

Berkeley Linguistics Society
42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting
Berkeley, California
5–7 February 2016

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### Acknowledgments

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- Department of Linguistics
- Student Opportunity Fund
- Graduate Assembly (Graduate Meetings, Events, and Resources fund)
- Department of Psychology
- Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute
- Native American Studies Program
- Department of Spanish and Portuguese

We also thank the Berkeley faculty and students who gave their time to participate in abstract review; the organizers of BLS 40 and 41, for their advice; and the linguistics department staff, especially Paula Floro, for their invaluable logistical support.

We are especially grateful for the generous contribution of time by all of the BLS 42 conference volunteers, who are essential to the success of the conference.

### **BLS 42 Executive Committee:**

Geoff Bacon
Andrew Cheng
Emily Clem
Virginia Dawson
Erik Hans Maier
Alice Shen
Amalia Horan Skilton

## Friday, February 5

# Registration Opens: 1:00 PM (1203)

Session 1: 2:30-4:30PM

	Austronesian Historical Linguistics	Syntax I (3335)	Phonetics (370)
Chair:	& Pragmatics (1229) Jack Merrill	Nico Baier	Sarah Bakst
2:30	Kristine Yu & Deniz Ozyildiz (UMAss Amherst), Emergence of tonal absolutive case marking in Samoan	Kristine Yu & Deniz Ozyildiz (UMass Jason Merchant (UChicago), Roots don't Amherst), Emergence of tonal absolutive case select: A new argument from cross-categorial marking in Samoan	Andrew Cheng, Matthew Faytak, & Meg Cychosz (UC Berkeley), Language, race, and vowel space: Contemporary California Fnolish
3:00	Robert Blust (U. of Hawaii at Manoa), Austronesian against the world: Where the P- map ends	Philip Duncan (U. of Kansas), Parallel Chain formation in Ibibio contrastive verb focus	Anna Greenwood (UC Santa Cruz), Phonetic naturalness is driven by channel bias: Evidence from final devoicing
3:30	Gašper Beguš (Harvard), Voice system of Austronesian and its origins	of Cornella Loos (UT Austin), Give me a break: Determining clause boundaries in two sign languages	Paola Cépeda & Michael Becker (Stony Brook U.), Sonority restricts laryngealized plosives in Southern Aymara
4:00	Luke Fleming (Université de Montréal), Of referents and recipients: Pohnpeian humil- iatives and the functional organization of Aus- tronesian honorific registers	HAROLD TORRENCE (UCLA), Stranding, copying, and the structure of the left periphery in Wolof	ESTHER LE GREZAUSE (U. OF WASHINGTON) Effects of stance strength and word group on the acoustic properties of the vowel in um and uh in spontaneous speech in Pacific Northwest American English

Break: 4:30-5:00PM

Plenary Address: 5:00-6:00PM (370)

The benefit of idealized word pronunciations: How are forms we rarely hear, understood so easily? MEGHAN SUMNER, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Reception: 6:15PM (370)

# Saturday, February 6

# Coffee and Registration Opens: 8:30AM (371)

Plenary Address: 9:00-10:00AM (370) Constructing meaning: A view from MEG LIINA PYLKKÄNEN, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

### Session 2: 10:00-11:30AM

Historical Linguistics & Pragmatics (219) $Tyler Lau$	Betsy Sneller (UPenn), Retention of two phonological subsystems in adult speakers	RIKKER DOCKUM (YALE), Tonal evidence in historical linguistics: Genetic signal or typological noise?	Lyle Lustigman (Stanford), What do children use complements for? Representing speaker perspectives in recounting conversations
<b>Phonology (88)</b> Florian Lionnet	AMUI CHONG (CORNELL), Influence of conjugation class on phonological patterns: Vowel alternation in Spanish verbs	Pius Akumbu (U. of Buea), Single URs vs. allomorphy: The case of Babanki coda consonant deletion	Мікамба МсСакуєї (U. of Utah), Catalan allomorphy, Lexical Selection, and gradient constraints
Austronesian Syntax I (370) James Collins	10:00 ILEANA PAUL (U. OF WESTERN ONTARIO), MATT PEARSON (REED COLLEGE), & ERIC POTSDAM (U. OF FLORIDA), An argument for predicate fronting in Malagasy from SVO contexts	10:30 Nicholas Longenbaugh (MIT) & Maria Polinsky (U. of Maryland), Niuean sub- ject/object symmetry	Victoria Chen (U. of Hawaii at Manoa), Pivot $\neq$ absolutive: Evidence from Formosan
Chair:	10:00	10:30	11:00

Break: 11:30AM-12:00PM

Plenary Address: 12:00-1:00PM (370)
Syntactic and prosodic adjunction in Tagalog
JOSEPH SABBAGH, UT ARLINGTON

Lunch: 1:00-2:30PM

# Saturday, February 6

### Session 3: 2:30-4:00PM

<b>Syntax II (219)</b> Hannah Sande	Honaida Ahyad & Michael Becker (Stony Isabelle Charnavel (Harvard) & Do-Brook U.), The predictability of vowel alterminious Sportiche (UCLA), Icelandic renations in Urban Hijazi Arabic imperfective flexive sig: Clause-bounded, or logophoric nonce forms	Ni-La Lê & Cristina Schmitt (Michigan State U.), Pluvality in classifier languages: A view from Vietnamese pluval morphemes	EMILY HANINK (UCHICAGO), Internally-headed relatives and event nominalizations in Washo
<b>Learnability (370)</b> Emily Clem	Honaida Ahyad & Michael Becker (Stony Isabelle Charnavel (Harvard) & I Brook U.), The predictability of vowel alterminique Sportiche (UCLA), Icelandic nations in Urban Hijazi Arabic imperfective flexive sig: Clause-bounded, or logophoric nonce forms	ERIC ROSEN (UC SANTA CRUZ), Predicting the unpredictable: Capturing the apparent semi-regularity of rendaku voicing in Japanese through Gradient Symbolic Computation	Jeffrey Geiger (UCHicago), Exploring the role of rhythm in iterative-infixing language game learning
Austronesian Semantics (88) Zachary O'Hagan	Maayan Abenina-Adar & Nikos Angelopoulos (UCLA), On root modality and grammatical relations in Tagalog	ILEANA PAUL (U. OF WESTERN ONTARIO), BAHOLISOA SIMONE RALALAOHERIVONY (UNIVERSITÉ D'ANTANANARIVO), & HENRIËTTE DE SWART (UTRECHT U.), Malagasy maha at the crossroads of voice, causation and modality	James Collins (Stanford), Word order and definiteness in Tagalog
Chair:	2:30	3:00	3:30

Break: 4:00-4:15PM

Plenary Address: 4:15-5:15PM (370)
Learning in typological prediction: Grammatical agent-based modeling
Joe Pater, UMASS AMHERST

Reception & Banquet: 5:30PM (370, 371)

## Sunday, February 7

# Coffee and Registration Opens: 8:30AM (371)

### Session 4: 9:00-11:00AM

	Austronesian Syntax II (219)	Semantics (370)	Psycholinguistics (88)
Session Chair:	on Kenneth Baclawski Jr. :	Katie Sardinha	Jevon Heath
6:00	Lisa Travis (McGill), The position of Out of Control morphemes in Malagasy and Tagalog	of Dan Milway (U. of Toronto), Specifying sg. why a doctor isn't Mary	Gwanhi Yun (Daegu U.), Hierarchical processing of formulaic expressions for L1 and L2 speakers
9:30	Dong-yi Lin (Ghent U.), Denominal location and locatum verbs in Kavalan	Ksenia Bogomolets (UConn), Realis is real: Evidence from Initial Change in Arapaho	CLARA COHEN (UC BERKELEY), SHINAE KANG (UC BERKELEY), & ROZINA FONYO (SAN JOSE STATE U.), Task-dependent perception of acoustic detail
10:00	Matt Pearson (Reed College), Voice selection and aspectual focus in Malagasy	Kristen Fleckenstein & Suwon Yoon (UT Arlington), Jespersen's Cycle and scope of negation in American Sign Language	Yao-Ying Lai, Cherxi Lacadie, Todd Constable, Ashwini Deo, & Maria Piñango (Yale), The structured individual hypothesis for processing aspectual verbs
10:30	Henrison Hsieh (McGill), Distinguishing nouns and verbs: Against the nominalist hy- pothesis for Tagalog	COLE BRENDEL (U. OF UTAH), The scope taking behavior of numeral quantifiers	

### Break: 11:00-11:15AM

Plenary Address: 11:15AM - 12:15PM (370)

Speaker commitment in English and Paraguayan Guaraní attitude reports Judith Tonhauser, The Ohio State University

### **Invited Speakers**

Meghan Sumner Stanford University

The benefit of *idealized* word pronunciations: How are forms we rarely hear, understood so easily?

Episodic theories of representation and lexical access are now strongly supported with a wide range of data. With this in mind, we might wonder why hyper-articulated, rare, and atypical pronunciations of words seem to have a benefit both in terms of spoken word recognition, and detailed memory retention. This pattern runs counter to our hypotheses and theories about the atypical, infrequent linguistic unit, from an episodic perspective. In this talk, I provide an overview of this bias, illuminate instances in which our assumptions about the phonetic composition of a word have contributed to the bias, and show that even after such considerations, these less common pronunciation types do indeed have a processing benefit that does not match with our theoretical expectations. Finally, I discuss an approach to experience, which includes the weighting of linguistic events during perception. In other words, all linguistic events, or instances of spoken words, are not weighted equally by the system. This idea of weighting leads to an explanation of the idealized-form benefit, while building on the foundation established from episodic theories.

Liina Pylkkänen New York University

### Constructing meaning: A view from MEG

Although our brains' ability to build complex meanings from simpler representations is fundamental to all of language, our understanding of the neurobiology of meaning composition is still grossly generic. To characterize the neural bases of semantic composition more mechanistically, a cognitive model is needed to define the space of possibilities; yet the cognitive neuroscience of semantics has not traditionally connected with models of semantic composition in linguistics. Our research departs from the mainstream by taking the results of formal semantics within theoretical linguistics as the model that fundamentally guides the experimentation. Our MEG research implicates a shared combinatory network between comprehension and production comprising at least of the left anterior temporal lobe and the ventromedial prefrontal cortex. In contrast to hypotheses arising from hemodynamic literature, our MEG studies have not implicated the angular gyrus (AG) or the left inferior frontal gyrus (LIFG) as systematically sensitive to basic composition; instead, our data suggest a role in relational processing for the AG and in retrieval operations for the LIFG. To conclude, I will sketch a spatio-temporal progression of the MEG correlates of various stages of language processing as implicated by our group's work over the last 15 years, from the prediction of visual word forms to higher level integrative processes and reference resolution.

Joseph Sabbagh University of Texas at Arlington

### Syntactic and prosodic adjunction in Tagalog

This talk offers a preliminary description and analysis of some of the basic intonation patterns of Tagalog, focusing in particular on the distribution of pitch rises and pitch falls throughout the sentence. Concerning the distribution of pitch rises, the main generalization of interests is that a pitch rise is obligatorily associated with the immediately post-verbal argument (Tagalog is a verb initial language), never present on the clause final argument, and optionally associated with the clause medial argument. I propose that this pattern – in particular the optionality of a pitch rise associated with the clause medial argument – follows from a key assumption that subjects and indirect objects in Tagalog are syntactically adjuncts, rather than specifiers or complements. Given this assumption, and adopting the MATCH theory of theory of the syntax-phonology mapping (Selkirk 2011; Bennet et. al.), the result is that Tagalog clauses are associated with at least two distinct prosodic structure – one in which a pitch rises is predicted to be associated with the clause medial argument, and one in which it is not.

If correct, the analysis provides an important new kind of evidence from the prosody of Tagalog to adjudicate among the competing syntactic analyses of Tagalog verb-initial structure. In particular, the analysis of the distribution of pitch rises is seemingly only compatible with the (controversial) subject-lowering/subject-adjunction analysis of verb-initial word order, proposed originally for Chamorro by Chung (1990) and more recently for Tagalog in Sabbagh (2014). More generally, this talk aims to show how prosodic evidence might be used to inform analyses of syntactic structure, especially for languages like Tagalog where the syntactic evidence for constituent structure is equivocal.

Joe Pater University of Massachusetts Amherst

### Learning in typological prediction: Grammatical agent-based modeling <sup>1</sup>

Theories of generative grammar are evaluated in terms of their fit to typology: the extent to which they succeed in generating all and only the linguistic systems observed cross-linguistically. Theories of learning in generative grammar are evaluated in terms of their success in finding a correct grammar for any language in the space of systems defined by a given grammatical theory. In this standard approach, learning does not play a role in typological modeling itself. This talk presents an alternative approach that uses generative grammars as a component of agent-based models (ABMs), in which learning can shape the distribution over languages that result from agent interaction. By adding learning to typological explanation, grammatical ABMs allow for accounts of typological tendencies, such as the tendency toward uniform syntactic headedness (Greenberg 1963; Dryer 1992). In addition, incorporating learning can lead to predicted near-zeros in typology. We show this with the case of unrealistically large stress windows, which can be generated by a weighted constraint system, but which have near-zero frequency in the output of our ABM incorporating the same constraints. The too-large-window prediction is one of the few in the extant literature arguing for Optimality Theory's ranked constraints over weighted ones.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Joint work with Jennifer Culbertson, Coral Hughto and Robert Staubs.

Judith Tonhauser
The Ohio State University

### Speaker commitment in English and Paraguayan Guaraní attitude reports

To understand how people communicate, we must understand what speakers are committed to. Attitude predicates like English "know", "discover", "realize" and "be annoyed" subcategorize for a proposition-denoting complement whose content the speaker may be taken to be committed to regardless of whether the attitude predicate occurs in a positive sentence, as in (1a), in a negative sentence, as in (1b), or in a modal sentence, as in (1c). In fact, the speaker may be taken to be committed to the content of the complement even when the attitude predicate is part of an utterance that is not an assertion, as in (1d).

- (1) a. Dana is annoyed that it's snowing.
  - b. Dana isn't annoyed that it's snowing.
  - c. Perhaps Dana is annoyed that it's snowing.
  - d. Is Dana annoyed that it's snowing?

The empirical observation that speakers may be committed to the content of the complement even when the attitude predicate is embedded under an entailment-canceling operator is typically captured by analyzing the attitude predicate as a presupposition trigger (e.g., Kiparsky & Kiparsky 1970). On such analyses, the predicate lexically specifies that the content of its proposition-denoting complement is a commitment of the speaker and the projectivity of the content of the complement is taken as evidence for a presuppositional analysis.

In this talk, I present data from English and Paraguayan Guaraní (Tupí-Guaraní) that show that the projectivity of the content of the complement of some attitude predicates is less robust than might be expected if it was a lexically triggered presupposition. Furthermore, this projection variability is attested in the two, typologically unrelated, languages. I argue that these data support a discourse-based model according to which the projectivity of the content of the complement of some attitude predicates emerges not through lexical triggering but as a result of pragmatic reasoning (Simons et al. 2010, 2016).

### **Abstracts**

### **Austronesian Historical Linguistics & Pragmatics**

Kristine Yu & Deniz Ozyildiz (UMass Amherst)

### Emergence of tonal absolutive case marking in Samoan

In Samoan, it appears that absolutive arguments are marked by a tonal case morpheme: A high tone (H-), aligned with the final mora of the phonological material preceding the argument. We propose that H- emerges from the segmental elision of the absolutive preposition 'ia,' and the reassociation of ia's pitch accent with the left adjacent tone bearing unit. Indeed, absolutive H- and ia have similar distributions. Moreover, ia is sometimes so reduced that only a pitch accent remains of its exponence. Ergative and oblique case marking is not tonal. These segmental morphemes are monomoraic and unstressed, hence unable to provide a source tone, even when reduced.

ROBERT BLUST (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### Austronesian against the world: Where the P-map ends

Voiced obstruent codas present contradictory demands to the speaker, requiring airflow for voicing but obstruction of airflow to produce an obstruent. Several solutions to this conflict are theoretically conceivable, but it has been claimed repeatedly over the past 15 years that only one of these solutions is empirically attested, namely final devoicing. This paper does not challenge the central theoretical claim of the P-map, since final devoicing is clearly the preferred solution in most cases. However, it demonstrates that other options have in fact been chosen in various languages, and suggests why all of these happen to be Austronesian.

Gašper Beguš (Harvard)

### Voice system of Austronesian and its origins

Despite broad consensus on the functional role of the Austronesian voice system, little agreement has been reached about the structural analysis of this system, and even less about its prehistory. This paper offers an account of the development of the Austronesian voice system that ties its diachronic development to its synchronic syntactic outcome. The analysis is then extended to explain the typology of preverb placement cross-linguistically. This paper may also be understood as a case study in how far internal reconstruction can bring us in diachronic syntax?especially when dealing with historical analyses of typologically unusual syntactic constructions.

Luke Fleming (Université de Montréal)

### Of referents and recipients: Pohnpeian humiliatives and the functional organization of Austronesian honorific registers

This paper compares the functional organization of Indonesian "speech level" systems and Oceanic "chiefly languages." Honorific registers across these areas differ in terms of whether they signal speaker's deference towards discourse-recipients (i.e., addressee or bystander) or discourse-referents. In Indonesian speech level systems these different functional strategies for specifying the target of honorification find distinct formal instantiations. Contrastingly, honorific vocabularies in Oceanic languages are differentiated by the social category of the associated discourse referent (e.g. king, talking chiefs). Focusing on Pohnpeian, I argue that in Micronesia a recipient-based strategy of specifying the target of honorification is grammaticalized within the referentially-based strategy.

### Syntax I

Jason Merchant (University of Chicago)

### Roots don't select: A new argument from cross-categorial variation in PP selection

A majority of roots in English and other languages show uniform selectional properties across their various instantiations as verbs, nouns, or adjectives: compare rely/reliance/reliant on; object(ion) to; etc. But there are also hundreds of roots that display nonuniform selectional behavior: the selectional feature depends on whether the root is realized as part of a verb, a noun, or an adjective: oppose (\*to) but opposition/opposed to/\*of;  $pride_V$  oneself on,  $pride_N$  in, proud of;  $lust_V$  for/after,  $lust_N$  for/\*after. In these cases, the root itself cannot select. Instead, I argue that the categorizing head (n, v, a) itself selects for both the root and for a PP, consistent with recent views that sever all arguments from the root.

Philip Duncan (University of Kansas)

### Parallel Chain formation in Ibibio contrastive verb focus

This talk proposes a novel analysis of contrastive verb focus constructions in Ibibio (Niger-Congo, Nigeria). Previous accounts of such treat contrastive focus as "prefixing reduplication." Thus, dép 'buy' and bɔʻɔrɔ 'respond' become dèé-dép and bɔʻɔ-bɔʻɔrɔ when contrastively focused. Interestingly, though, the "prefix" does not surface in negative, relative, and reciprocal contexts; instead, two full verb copies must appear in these cases. I argue that the answer to understanding these alternations lies in syntacticizing this phenomenon. I propose a unified analysis for Ibibio contrastive verb focus derived by vP-internal parallel chain formation triggered by Feature Inheritance.

### CORNELIA LOOS (UT Austin)

### Give me a break: Determining clause boundaries in two sign languages

Investigating clause-level syntactico-semantic phenomena presupposes a clear understanding of where a clause starts and ends. Since the sign language literature currently lacks a standardized methodology for identifying clause boundaries (Johnston and Schembri 2007; Gladys and Lau 2012), this paper discusses syntactic and semantic diagnostics of clausehood and analyzes their applicability to American (ASL) and German Sign Language (DGS). Drawing on data elicitations from 4 ASL and 5 DGS, I examine clause-final copies of subject pronouns, extraction of wh-words and topics from conjoined and embedded clauses, and the semantic scope of modals. While pronoun copies in polar questions and modal scope help identify single clauses, extraction facts prove less useful.

### HAROLD TORRENCE (UCLA)

### Stranding, copying, and the structure of the left periphery in Wolof

This talks presents an investigation of the left periphery of Wolof, an Atlantic language of Senegal. I examine the syntax of four noun-class agreeing elements that optionally occur on the left edge of cleft wh-questions and discuss the implications for wh-movement and the structure of the high left periphery. Overall, the Wolof data support a view in which wh-movement is not simply movement from SpecCP-to-SpecCP, but involves multiple positions in a complex left periphery. In addition, I present cases where multiple elements in a single movement chain have distinct non-null pronunciations.

### **Phonetics**

Andrew Cheng, Matthew Faytak, & Meg Cychosz (UC Berkeley)

### Language, race, and vowel space: Contemporary California English

We evaluate the California Vowel Shift (CVS) using a corpus of 535 Californians of diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. Results suggest that individual variation in CVS adoption aligns with self-identified ethnicity. White participants display more pre-nasal /æ/-raising than other ethnic groups, and speakers in Asian ethnic groups exhibit greater acoustic overlap of the KIT and FOOT vowels. L1 of participants and their caregivers also has influence: within the ethnically Chinese group, L1 Mandarin speakers appear to adopt the CVS differently from L1 Cantonese speakers. Our findings build on the growing literature of phonetic and ethnolinguistic diversity in California.

Anna Greenwood (UC Santa Cruz)

### Phonetic naturalness is driven by channel bias: Evidence from final devoicing

It is widely accepted that phonetically grounded ("natural") phonological patterns are common across unrelated languages, while phonetically ungrounded ("unnatural") patterns are rare. An artificial grammar experiment found evidence that, in the domain of utterance-final devoicing, the source of this asymmetry lies in perception. A natural pattern that contained only final voiceless obstruents was learned more successfully than its unnatural voiced counterpart, but only when participants were trained on stimuli that mimicked casual speech. Amongst participants trained on hyperarticulated stimuli, no advantage for the natural pattern was found. The results challenge the idea of an ingrained learning bias against unnatural patterns.

Paola Cépeda & Michael Becker (Stony Brook University)

### Sonority restricts laryngealized plosives in Southern Aymara

Laryngealized plosives (ejectives and aspirates) in Southern Aymara follow a sonority curve: non-initial laryngealized plosives are restricted with both low- and high-sonority initial segments, and are more freely attested with medium-sonority initial segments. We trained a MaxEnt grammar with stringent constraints based on the sonority hierarchy, penalizing the co-occurrence of increasingly sonorous initial segments with a following laryngealized plosive. Together with a constraint that prefers laryngeal features on the leftmost plosive, our model matches the lexical statistics and generates the sonority curve. We compare this result to the sonority curve generated by the UCLA Phonotactic Learner, which lacks an explicit sonority hierarchy.

Esther Le Grezause (University of Washington)

### Effects of stance strength and word group on the acoustic properties of the vowel in *um* and *uh* in spontaneous speech in Pacific Northwest American English

The present work investigates the acoustic properties of the vowels in *um*, *uh* and in other words, with the aim of finding out if the vowel has different acoustic properties across the three word groups and across different degrees of stance (subjective spoken attitudes toward something) marking. The study is based on recordings from two tasks from the ATAROS (Automatic Tagging and Recognition of Stance) corpus designed to respectively elicit low and high degrees of involvement. Findings show that *um* and *uh* behave differently from each other and from other words in terms of acoustic properties with regards to stance.

### Austronesian Syntax I

ILEANA PAUL (University of Western Ontario), MATT PEARSON (Reed College), & ERIC POTSDAM (University of Florida),

### An argument for predicate fronting in Malagasy from SVO contexts

This paper argues that VOS word order in Malagasy (Austronesian, Madagascar) is derived from an underlying SVO order via predicate fronting of a constituent containing VO. Evidence comes from contexts in which SVO word order is permitted, such as certain adverbial clauses and complements to perception verbs. We show that subjects in SVO and VOS orders are subject to the same morphosyntactic restrictions and are in the same structural position, which suggests that it is the VO predicate whose position differs in the two word orders. We reject an alternative, small clause analysis of SVO order.

NICHOLAS LONGENBAUGH (MIT) & MARIA POLINSKY (University of Maryland)

### Niuean subject/object symmetry

Subject-object (S/O) asymmetries, which are a nearly ubiquitous presence in natural language, are conspicuously absent in the Polynesian language Niuean (Seiter 1980; Massam 2001; the authors' recent field work). In this paper, we show that the lack of such S/O asymmetries follows from the convergence of several independently observable properties that are each cross-linguistically well-attested: (i) a fused Voice-v head that licenses both arguments; (ii) an EPP on T triggering V/VP, not DP, fronting (Massam 2001; Clemens 2014); and (iii) the obligatory shift of specific objects to the vP edge.

VICTORIA CHEN (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

### **Pivot** ≠ **absolutive**: **Evidence from Formosan**

This study argues against the ergative analysis for three Philippine-type Formosan languages (Puyuma, Amis, and Seediq) based on novel causative and ditransitive data. I show that the structure and binding relations among arguments in both constructions are unaffected by voice alternation. A Causee always asymmetrically c-commands a Caussum, and a Recipient always asymmetrically c-commands a Transported theme; even if a Caussum/Transported theme receives Pivot-marking in Circumstantial voice, it is structurally lower than the Oblique-marked Causee/Recipient. I discuss the implications from the absence of voice-conditioned argument structure alternations in these two constructions, and propose an A'-agreement analysis for the voice system of these three Philippine-type languages.

### **Phonology**

**Amui Chong (Cornell)** 

### Influence of conjugation class on phonological patterns: Vowel alternation in Spanish verbs

The three conjugation classes in Spanish are marked by a thematic vowel whose only apparent semantic content is class identity. We looked at the distribution of raising and diphthongizing in verbal stems per conjugation class in a corpus of the language, and explored whether this distribution was reflected in speakers' responses with nonce forms. In Spanish, conjugation classes have different ratios of alternations, which are linked to high frequency verbs. Speakers extended the alternations to nonce words, although with significant individual differences. We found a correspondence between the language make-up and the subjects' productions of raising, but not of diphthongization.

Pius Акимви (University of Buea)

### Single URs vs. allomorphy: The case of Babanki coda consonant deletion

In Babanki, a Grassfields Bantu language of Cameroon, there is an alternation involving the deletion of certain coda consonants between two underlying vowels in nouns, verbs, deverbal adjectives, and pronouns. In a number of syntactic constructions, /ɪʃ/ deletion is accompanied by the raising of /a/ to [o] and, separately, /o/ to [u]. Because the conditions that specifically determine the vowel changes do not lend themselves to an elegant account within a rule- or constraint-based phonological analysis, I propose an account in which allomorphs are listed with appropriate instantiation frames where they are inserted (Hayes 1990; Archangeli and Pulleyblank 2015).

MIRANDA McCarvel (University of Utah)

### Catalan allomorphy, Lexical Selection, and gradient constraints

Lexical Selection (LS; Mascaró 2007) has been used to analyze suppletive allomorphy across several languages. The main premise of LS is the lexical listing of allomorphs in the input and the ordering of allomorphs when necessary to reflect a language's preference to use certain allomorphs regardless of markedness. Respect for the ordering of allomorphs is achieved through Priority. This paper proposes the revision of Priority to address concerns of gradiency as raised by Wolf (2008). I propose there is only a binary distinction among ordered allomorphs – default and non-default – and Priority is only violated when a non-default allomorph is used.

### **Historical Linguistics & Pragmatics**

Betsy Sneller (University of Pennsylvania)

### Retention of two phonological subsystems in adult speakers

During a phonological change in a speech community such as allophonic restructuring, there is as yet little evidence about the representation of such a change in the individual speakers. Previous work has argued that speakers maintain only one phonology (Fruehwald 2013). However, Becker and Tessier (2011) find evidence suggesting that language learners may maintain multiple phonologies at once (Inkelas and Zoll 2007). Using sociolinguistic interview data from 15 speakers growing up during a period of allophonic restructuring in Philadelphia (Labov et al. 2015), I argue that adult speakers during a period of change may retain use of multiple phonological subsystems.

### Rikker Dockum (Yale)

### Tonal evidence in historical linguistics: Genetic signal or typological noise?

Tonal data figures prominently into competing classifications of Southwestern Tai (SWT). Despite past disagreement on the utility of such evidence, recent quantitative work found genetic relationship a strong predictor of typological tone profile (Brunelle and Kirby 2015). New fieldwork on Khamti [kht] in Burma shows very different tone splits and mergers from Khamti described in India. The mismatch between segmental and tonal evidence can be resolved by approaching tones using the logic of the comparative method. Khamti thus serves as a case study in better integrating tonal evidence into language classification, turning an apparent conflict in traditional methods into mutual corroboration.

### Lyle Lustigman (Stanford)

### What do children use complements for? Representing speaker perspectives in recounting conversations

The study examines children's (age 3-5) perspective-taking as evidence for their perception and interpretation of interactive communication. Analysis focused on their use of complement constructions when recounting conversational cartoons. The youngest children generally avoided using complements representing conversation; children in the intermediate age group favored complements representing a single speaker perspective; while the oldest children used more complements representing two or more perspectives. This developmental trend indicates that, not only do children gradually use more complements representing the speakers' thoughts and speech, but they also extend the complements' function to reflecting the multi-faceted, interactive nature of conversation.

### **Austronesian Semantics**

Maayan Abenina-Adar & Nikos Angelopoulos (UCLA)

### On root modality and grammatical relations in Tagalog

The Tagalog necessity modal verb *kailangan* (≈need) enters two structures, which we call "impersonal" and "thematic." We show that syntax constrains the verb's modal potential. In the impersonal structure, *kailangan* can only express deontic modality (necessity according to 3rd-party rules or laws), while the thematic structure only expresses personal teleological modality (necessity given a particular goal of the subject's). We propose the verb is always thematic, and deontic modality arises when *kailangan* takes a covert free pronominal variable as a "needer." We attempt to extend our proposal to English need-to constructions, which can express both types of modality.

Ileana Paul (University of Western Ontario), Baholisoa Simone Ralalaoherivony (Université d'Antananarivo), & Henriëtte De Swart (Utrecht University)

### Malagasy maha at the crossroads of voice, causation and modality

It is well known that perfective uses of modals come with actuality entailments (AEs) in Hindi (Bhatt 1999) and French (Hacquard 2006, 2009). Martin and Schäfer (2012) add that non-agentive causers in German create AEs. We analyze *maha*- in Malagasy as a voice morpheme that marks the external argument as a non-agentive cause (Phillips 1996; Travis 2010), and derive AEs from the interaction between non-agentive causation and (simple) past tense, drawing on Koenig and Davis' (2001) sublexical modal base. The non-agentive causative nature of *maha*- selects a circumstantial modal base, which explains the potential of AE with this voice marker.

James Collins (Stanford)

### Word order and definiteness in Tagalog

What role does grammar play in the calculation of an implicature? This paper explores implicature calculation with reference via a case study in Tagalog. Tagalog indefinites implicate non-uniqueness via competition with definites. This pragmatic view of non-uniqueness finds remarkably clear evidence from word-order alternations: in certain clause types, the definite form is morphosyntactically blocked. Within these structures, no pragmatic competition arises and the indefinite may be interpreted as uniquely instantiated. Thus, I argue that only grammatically well-formed structures are able to enter into pragmatic competition, an intuitive notion though data demonstrating this are uncommon. This paper aims to fill this gap.

### Learnability

Honaida Ahyad & Michael Becker (Stony Brook University)

### The predictability of vowel alternations in Urban Hijazi Arabic imperfective nonce forms

In Urban Hijazi Arabic bi-consonantal verbs, the vowel is predictably low in the perfective. In the imperfective, either front or back high vowels appear. The presence of an emphatic (pharyngealized) consonant is correlated with [u] in short-vowel verbs but with [ii] in long-vowel verbs. This is true in the existing verbs, and is also apparent in the treatment of nonce verbs, as we establish here experimentally. We offer an analysis based on the Minimal Generalization Learner (Albright and Hayes 2002, 2003, 2006). The predictions of our analysis are highly correlated with the experimental results.

ERIC ROSEN (UC Santa Cruz)

### Predicting the unpredictable: Capturing the apparent semi-regularity of rendaku voicing in Japanese through Gradient Symbolic Computation

Rendaku voicing in Japanese unpredictably fails to occur among 16% of certain classes of compounds. Its semi-regularity (Kawahara 2015) undermines its status as a systematic phonological process. This new analysis of rendaku generates correct output forms in 99% of cases, without lexical specification of exceptions. In the adopted framework of Gradient Symbolic Computation (Smolensky and Goldrick 2014), weighted constraints and features with continuous activation levels derive rendaku voicing by the coalescence of two stem-specific, partially activated, affixal [+voi] features. Computer-simulated algorithms suggest that this proposed grammar is learnable and also achieves better Minimum Description Length (Goldsmith 2011) than previous approaches.

Jeffrey Geiger (University of Chicago)

### Exploring the role of rhythm in iterative-infixing language game learning

The class of iterative-infixing language games exhibits a typological skew in favor of games with highly regular output rhythmic alternations. Subjects participated in an iterative-infixing language game learning experiment, learning a game either with or without a consistent correspondence between the number of source and output syllables. A significant interaction between training and type of game in a model predicting subjects' likelihood of a correct response suggests that games with more regular rhythmic alternations are easier to learn. This result may partially explain the typological skew and may also point to an important role of rhythm in natural language learning.

### Syntax II

Isabelle Charnavel (Harvard) & Dominique Sportiche (UCLA)

### Icelandic reflexive sig: Clause-bounded, or logophoric

According to the dominant view, the binding domain of Icelandic *sig* is the tensed clause, which allows *sig* to be bound from outside infinitives, and *sig* is exempt from this local binding condition in subjunctives when logophoric, i.e. when anteceded by a perspective center. We instead hypothesize that the binding domain of *sig* is the standard Condition A one, and that *sig* anteceded from outside its clause in both infinitive and subjunctive clauses is logophoric: the only condition exempting *sig* from locality conditions is logophoricity. Accordingly, the a priori parsimonious option of a crosslinguistically uniform binding domain would be viable.

### NI-LA LÊ & CRISTINA SCHMITT (Michigan State University)

### Plurality in classifier languages: A view from Vietnamese plural morphemes

This paper addresses (i) the distributional properties of two Vietnamese pluralizers  $nh\tilde{u}ng$  and  $c\acute{a}c$ , (ii) the roles of modification, and (iii) the parallel between their syntax and the derived interpretations. First, we argue these pluralizers co-occur with Cls because they do not have Cl features. A comparison of their properties to the 'licensing by modification' phenomena in other languages suggests Vietnamese has both types of licensing: syntactic (for  $nh\tilde{u}ng$ ) and semantic (for  $c\acute{a}c$ ). In terms of interpretations, we assume definiteness is a property of D and these pluralizers are Nums with different features permitting certain combinations while blocking others.

### EMILY HANINK (University of Chicago)

### Internally-headed relatives and event nominalizations in Washo

Washo, a highly endangered Hokan/isolate language spoken in the Lake Tahoe area of California/Nevada, forms clausal nominalizations by suffixing a pronoun to the entire clause. This structure can give rise to two different interpretations, resulting in either an internally-headed relative or event reading. I build on Toosarvandani's (2014) analysis of a similar phenomenon in Northern Paiute, and show that the two available interpretations vary according to which type of variable is bound in the nominalized clause. The proposed analysis sheds light on a puzzle about the pronunciation of quantifiers in this structure, which may surface in various positions.

### **Austronesian Syntax II**

Lisa Travis (McGill)

### The position of Out of Control morphemes in Malagasy and Tagalog

Malagasy and Tagalog are languages with Non-Culminating accomplishments where endpoints are implied but not entailed. Both languages, however, have prefixes which add entailment. Intriguingly, these morphemes bring with them meanings of involuntary action, accidental or sudden occurrence, or action requiring effort. There is a recent debate on the appropriate analysis this set of meanings. Accounts include a lexical semantic analysis, an Inner Aspect analysis, an Outer Aspect analysis and a modal analysis. In this paper, I argue that we can use morphological evidence to show that this morpheme must be merged within the vP in Malagasy and Tagalog.

### Dong-yi Lin (Ghent University)

### Denominal location and locatum verbs in Kavalan

The present study argues that denominal location and locatum verbs in Kavalan, a Formosan language, involve distinct derivational processes. A location verb is derived via the incorporation of a location noun to a Place head and two v heads ( $v_{\text{CAUSE}}$  and  $v_{\text{BECOME}}$ ), whereas a locatum verb is derived via the incorporation of a theme noun to a partitive head instead of a locative head. While a Kavalan location verb strictly denotes a locative event due to the Place head, the partitive head of a locatum verb induces a connotation where the theme and the location are integrated as a unit.

### MATT PEARSON (Reed College)

### Voice selection and aspectual focus in Malagasy

In Malagasy clauses containing temporal modifiers, Actor-Topic voice (marking the subject as the clausal pivot) yields an imperfective/atelic construal, while Theme-Topic voice (marking the object as pivot) yields a perfective/telic construal. Based on morphological evidence, I propose that extraction from vP in Theme-Topic clauses requires the verb root to raise to v – causing the root's event argument (expressing the endpoint) to conflate with the event argument of v (specifying the inception/activity component). Raising/conflation fails to occur in Actor-Topic clauses, in which case a vP-adjoined modifier will specify a temporal frame relative to the inception/activity component rather than the entire event.

### HENRISON HSIEH (McGill)

### Distinguishing nouns and verbs: Against the nominalist hypothesis for Tagalog

Various competing analyses have been proposed to account for the verbal system and argument marking patterns in Tagalog. Kaufman (2009) argues that the phenomena found in Tagalog can be derived under an analysis where putative verbs are in fact nouns, drawing on the largely overlapping morphological and syntactic distributions of the two classes of lexical items. This paper considers the behavior of nouns and verbs in three environments – conjunction, argument position, and in question-answer pairs – to argue that Tagalog must have a noun-verb distinction and contribute to the body of knowledge pertaining to this debate.

### **Semantics**

Dan Milway (University of Toronto)

### Specifying why a doctor isn't Mary

This talk addresses a long-standing puzzle with respect to specificational copular clauses. Namely it addresses the fact that simple indefinites cannot be specificational subjects but more complex indefinites can. Starting from the observation by Mikkelsen (2004) that specificational subjects are obligatorily topics, I argue that the restriction on indefinite specificational subjects is due to a requirement that specificational subject DPs contain but not wholly be constituents marked as contrastive topic (in the sense of Buring 2003). I further propose that this requirement comes from a general constraint on contrastive topic marking in sentences, requiring novel and presupposed content.

KSENIA BOGOMOLETS (University of Connecticut)

### Realis is real: Evidence from Initial Change in Arapaho

This paper deals with morphology of an Algonquian language Arapaho. I present novel paradigms which suggest that the [±realis] contrast is marked in Arapaho. Specifically, I argue that a morpho-phonological process in verbs traditionally known as *initial change* (IC) marks Mood [+realis] in present and future tenses. I then present an intriguing tense-related asymmetry showing that verbs in past do not participate in the same contrast; instead they are marked for the contrast between Affirmative and Non-Affirmative agreement. This study contributes to the discussion of the Algonquian mood morphology and to the debate about interrelations between past tense and irrealis.

Kristen Fleckenstein & Suwon Yoon (UT Arlington)

### Jespersen's Cycle and scope of negation in American Sign Language

Recent research (Pfau 2015) suggests that the pattern of negation in ASL has arisen as the result of Jespersen's Cycle where the negative headshake replaces the original head of NegP, manual negation. The present paper confirms that the headshake has grammaticalized as the main marker of external negation, and that the job of the manual negation marker was not merely weakened or nullified in the process, contrary to the general assumption in the literature. In exploring these patterns of negation, we show asymmetries between two negative markers, suggesting that manual negation has been reanalyzed as a type of internal negation.

Cole Brendel (University of Utah)

### The scope taking behavior of numeral quantifiers

Modified numeral expressions are claimed to be restricted to surface scope interpretations, while bare numerals are free to take inverse scope (Beghelli and Stowell 1997; Szabolcsi 1997, 2007, 2010). A sentence-picture verification task was conducted to bring experimental evidence to bear on this issue given that scope judgments are notoriously fragile. It was discovered that modified numerals are indeed capable of taking inverse scope. This finding is evidence against the claims in the literature. Additionally, subjects were found to prefer modified numeral expressions across all conditions. This finding was unexpected and warrants further investigation.

### **Psycholinguistics**

Gwanhi Yun (Daegu University)

### Hierarchical processing of formulaic expressions for L1 and L2 speakers

This study investigates whether different types of formulaic expressions are processed differently with regard to response times and accuracy for a grammaticality judgment task for both native and nonnative speakers of English. Specifically, it explores the processing manner of three types of formulas, i.e., idioms, phrasal verbs, and collocations with 20 NE and 10 proficient NNE speakers. First, our results show that formulaic expressions are responded to more rapidly and with less errors than non-formulas for NSE. Second, we found that processing load varies in accordance with the different types of formulas (phrasal verbs « idioms or collocations). Third, for proficient NNSE, we obtained similar processing patterns for formulaicity and idiomaticity (formulas » non-formulas; phrasal verbs » idioms » collocation). Our findings imply that FMs seem to be stored and retrieved in a holistic fashion rather than analytically unlike NFM. Second, it is implied that there is a processing hierarchy among formulas (phrasal verbs » idioms » collocations).

CLARA COHEN (UC Berkeley), SHINAE KANG (UC Berkeley), & ROZINA FONYO (San Jose State University)

### Task-dependent perception of acoustic detail

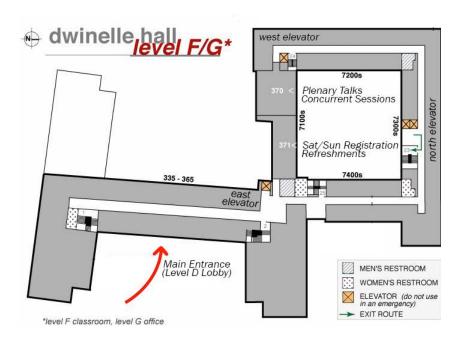
Morphemes that are probable in their inflectional paradigms tend to be phonetically enhanced. Can listeners use this pattern to speed perception? In three experiments of increasing complexity, we had participants listen to verbs whose phonetic realization was either enhanced or reduced. In Experiment 1, a single-word phoneme monitoring task, reaction time was affected by paradigmatic probability. Experiments 2 and 3 involved more complicated lexical decision tasks and sentence contexts, and showed no such effect. We interpret these findings as evidence for a strategic perceptual system that reduces its use of acoustic detail when other cognitive demands require processing resources.

Yao-Ying Lai, Cheryl Lacadie, Todd Constable, Ashwini Deo, & Maria Piñango (Yale)

### The structured individual hypothesis for processing aspectual verbs

We report results of SPR and fMRI studies of aspectual verbs semantically analyzed as selecting for structured individuals (Piñango and Deo 2015). We hypothesize that processing aspectual-verb sentences is costly due to [A] exhaustive lexical retrieval of the verb, and [B] ambiguity resolution associated with the complement. Whereas previous results show that aspectual-verb sentences containing animate subjects (i) engender longer RTs, and (ii) recruit BA40 (Wernicke's area) for [A] and LIFG for [B], compared to sentential counterparts with psychological verbs, (iii) here we observe that this localization pattern extends to aspectual-verb sentences containing inanimate subjects, supporting P&D's unified analysis for both conditions.

### **Conference Venue**



### **Friday**

Enter Dwinelle Hall from the main entrance near Sather Gate. You will be in the Level D lobby. *On Friday only, registration will be in Dwinelle 1203 on Level A.* To get down to Level A from the Level D lobby, turn right and head down the corridor into the Office Wing. Turn left at the end of the corridor, and you will find the north elevator and a staircase on the left which you can take down to Level A, the Department of Linguistics. Follow the corridor around and to the left; Dwinelle 1203 is at the end of the corridor.

Room locations: **Dwinelle 1229** (Level A): Opposite end of the hall from Dwinelle 1203. **Dwinelle 3335** (Level C): From 1203, take elevator to level C. Turn right and follow the corridor around, making another right. 3335 is at the end of the corridor. **Dwinelle 370** (Level F/G, top floor): from 1203, take elevator opposite 1203 to F/G, then turn left. **Dwinelle 371** (Level F/G): next to Dwinelle 370, beyond double doors.

### Saturday/Sunday

Enter Dwinelle Hall from main entrance near Sather Gate. *On Saturday and Sunday, registration and refreshments will be in Dwinelle 371 on Level F/G.* To get to Level F/G from the Level D lobby, go right towards the east elevator and take it straight to Level F/G, then turn left and enter 371 (Common Grounds).

Room locations: **Dwinelle 088** (Level C): from 371, take east elevator down to Level C and head straight down the corridor. **Dwinelle 219** (Level E): from 371, take the east elevator down to Level E and turn right; 219 is at the end of the corridor. **Dwinelle 370** (Level F/G): next to Dwinelle 371, beyond the double doors.

BLS Volunteers and Organizers with name badges are happy to assist you with directions.

### **Nearby Dining and Attractions**

Below are listed restaurants, cafes and bars around campus. There are many more options around Berkeley than what is listed here, and please feel free to ask any of the BLS Committee for recommendations. In general, the area just to the west of campus around Center Street, Oxford Street and Shattuck Avenue has many options, and is a short walk from Dwinelle.

### Restaurants

### West of campus (towards BART/downtown)

Saturn Cafe: 2175 Allston Way (vegetarian/vegan)

Cancun: 2134 Allston Way Crunch: 2144 Center St Alborz: 2142 Center St

Sliver Pizzeria: 2132 Center St

Gather: 2200 Oxford St

Long Life Vegi House: 2129 University Ave (vegetarian/vegan)

Platano Salvadoran Cuisine: 2042 University Ave Brazil Cafe: 2161 University Ave (no indoor seating)

Bobby G's Pizzeria: 2072 University Ave

Lucky House Thai Cuisine: 2140 University Ave Jayakarta: 2026 University Ave (closed Monday) Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen: 2261 Shattuck Ave

Revival Bar + Kitchen: 2102 Shattuck Ave (closed Monday, dinner only)

Herbivore: 2451 Shattuck Ave (vegetarian/vegan)

### South of campus

Thai Noodle 2: 2426 Telegraph Ave Smart Alec's: 2355 Telegraph Ave Joshu-Ya: 2441 Dwight Way

Tacos Sinaloa: 2384 Telegraph Ave

### North of campus

La Val's Pizza: 1834 Euclid Ave

Celia's Mexican: 1841 Euclid Ave (closed Sunday)

Nefeli Cafe: 1854 Euclid Ave

Cheeseboard Pizza: 1512 Shattuck Ave (closed Sunday, Monday)

Cha-Ya: 1686 Shattuck Ave (vegetarian/vegan)

Le Petit Cochon: 1801 Shattuck Avenue

### **Cafes**

### On campus

Equator Coffees and Teas (MLK Student Union Building, closed Sunday) Free Speech Movement Cafe (Moffitt Undergraduate Library)

### West of campus

Starbucks: 2128 Oxford St Peet's: 2255 Shattuck Ave Yali's Cafe: 1920 Oxford St

85C Bakery Cafe: 21 Shattuck Ave

### South of campus

Cafe Milano: 2522 Bancroft Way Caffe Strada: 2300 College Ave

Musical Offering: 2430 Bancroft Way (no wifi)

### North of campus

Brewed Awakening: 1807 Euclid Ave

Nefeli Cafe: 1854 Euclid Ave Philz Coffee: 1600 Shattuck Ave Guerilla Cafe: 1620 Shattuck Ave

### **Bars**

### On campus

The Bear's Lair (Lower Sproul Plaza, 2495 Bancroft Way)

### West of campus

Jupiter: 2181 Shattuck Ave

Triple Rock Brewery and Alehouse: 1920 Shattuck Ave

Comal: 2020 Shattuck Ave

Tupper & Reed: 2271 Shattuck Ave

Spats: 1974 Shattuck Ave

### South of campus

Freehouse: 2700 Bancroft Way (closed Sunday) Henry's: 2600 Durant Ave (Durant Hotel)

Pappy's Grill and Sports Bar: 2367 Telegraph Ave

### North of campus

Daily Pint: 1828 Euclid Ave

### **Copy Shops**

Krishna Copy: 510-540-5959 Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat 9:30-6 Sun closed Metro Publishing: 510-644-1999 Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 11-4 Sun closed Zee Zee Copy: 510-705-8411 Mon-Fri 8:30-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-7 Copy Central: 510-848-8649 Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat 10-6 Sun 10-7

### **Bookstores**

Moe's: 2476 Telegraph Ave

University Press Books: 2430 Bancroft Way

Half Price Books: 2036 Shattuck Ave

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