

**The Department of Linguistics**

**is pleased to present**

***Caroline Andrews***

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**speaking on**

**Case Production in Ergative Languages**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**11:40 AM**

**Location: HUM 1 - Room 210**

**Abstract:**

Human language is full variation in morphological marking and grammatical structures. All of these must be processed by brains with the same cognitive tools and abilities, but there is some room for variability in the strategies that speakers/comprehenders recruit in order to efficiently process their specific language. Because cross-linguistic psycholinguistics has been an underdeveloped area of the field, there is limited understanding of what variability in processing strategies is possible, even for central language features such as case. This talk compares known production strategies from nominative languages to the production of three different ergative case languages: Shipibo-Konibo, Hindi, and Basque. The ergative languages do not have uniform planning profiles, indicating that simply the presence of ergative case does not reliably imply a particular production strategy. However, the range of planning profiles corresponds to the differences between Inherent and Dependent theories of ergative case, suggesting that this theoretical difference is a useful way to view not just grammatical variability, but processing variability as well.