

**Raffaella Zanuttini (Yale)**

**Wednesday, April 26, 5 - 6:30pm  
Boylston Hall 105**

**Title: The structure of presentatives**

PRESENTATIVES are utterances that bring a new entity or a new proposition to someone's attention. Though attested in many languages (Rosén 1998; Julia 2016; Petit 2010, a.o.), they have received very little attention in the syntactic literature (Bouchard 1988; Morin 1985, 1988; Casalicchio 2013). Some examples are given in (1):

- (1) a. Ecco Maria. (Italian)
- b. Here's Maria. (English)
- c. Voilà Maria. (French)
- d. Evo Maria. (Serbian)

They are felicitous when the entity denoted by the noun phrase, whose existence has been previously evoked or can be inferred, becomes accessible to the speaker (through one of the senses, or in the space of mental possibilities).

Focussing mainly on Italian, I propose an analysis of presentatives that aims to capture their unique distribution, interpretation and discourse function, and highlights their similarities and differences with locative clauses. I view this as the first step toward the broader goal of shedding light on the structure of presentatives more generally.