The Department of Linguistics is pleased to present

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speaking on

Two paths to clausal embedding

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
11:40am
HUM 1 – 202
Or remotely via Zoom
https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/92577038576?pwd=LzUrRmd6YjlySWRwZ1BNN1dtWEZTZz09

Abstract:
This talk is concerned with the relationship between the inner syntax of finite embedded clauses and the way they are incorporated into the matrix clause. The question I ask is the following: does presence/absence of nominal projections on top of a CP determine the way it combines with the verb? In particular, (i) does it determine the role of the clause in the argument structure and (ii) does it determine possible structural configurations in which the clause can attach? To answer these questions, I examine data from two languages that show overt distinctions between nominalized and bare CPs, Buryat (Mongolic) and Russian. I argue that there is a one-to-one mapping between the inner syntax of the CP and its status in the argument structure: while nominalized CPs are arguments just like DPs, bare CPs are event modifiers (Bogal-Allbritten 2016, Kratzer 2016, Elliott 2020). I then show that this difference has consequences for possible structural configurations in which CPs can attach: unlike nominalized CPs but like other event modifiers, bare embedded CPs can attach both as complements and as adjuncts. This variability results in bare embedded CPs being islands for movement in some cases but not in others, landing support for configurational theories of the adjunct island (Uriagereka 1999, Johnson 2003, Privoznov 2020).