Speaker:  
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Title:  
Constraints in Conflict

Date:  
Monday, October 22, 2007

Time:  
4:00pm

Place:  
101 Rosenfeld Hall (Temple & Grove Sts.)

Abstract:

Comparative theories of grammaticality select among alternatives.  
In OT, this is done by evaluating the alternatives (‘candidates’) in 
terms of a universal set of constraints, and thus determining the 
optimum/a. Grammatical candidates violate whatever constraints 
prefer alternative candidates.

In this theory economy of structure/representation is a theorem, 
following from conflicting constraints on the structure of phrases. 
No economy constraints need to be stipulated. Constraint conflict 
entails that there is no perfect phrase, and that smaller structures 
contain fewer imperfections than larger ones. How can economy 
be derived in linguistic theories without constraint conflict? It 
can’t. Formulations of economy in the literature all encode conflict, 
even if this is hidden in the formulation.