Speaker: **Rajesh Bhatt**

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Title: **Variable Case Marking, Argument Structure, and Interpretation**

Date: Monday, April 10, 2006
Time: 4:00pm
Place: Rosenfeld Lecture Hall,
                (corner Temple & Grove Streets)

Abstract:

Hindi-Urdu has been documented extensively as displaying the phenomenon of Differential Object Marking (DOM, see Butt 1993, Masica 1982, Mohanan 1993, Singh 1994 i.a.). That a similar, though not identical, process is available for subjects has not been noted so far (with the exception of Hook 1979:132- 133). Like DOM, Variable Case Marking on the subject correlates with interpretation. Unlike DOM, variable case marking seems to only be available to subjects of a subclass of predicates, namely the unaccusatives. I argue that this particular constellation of facts suggests that contrary to what has been previously assumed - at least for Hindi-Urdu - unaccusative v can optionally assign accusative, but in a very limited set of environments. These restrictions, I show, follow from the dependent nature of accusative case and Diesing-style limitations on what can be interpreted VP-internally.