On the scope of indefinites and imprecision

In this talk I will look at the phenomenon of exceptional wide scope indefinites. I will discuss data suggesting that what is standardly taken to be a regular narrow scope interpretation and what is taken to be an exceptional wide scope interpretation of an indefinite should not be individuated by distinguished LFs. That is, the two kinds of interpretations should fall out from one LF. This raises serious questions for a variety of analyses. I will show that a singleton domain restriction view of exceptional scope (e.g. Portner and Yabushita 2001, Schwarzschild 2002) could be made compatible with these data but its adoption raises additional non-trivial issues. I then connect these issues – at least one of which is known in the literature – to phenomena of imprecision and suggest that the apparent exceptional scope of indefinites is a sub-case of imprecision. Finally, I propse a generalized underspecification approach to the data discussed, crucially extending and modifying ideas from a unified account of non-*de dicto* phenomena (Mayr & Schmitt 2024). If successful this provides the beginnings of a unification of a number of different phenomena of imprecision.