Levels of information structure and their (de)coding in spoken language

(Stefan Baumann, IfL Phonetik, Universität zu Köln)

The talk deals with aspects of information structure which are claimed to be primarily indicated by prosody in West Germanic languages. Emphasis will be placed on studies investigating the means used by intonation to mark degrees of givenness of discourse referents in German. Furthermore, we shall look at different kinds of focus and different focus domains, exploring the discrete and gradient means used for marking them, including the modification of tonal, durational and articulatory parameters.