Introduction to Contemporary Morphological Theories
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Abstract

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of four contemporary realizational theories of inflectional morphology, based on a comparison centred around four topics, and against the background of a feature-driven, phase-based minimalist approach to syntax.

The theories that will figure prominently are (i) Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz (1993), Embick & Noyer (2007), Arregi & Nevins (2012), Kramer, Marantz, Alexiadou & Oltra-Massuet (2026)), (ii) Paradigm Function Morphology (Stump (2001; 2016; 2023)), (iii) Optimality-Theoretic Morphology (Grimshaw (2001), Trommer (2001; 2007), Stiebels (2006), Wolf (2008)), and (iv) Morphology in Harmonic Serialism (Mueller (2020; 2025), Gleim et al. (2023)).

The course will be composed of five blocks: (a) Outline of the Theories; (b) Impoverishment; (c) Extended Exponence & Contextual Allomorphy; (d) Morphological Movement; (e) Pre-Syntactic vs. Post-Syntactic Morphology.