

**GSAS WORKSHOPS**  
Harvard Linguistics Circle presents:

**Speaker:** Anamaria Falaus (CNRS, Laboratoire de Linguistique de Nantes)

**Time:** Thursday, May 17, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Boylston Hall 303

**Title:** *2 wh-words = 1 wh-word + 1 wh-word? An answer from Multiple wh- free relative clauses in Romanian* (joint work with Ivano Caponigro, UC San Diego)

**Abstract:**

Wh-words appear in various constructions within and across languages (e.g., interrogatives, headed and free relative clauses, correlatives), raising the question of how their denotation varies and relates across these constructions. One of the important dimensions of variation highlighted in the literature has to do with the nature of the traces wh-words license. Together with the usual trace over individuals, work on interrogative clauses with multiple wh-words (e.g., Dayal 1996) and interrogative and relative clauses with quantifiers (e.g., Engdahl 1980, 1986; Chierchia 1991, 1993; Dayal 1996; Sharvit 1999) has uncovered functional interpretations of wh-words, attributed to their ability to also license complex functional traces. In this talk, we discuss new arguments for this dual individual/functional meaning of wh-words, on the basis of multiple wh- free relatives clauses, an understudied construction involving free relatives with two (or more) wh-words (Rudin 2007). We provide a compositional analysis of multiple wh- FRs, using data from Romanian, a language that not only makes use of multiple wh- FRs productively, but also displays other multiple wh-constructions (e.g., multiple wh- interrogatives, multiple wh- correlatives), thus enabling a direct comparison among (multiple) wh-clauses.