Slavic Linguistics Colloquium

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**Opacity and Podhale Goralian**

This presentation offers a basic insight into my research on phonological opacity (Kiparsky 1971, 1973; McCarthy 1999; Baković 2007, 2011) and the dialect of Podhale Goralian (Rubach and Łuszczek 2019; Łuszczek *in press*). Opacity is a descriptive tool used to specify the degree of analytic/empirical adequacy of a phonological process. Specifically, the theory of opacity addresses the question of whether the surface structures that are held to be derived by the process under scrutiny are reflective of the generalisation expressed by this process. If they are, then the process is dubbed non-opaque or *transparent*. On the other hand, if the relevant surface structures are nonreflective or partly reflective of the generalisation that is held to derive them, the process positing such a generalisation is described as *opaque*. The current take on the subject is that opacity is of two kinds: *underapplication* and *overapplication*. The former describes a situation in which a process does not apply, even though it should; the latter describes a situation in which a process does apply, even though it should not. Put differently, underapplication involves *unwarranted process misapplication*, while overapplication is a case of *unwarranted process application*. Finally, a separate question is what causes opacity of either type. Generative grammar offers different answers to this question, depending on the type of the analytic framework that is assumed.

The empirical coverage of my work centres around Podhale Goralian, a Polish dialect spoken in the highlands of Lesser Poland. This dialect has a history of scientific enquiry spanning nearly 150 years, however it remains underrepresented in the generative literature. In my presentation, I wish to provide the audience with basic facts about Podhale Goralian phonology by sharing some of the results of my ongoing research. In particular, I will discuss the vowel system and a couple of phonological processes that pertain to mid vowels. These processes will be viewed against the background of the theory of opacity and the analysis will be couched in two generative frameworks: the classic rule theory and Optimality Theory. The goal is to see what implications these two different models have for the description of phonological opacity.