**2019 Summer School, Norwegian National Graduate School in Linguistics**

**The Parallel Architecture and its components**

**Ray Jackendoff**

**Course description**

The basic premise of the Parallel Architecture is that knowledge of language is to be described in terms of three independent levels of structure – semantics, syntax, and phonology – plus the interfaces that link them to each other and to the rest of the mind. It contrasts with mainstream generative grammer, in which all combinatorial structure arises in syntax. Its semantic component is Conceptual Semantics, which, unlike traditional truth-conditional semantics, is thoroughly mentalistic account of meaning. Because of the independence of semantic structure from syntax, it becomes possible to reframe much of the complexity of mainstream syntax in terms of semantics and the interface, resulting in the far leaner Simpler Syntax. A third component in the theory is Relational Morphology, in which the lexicon is no longer merely a receptacle of irregularities, but a rich network of relations among lexical entries, and in which the lexicon and the grammar are unified into a single component. Finally, the Parallel Architecture offers the possibility of languages in which syntax plays no role, and instead there is a direct mapping between phonology and meaning, with implications for the evolution of the language faculty.

The course will cover as much of this material as is feasible in the limited time.

**Readings**

Jackendoff, *Foundations of Language*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Jackendoff,  *A User’s Guide to Thought and Meaning*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Jackendoff, What is the faculty of language? Two views. *Language* 87, 586-624

Jackendoff, Conceptual Semantics. In Claudia Maienborn, Klaus von Heusinger, and Paul Portner (eds.), *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural Language Meaning*, Vol. 1, 688-709. DeGruyter Mouton, 2014.

Jackendoff and Culicover, The Simpler Syntax Hypothesis, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 10, 413-418.

Jackendoff and Audring, Relational Morphology in the Parallel Architecture (with Jenny Audring). In J. Audring and F. Masini (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Morphological Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Jackendoff and Wittenberg, What you can say without syntax: A hierarchy of grammatical complexity. In Frederick J. Newmeyer and Laurel B. Preston (eds.), *Measuring Grammatical Complexity*, 65-82. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.