

The Department of Linguistics
is pleased to present

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speaking on

**Unaccented words, headedness, and prosodic
phrasing in Northern Bizkaian Basque**

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1:20 PM

Location: HUM 1 - Room 210

Abstract:

Northern Bizkaian Basque (NBB) has accented and unaccented lexical words, like in Tokyo Japanese. Unaccented words that are also syntactic phrases never constitute independent phonological phrases and have to group with the following word, unlike accented words (cf. Elordieta 1997, 1998, 2007a, 2007b). Assuming the correspondence between syntactic phrases and phonological phrases as in Match Theory (Selkirk 2009, 2011, Elfner 2012, 2015; Elordieta 2015; Bennett, Elfner and McCloskey 2016, among others), this is an issue to attend to. We propose a formal explanation for the deficiency of unaccented words under five assumptions: (i) the presence of a constraint that calls for every phonological phrase to be headed, i.e. to have a prosodic word that is the head; (ii) NBB unaccented words lack a prosodic head; (iii) a prosodic word that does not have a head cannot be a head of the phonological phrase (prosodic constituents must be headed all the way down, cf. Selkirk 2007); (iv) the above mentioned constraints dominate the constraint that rules out any deletion of phonological phrases (or lack of correspondence between syntactic phrases and phonological phrases).