

The Department of Linguistics

is pleased to present

Anthony Yacovone

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Hospital**

speaking on

**Prediction is a piece of *ceke*: Developmental and
psycholinguistic evidence for prediction of
word-forms during natural language
comprehension.**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

11:40 AM

Location: HUM 1 - Room 210

Abstract:

For decades, psycholinguists have fiercely debated the role and centrality of prediction in human language. These debates center on whether people routinely predict specific lexical items and their word-forms during comprehension. To date, form-based prediction has been poorly replicated and only seems to emerge in the most constraining of experiments. These findings are often taken as evidence that form-based prediction is likely to be an artifact of how we study language in the lab, and thus, it is unlikely to play a central role in natural language processing. In this talk, I will present three studies that use electroencephalography (EEG) to assess form-based prediction during naturalistic comprehension. Study 1 asks whether English-speaking adults predict the phonological form of upcoming words while listening to a children's story. In Studies 2 and 3, I ask how prediction of this kind develops. I will end my talk by outlining my plans for future research and briefly discussing how this work might inform research efforts in linguistics more broadly.