

## Harvard GSAS Linguistics Circle Workshop

**Speaker:** Rajesh Bhatt (UMass Amherst), joint work with Vincent Homer

**Title:** Negation of Disagreement in Hindi-Urdu

**Time:** Friday Sept 23rd, 12pm

**Location:** Sever Hall 102

**Zoom link:** please request from the [Coordinators](#) if you have not received one by email.

### **Abstract:**

Hindi-Urdu has a negative marker *thorī*, which, compared to the 'default' *nahī*, (i) has a limited distribution and (ii) is subject to discourse felicity constraints. First, it is ruled out in questions, *if*-clauses, *when*-clauses, *because*-clauses, relative clauses and infinitival complements, and it needs a constituent to its left, on which it puts focus. It is not a constituent negation since it takes sentential scope (i.e., it can license subject NPIs); in fact it takes obligatory wide scope over most scope-taking elements. It takes wide scope regardless of its surface position, which suggests that it is associated with a covert negation, which sits high in the clause (the position of this high negation is not available in all clauses). Second, it cannot be used felicitously unless the proposition that is being negated has been entertained—not necessarily expressed or articulated—in the preceding discourse (like Italian *mica*, Cinque 1976, Frana & Rawlins 2015, 2019). We will show that focus alone is not enough to derive the 'disagreement' requirement of *thorī*. Then we will compare two current models for disagreement (Repp's FALSUM and Goodhue's Polarity Focus) and see how they apply to *thorī*.