Tel Aviv University
School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies,
Department of Linguistics

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday 12/01/2023
16:15-17:45
Mandy Cartner, Tel Aviv University
Frontal lecture in Webb 103

Units of Intra-sentential Code-Switching and the Modularity of the Language Faculty

Bilingual speakers frequently engage in *intra-sentential code-switching* (ICS), i.e., use two different languages within a sentence. Numerous studies have shown that patterns of bilinguals' ICS are systematically constrained (e.g, Poplack 1980, Myers-Scotton 1993, Muysken 2000, González-Vilbazo & López 2011, MacSwan 2014). I pursue the conceptually desirable null hypothesis that bilinguals' intuitions are not due to special "ICS constraints" but derive from general properties of the Language Faculty (Mahootian 1993, MacSwan 1999). Thus, I examine ICS as a potential revealing source of evidence to assess competing hypotheses of the architecture of grammar, which are originally based on monolingual data.

This study investigates a fundamental question raised by ICS: Is the locus of ICS completely up to speakers' choice, or is it restricted by certain grammatical boundaries, i.e., by some syntactic, semantic, or phonological domain? More specifically, (i) using auditory judgment tasks of Hebrew-English bilinguals, I investigate what constitutes *a minimal unit of ICS* – a unit that must remain in a single language – suggesting that it is defined post-syntactically, and (ii) consider what properties of a minimalist model of grammar may the observed restrictions on ICS derive from, focusing on transfer, prosodification, and the timing of vocabulary insertion.

Click [here](#) to see the colloquium program.