

## ABSOLUTE GENERALITY AND EXPRESSIBILITY

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The range of a quantifier phrase in a natural language typically varies with context. And the range of a quantifier symbol in a formal language can vary between interpretations of that language. Can we interpret quantifiers so that their range is maximal, in some sense? Can there be absolutely general quantification? Generality absolutists say that there can be and generality relativists say that there can't be.

One of the main objections to generality relativism is the expressibility problem. The claim is that it is impossible for the relativist to assert her position without making use of absolutely general quantification. The position, therefore, is self-refuting.

In this talk, I will argue that, if there is a problem of expressibility for the relativist, then there is an equally bad problem of expressibility for the absolutist. In particular, I will argue — pace an argument from Williamson — that in a debate of the present sort, there is a need for each position to be able express their view in neutral terms. That is, there is a need to express each position without making use of the piece of vocabulary which is under question. If this can be done for the absolutist, it can also be done for the relativist and vice versa. Relativists and absolutists thus share a burden to articulate what is at stake.