

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

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speaking on

The phonology of speech errors

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

1:30 PM (PST) via Zoom

Zoom Information: Will be emailed on Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Abstract:

Speech errors are rich in phonological generalizations. These generalizations establish the phonological structures that are accessed in speech planning, their relationship to the phonological contexts in which they occur, and larger principles of phonology that shape speech errors. Our understanding of the phonology of speech errors is limited, however, by a number of methodological problems and the fact that most speech error data come from a small number of dominant languages. This talk outlines how these problems are addressed by the Simon Fraser University Speech Error Database (SFUSED). First, it will describe the methods of building the SFUSED, show how the data is validated, and demonstrate that it is less prone to the problems that have skewed speech error distributions in the past. Second, it will explore a set of theoretical results from SFUSED Cantonese, a multi-purpose database designed to support linguistic and language production research on Cantonese. These results show how research on an under-studied language like Cantonese can both confirm established generalizations and accelerate research on new problems. The empirically-grounded model built from this research shows how Cantonese differs from major languages like English in important ways: Cantonese assigns a more central role for syllables in speech planning, and, unlike prosody in English, suprasegmental tone in Cantonese is encoded as an integral part of phonological planning.