

Speaker: **Richard Larson**  
Stony Brook University

Title: **TBC**

Date: Monday, February 27, 2006  
Time: 4:00pm  
Place: Rosenfeld Hall, Temple St (TBC)

**Abstract:**

Following work by Szabolsci (1983,1987) and Abney (1987), many researchers have pursued the idea that clauses (CP/TP) and nominals (DP) are fundamentally parallel in structure. Despite its overwhelming popularity, however, this view is not well-supported by semantic analysis. Indeed, under generalized quantifier theory (Barwise and Cooper (1981), Keenan and Stavi (1986)), which provides the basis of nearly all recent work on quantification, C/T and D have little or nothing in common.

In this talk, I discuss the syntactic projection of DP from the standpoint of generalized quantifier theory. I argue that, under the latter, the most appropriate analogy is *\*not\** between DP and CP/TP, but rather between DP and VP. Specifically, I suggest that (i) DP can be understood as projecting arguments according to a thematic hierarchy that is parallel (but different in role-content) to that found in VP, (ii) that Ds sort themselves into intransitive, transitive and ditransitive forms, much like Vs, (iii) that nominal modifiers, including relative clauses and adjectives, project in the DP very much like adverbial elements in VP, and (iv) that DP deploys its own internal case system parallel to that VP. I develop the latter point in detail looking at Ezafe marking in DP in Indo-Iranian, so-called "linker elements" in Khoisan and Bantu, and the particle "de" in Chinese. If correct, these results suggest that many of the putative parallels between DP and CP/TP claimed over the last 15 years deserve serious rethinking.