Speaker:	John McCarthy
	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Title:	Derivations: Optimal and Otherwise
Date:	Monday, April 17, 2006
Time:	4:00pm
Place:	Rosenfeld Lecture Hall,
	(corner Temple & Grove Streets)

## Abstract:

This talk will examine a modification of Optimality Theory that incorporates something analogous to the derivations of rule-based phonology. Standardly, OT's GEN component compresses all phonological operations into a single derivational step, so [?uktub] (with two epenthetic segments) is among the candidates derived from input /ktub/ (in Arabic). In the proposed modification, which I'll refer to as Incremental OT, GEN is limited to one operation at a time, so [?uktub] can only be reached by way of intermediate [uktub]. Since intermediate [uktub] as well as final [?uktub] must be selected by the grammar, Incremental OT can impose ranking requirements that are stricter than those of standard OT.

Three main results of Incremental OT will be presented: it is finite in its evaluations and derivations; it has a more limited capacity to perform global optimizations than standard OT, and this more limited capacity is a better fit with language typology; and it offers an approach to phonological opacity that can be linked with research on natural rule ordering in the period 1969-1975.