

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

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speaking on

Head movement, head-stranding ellipsis, and V2

Saturday, March 6, 2021

3:35 PM (PST) via Zoom

Zoom Information: Will be emailed on Friday, March 5, 2021

Abstract:

Verb-stranding ellipsis, when a verb is stranded outside of the ellipsis site in which it originated, has been identified in a number of languages (Irish, McCloskey 1991; Hebrew, Doron 1991, Goldberg 2005; Greek, Merchant 2018; Uzbek, Gribanova, to appear; i.a.), and has been invoked productively in analyses investigating the position to which verbs move and the timing of verb movement in the grammar. Recently, Landau (2018, 2019, 2020a,b) has proposed a phase-based negative licensing condition which restricts head-stranding ellipsis and precludes verb-stranding verb phrase ellipsis (VPE) altogether. The phase-based account suggests that many previously identified instances of head-stranding ellipsis must be reanalyzed as instances of the more targeted operation Argument Ellipsis (AE), which would not be subject to the proposed licensing condition. In this talk, I will approach this debate through an analysis of head movement and head-stranding ellipsis in the Indic verb-second (V2) language Kashmiri. We show that this phase-based approach encounters empirical challenges in accounting for ellipsis in V2 languages and requires an unworkable approach to V2 itself, at odds with a variety of accounts of V2 in Kashmiri and crosslinguistically (Holmberg 1986; Travis 1991; Vikner 1995; Zwart 1997; Bhatt 1999; Munshi and Bhatt 2009; Manetta 2011). While this talk argues in favor of the conventional account of head-stranding ellipsis (following Merchant 2001, 2008), we affirm that challenges remain for any complete account of head-stranding ellipsis licensing in correctly predicting which languages may strand which verbal heads when.