Vehicle Change and Reconstruction in A'-chains

Fiengo and May (1994) argue that what they call "vehicle change," which permits copies of names to be evaluated as pronouns with respect to interpretative principles, plays a key role in accounting for reconstruction effects in ellipsis environments. It is argued here that the alleviation of Principle C violations ("antireconstruction effects"), where it occurs in A'-chains, is due not to deletion of the lower copy, as in Chomsky (1995), but to vehicle change. The introduction of vehicle change into the theory of A'-chains is independently motivated as essential to capturing a robust adjunct/non-adjunct distinction in the reconstruction of pronoun-as-bound-variable readings that has not been discussed up to now; at the same time it predicts the class of "weakest crossover" environments.