

**The Department of Linguistics**  
is pleased to present

***ANDREW MURPHY***

**Leipzig University**  
speaking on

**What can tone tell us about movement?**  
**Insights from Asante Twi**

**Monday, February 11, 2019**  
**2:30 PM**

**Location: HUM 2 - Room 259**

**Abstract:**

This talk argues the well-known process of high-tone overwriting in Asante Twi (Niger-Congo: Ghana) focus constructions (Schachter & Fromkin 1968) is actually a morphological reflex of successive-cyclic movement through vP. This is shown both by its unbounded nature and its distribution across a wider range of A'-contexts.

The challenge posed by the general island-insensitivity of A'-constructions in Asante Twi is discussed (e.g. Saah 1994) and it is argued that nominal resumption is directly responsible for circumventing island effects in a movement derivation. This is supported by the following three arguments: (i) island effects re-appear for categories lacking pronouns, (ii) island-insensitive resumption passes movement diagnostics (e.g. reconstruction, crossover), (iii) genuine base-generation configurations (e.g. topic constructions and prolepsis) show different properties.

Finally, an intriguing asymmetry between the affixes affected by overwriting is shown to follow from a height distinction, cyclic bottom-up Vocabulary Insertion and the assumption that overwriting is due to a floating tonal circumfix (Trommer 2011).