

## **Emergent Phonology: inter-morpheme relations and derived environment effects**

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This talk examines two related strands of research exploring if and how complex phonological patterns can be explained with minimal recourse to a rich innate Universal Grammar (UG). As a general goal, this work is part of a project attempting the bottom-up construction of 'Emergent Grammars'. The talk calls into question certain 'abstract' notions current in much phonological theory, beginning with an examination of the concept of 'underlying representation'. It is suggested that the notion of underlying representation is essentially a structuralist hold-over that is largely without motivation. In its stead, sets of inter-related surface-oriented representations are posited. Constraints are proposed that govern set membership, both in terms of well-formedness and in terms of the relations between set members.

The results of this apparently simple move are far-reaching. In this talk, two types of cases will be discussed. The first is representational. Illustrating from Nuuchahnulth, a Wakashan language of British Columbia, a three-way contrast in length and a three-way contrast in glottalisation are discussed. It is shown that by adopting inter-related surface forms, representational complexities otherwise needed to account for three length types and three glottalisation types are unnecessary. The talk will also consider a case from Campidanian Sardinian where consonant alternations are restricted to derived environments. It will be shown that the required distinction in this and a large class of similar cases falls out directly from the kinds of inter-related surface forms being proposed.