How Questions and Answers Cohere
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There is a well-known observation that *wh*-questions allow for sentence-fragment answers, as in (1) below:

(1)   Q: Who ate the cookies?   A: Bill.

In the context of the question, the NP *Bill* somehow expresses the complete proposition *Bill ate the cookies*.

An observation that has not previously been made is that there are many cases where an utterance of a complete declarative sentences in answer to a question expresses a proposition richer than that encoded by the sentence itself (even relativized to context in the usual way). Here are some examples:

(2)   Q: Where is John going on Wednesday?   A: He's going to Chicago.
(3)   Q: How is John getting to Chicago?   A: He's taking the train.
(4)   Q: Why is John going to Chicago by [F train]? A: He's afraid to fly.

The answer in (2) conveys not merely that John is going to Chicago, but that he's going to Chicago on Wednesday. The answer in (3) conveys not merely that John is taking the train (at some present/future time), but that he is doing so in order to get to Chicago (with appropriate constraints on the temporal reference). The answer in (4) conveys not merely that John is afraid to fly, but that this is the reason (explanation) for his traveling to Chicago by train.

In this paper, I develop an account of this phenomenon within a DRT framework, supplemented with ideas from Segmented DRT. The core idea is that the interpretation of the question/answer sequence involves establishing a particular coherence relation, *Direct Answer*, between the question and answer; and that this coherence relation has semantic consequences: specifically, it requires that discourse referents in the answer be treated, as far as possible, as anaphoric on the question; and that some content in the answer provide information about the *wh*-variable introduced by the question.

In the second half of the talk, I will extend this account of questions and direct answers to cases of enrichment of unasserted embedded clauses which stand in an answer-like relation to explicit questions.