

The Department of Linguistics
is pleased to present

Judith Aissen

UC Santa Cruz

speaking on

Right-edge topics in Tsotsil (Mayan)

Friday, October 20, 2017

4:00 PM

Location: HUM 1 - Room 210

Abstract:

Recent work on word order in Mayan has suggested the existence of a topic position at the right edge of the clause (Clemens and Coon, to appear). Under this analysis what has traditionally been analyzed as basic V-O-S order in some Mayan languages actually reflects V-O-Topic order, with the subject in a transitive clause being the canonical topic. This talk consider evidence for a right-edge topic in Tsotsil, focusing not on subject topics but on possessor topics. We conclude by discussing the relation of this right-edge position to the larger typology of topic positions in Mayan.