

## **Cumulative constraint interaction and trigger competition in vowel harmony**

Wendell Kimper (Manchester)

This talk presents an analysis of locality asymmetries in vowel harmony. In languages with multiple segments which fail to undergo harmony, these segments may differ with respect to their ability to be treated as transparent. In Hungarian, for example, [i] is consistently transparent, but [e] exhibits variable behaviour and can be either transparent or opaque. What is responsible for these segments' diverging behaviour? I argue that locality asymmetries are best understood as an effect that emerges from the interaction between two general preferences in harmony --- the status of certain segments as privileged triggers, and the marked status of non-local interactions. I present an analysis in Serial Harmonic Grammar; harmony is driven by a stringent family positively-defined constraints, which results in additional rewards for local harmony and for harmony from preferred triggers. In particular, I demonstrate that the cumulative constraint interaction that characterises Harmonic Grammar means that fairly complex harmony patterns fall out straightforwardly from the combination of independently necessary preferences in harmony.