

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

***Katy Carlson*
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speaking on

Accents, Boundaries, Focus, and Where They Matter Most

Friday, May 6, 2022

1:20 PM

via Zoom

(Zoom information will be emailed on Thursday, May 5th)

Abstract:

One issue facing the field of sentence processing is understanding where prosody (and things marked by prosody) matters to interpretation. I've studied a number of ambiguous structures in which prosodic boundaries at specific positions matter, as well as some where they don't, and many ellipsis structures which respond to accents. In response to this, my colleagues and I proposed a Separate Roles Hypothesis for accents vs. boundaries. In later work I have disconfirmed part of this hypothesis, finding several attachment structures which respond to accents and focus more generally (per the Focus Attraction Hypothesis) as well as boundaries. But this work has also exposed structures where accents don't affect attachment. In the end, this work is aimed at helping us understand how prosody impacts sentence processing.