

[Matt Goldrick](#) (Northwestern University)

Title: "Understanding sound structure at multiple levels of analysis"

Abstract: Marr (1982) famously claimed that understanding the mind/brain requires developing theories at multiple levels of analysis. In practice, cognitive scientists (myself included) have frequently privileged explanations at a particular level. I'll discuss two recent projects from my lab that rely on understanding sound structure at different levels of analysis. The structured variation of external sandhi arises in part due to the nature of the algorithms that compute word forms in production, suggesting that grammatical theories need to be sensitive to the algorithmic nature of word form processing. On the other hand, understanding puzzling results in psycholinguistic studies of implicit learning of phonotactic constraints required us to understand the nature of functional-level constraints on phonotactic grammars. Insights like these suggest researchers in the cognitive science of language may benefit from more careful attention to insights at multiple levels of analysis.

Friday, April 16 | 12:00-1:30 PM | Check email for Zoom link