

## **Pitch Accents in Conamara Irish and Implications for the Syntax-Phonology Interface**

Emily Elfner

McGill University

In this talk, I discuss the empirical and theoretical consequences of the distribution of phrase-level pitch accents in Conamara Irish, a dialect of modern Irish spoken in western Ireland. Through an investigation of the tonal prosodic system of the language, I address the architecture of the syntax-phonology interface and the relation between syntactic constituent structure and prosodic structure formation. In particular, I argue that the distribution of pitch accents in Conamara Irish provides support for Match Theory (Selkirk 2009, 2011), an indirect-reference theory of the syntax-prosody interface in which correspondence between syntactic and prosodic constituents is governed by a family of violable constraints calling for an exact “match” between constituents. I argue that, as predicted by Match Theory, there is evidence of a close correspondence between syntactic and prosodic structure in default cases, but that under certain circumstances, this direct correspondence may be subverted in favour of prosodic structures which better satisfy higher-ranked prosodic markedness constraints.