

## Introduction: Reflections on De/Contextualization

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In *Signature Event Context*, Derrida criticizes Austin's analysis of performative utterances for excluding "insincere" utterances, such as those that actors deliver in their theatrical performances. For Derrida, iterability is a necessary condition for all signs, even those we observe in theatrical performances. Moreover, Derrida does not agree with Austin's distinction between "sincerity" and "insincerity," which is largely a matter of an utterer's "intentionality" that in Derrida's view should be de-centered in the analysis of signification. Although we acknowledge the importance of his criticism, the question of the extent of its "sincerity" remains. However, we do not have to dig into his "intentionality"; rather, we can count on his "sincerity" by examining the broader context in which he situated his critique, namely the context that prompted him to write another paper that criticizes Searle's attempt to defend Austin and have encouraged others to continue the critical recapitulations of the debate. In this special issue, we attempt to elucidate, against Derrida, the nature of the contexts on which we count in activities with "practical purposes." However, when we find and identify contexts, we do not return to "the presence of the subject," nor rely on static conventions, since we understand that it is certain contexts that mandate the attribution of "intentionality" to the subject, and that these contexts are in the persistent processes of de-contextualization and re-contextualization. Our task in this issue is to look closely at the details of diverse formations of practical contexts and to grasp them in the constant conflict between contextualization and de-contextualization. In the remainder of the paper, I summarize each contribution in this issue; I show how each is inter-related to the others and what kind of context they orchestrate as the whole upon which our continuing arguments base themselves.