Abstract:
We consider sentences such as 'I don't recall being arrested last night' and 'I promise not to inform the Dean about your arrest'. We call them 'quasi-factives' because: they include a factive verb (above, 'recall', 'inform'); one would naturally hear them as factive sentences, with the complement being entailed by the truth of the whole sentence; yet the alleged entailment can be cancelled. E.g., 'I don't recall being arrested last night because I wasn't arrested last night' is not a self-contradiction -- in the way that 'I recall being arrested last night though I wasn't' is self-contradictory.

We describe various sub-varieties of our quasi-factives, and then offer a pragmatics-oriented explanation of how they "work their magic", contrasting this with an account in terms of logico-semantic presupposition. Our explanation makes crucial reference to cognitive efficiency in processing.

The authors are Robert Stainton and Axel Barcelo.

Bio:
Robert Stainton first encountered both Philosophy of Language and Linguistics at Glendon College of York University, where he studied under the Functional linguist Michael Gregory. Being hooked on the intersection between these two fields, he pursued his Ph.D. at MIT's Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. His first academic job was at Carleton University in Ottawa, where he was Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Science. He moved to Western about a dozen years ago, and presently holds the title of Distinguished University Professor. He has served as Director of the Linguistics MA program, and in that capacity has hosted some absolutely fantastic parties. He despises goat cheese.