



*Invitation to all faculty, staff and students*

*This event is sponsored by School of Linguistics and Language Studies*

## **Two Talks by Dr. Andrew Carnie**

### **Experimental Investigations on Scottish Gaelic Phonetics and Phonology**

**Thursday, February 2, 2012**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Room 240 Tory**

In this talk I present some of the results of a series of perceptual, psychophonology and phonetic studies done in the summer of 2010 on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. We performed 11 experiments on some unique phonetic and phonological properties of Scottish Gaelic. Using acoustic and perceptual gated speech methodologies we investigated whether or not the language has nasalized fricatives, and investigated where in the speech stream the appearance or illusion of nasalized fricatives is created. Using ultrasound, gating, and phonological judgment studies we also looked at the articulation, perception, and phonological status of svarabhakti (epenthetic) vowels. We saw that in many ways these vowels, while often phonetically longer, and bearing such hallmarks of a phonological real vowel as vowel harmony, are perceived by many speakers as not forming full syllabic nuclei.

### **Dependency-Based Merge**

**Friday, February 3, 2012**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Room LA B149**

A central assumption of modern Generative Grammar holds that rules and constraints hold over strings of words that form constituents. Following in the footsteps of Collins and Ura (2006) and several works by Timothy Osborne and his colleagues, I will present a theory of Merge where constituency takes a backseat and instead the operations of feature checking and feature valuation are all that are required in a Minimalist Syntax. Constituents are epiphenomena created by feature geometry. As evidences I will look at some word order facts that explicitly ignore constituent relations and instead seem to use phonetic and semantic criteria to determine order.

*Dr. Andrew Carnie is a professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona Tucson. His research areas include the syntax, phonology and phonetics of Modern Scottish Gaelic, and various topics within the Minimalist Principles and Parameters approach to syntactic theory. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including Syntax: A Generative Introduction.*