantic representations for open-domain texts. Such systems however face the problem of selecting appropriate background knowledge to draw meaningful inferences. To make progress we need to integrate methods from knowledge engineering in computational semantics, and I will illustrate the need for knowledge with examples taken from open-domain question answering. Now an interesting Catch-22 situation seems to surface. On the one hand, we need knowledge to facilitate systems aiming at producing meaning representations from texts. On the other hand, we need precisely such systems to acquire this knowledge... I show, again with some examples, that this is not so straightforward as it seems.