

**Fulbright Visiting Scholar Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi from University of Warsaw and Polish Academy of Sciences will give a lecture on**

**“Linguistic structures as constraints on dynamics on multiple timescales”**

**17 November 2015, 11:00-12:30am  
SSM 317**

**The Outreach Lecturing Fund (OLF)** allows Fulbright Visiting Scholars who are currently in the United States to travel to other higher education institutions across the country. Each year some 800 faculty and professionals from around the world receive Fulbright Scholar grants for advanced research and university lecturing. The purpose of the OLF is to allow these scholars to share their specific research interests, speak on the history and culture of their home country, exchange ideas with U.S. students, faculty and community organizations, become better acquainted with U.S. higher education, and create linkages between their home and host institutions and CIES.

**Joanna Rączaszek-Leonardi** took her PhD from Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences Florida Atlantic University. Her interest is in reconciling dynamical and symbolic aspects of natural language on the grounds of ecological psychology theory.

**Abstract:** The change of perspective in a view of language – from ‘content-carrier’ to a system of constraints on dynamics of interaction – alleviates some recalcitrant problems in a theory of language but brings about new ones. In my talk I will enumerate its advantages, such as, e.g., facilitating explanations of context-sensitivity and efficiency of language. At the same time I will also point to the new theoretical obligations that using such an approach puts on the shoulders of researchers, which include identifying the relevant dynamics and showing the way, in which dynamics-grounded linguistic symbols can become ‘ungrounded’ and abstract. Despite these serious burdens I will argue for the usefulness and viability of the replicable-constraints approach, as providing a complex, but comprehensive account of language in which both symbolic structures and dynamics unfolding in many time-scales find their place.

There is no charge for the workshop.

Fulbright campus representatives and interested faculty are encouraged to attend.