

**IndoEuropean Workshop**  
**Department of Linguistics, Harvard University**

**Andrew Ollett (Harvard Society of Fellows)**  
**March 22 at 5:00 pm**  
**Boylston Hall Room 105**

### **Clausal Complements in Middle Indic**

Clausal complements work differently in Sanskrit, the earliest-attested of the Indic languages, than they do in modern Indic languages like Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali. What happened in the thousands of years that separate these stages? Texts in Middle Indic—including Prakrit and Apabhramsha—reveal a shift from the direct construction with *iti* to other strategies of complementization. I hope to set out the chronology of this shift in Middle Indic, which is complicated by constant influence from Sanskrit on the one hand and from vernacular languages on the other, and discuss some factors that may have contributed to it, including the competing use of *iti* to govern modifiers rather than complements. I'll also raise the question of Middle Indic's "middleness," with regard to whether the Middle Indic constructions genuinely continue patterns found in Sanskrit, or precede patterns found in the modern languages.