

MULTILINGUALISM AND THE *FUTURE* OF GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

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ROOM 214 MILLER LEARNING CENTER



Generative grammar has encountered criticisms and challenges from myriad perspectives over the course of the last 60 years; perhaps its most pressing challenge today pertains to its treatment of multilingualism. Research from neurolinguistic and psycholinguistic perspectives over the past decade provides solid evidence in favor of the dual activation of not just an integrated Mental Lexicon, but also aspects of multiple source grammar systems. In this talk, Dr. Putnam will revisit the impact that these findings from related disciplines (e.g., cognitive science, neurolinguistics, and psycholinguistics) have on linguists' pursuit of "the most neutral possible terms the knowledge of the language that provides the basis for actual use of language by a speaker-hearer" (Chomsky, 1965: 9). To achieve this goal, Dr. Putnam will advance a computational model of multilingual grammar that is capable of integrating these experimental findings with aspects of traditional generative machinery. He will provide an overview of Gradient Symbolic Computation (GSC; Smolensky et al., 2014; Goldrick et al., in press) and its treatment of two related, yet distinct instances of code-switching; namely, (1) mixed constituents and (2) blended representations. Through this introduction to GSC, he will make the case for ways that generative theorizing can interface with more computational and experimental work moving forward.

