Roland Pfau

**Negation and Negative Concord in Georgian Sign Language**

Negation is one of the grammatical domains that has given the impetus for sign language typology, a young and thriving research field. In this talk, we offer a contribution to the study of sign language negation by adding Georgian Sign Language (GESL) to the pool of languages investigated. Our description reveals that GESL displays a number of typologically unusual features: a considerable number of negative particles, including emphatic, prohibitive, and tense-specific particles; specialized negative modals; and a wide range of possibilities for Negative Concord (NC) involving two manual negative signs, including a unique tense-specific instance of NC. Most of the patterns we report – available negative particles, their clausal position, and NC possibilities – are clearly different from those attested in spoken Georgian. Furthermore, we investigate how the highly complex GESL negation system compares to existing taxonomies of NC and Double Negation systems, and we conclude that GESL aligns with certain languages that have been classified as atypical NC languages.