Speaker: Whitney Ward  
Graduate Student, Yale University

Title: A Comparison of Gestural Targets for Stops and Fricatives

Date: Friday, April 21, 2006  
Time: 12:00pm  
Place: Linguistics Seminar Room (201)  
370 Temple St

Abstract:

Within the framework of Articulatory Phonology, it has been claimed that the difference between stop and fricative consonants is represented as a difference in constriction degree (CD). Stop consonants are characterized by a constriction degree closed while the CD for fricatives is critical. The target for a gesture with a critical CD is the point at which the production of audible frication is possible given certain aerodynamic conditions. Analysis of data from the Wisconsin X-ray Micobeam Database is used here to provide support for these differing CD values in stops and fricatives through an examination of the characteristics of articulator movements and the acoustic consequences of those movements. This data also provides insight into the relationship between the stop and release portion individual articulator gestures as well as allowing for an examination of the interaction between articulator movement, aerodynamic conditions and acoustic output during the production of consonants.