

Harvard Linguistics Colloquium Talk Series

Speaker: [Donna Jo Napoli](#) (Swarthmore College)

Time: Friday Oct 25th @ 12 - 1:30 pm

Title: Movement in Sign Languages

Location: The Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall (1st floor)

Abstract: This work is based on work of Donna Jo Napoli and Cornelia Loos. Languages need to express speed and distance of movement of an object. Sign languages are highly iconic, but the manual articulators are anatomically limited and subject to the drive for ease of articulation, so they must be resourceful in depicting great speed/distance. In this talk we look at factive and fictive motion in the sign language literature of seven languages and uncover possibilities in sign that are absent in spoken languages and manual behavior that requires an overhaul of sign morphology.