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*The Centre for Korean Research is pleased to present:*

***“*Towards a Multimodal Analysis of Korean Honorific Speech*”***



**By Lucien Brown,**

**University of Oregon**

**Friday, September 26th**

**3:30-5:00 pm**

Conference room #120, C.K. Choi Building

1855 West Mall

**Abstract:** Korean is well-known for featuring one of the most intricate systems of grammaticalized politeness that can be found in the world’s languages. Through the choice of different verb endings, Korean speakers can communicate various politeness-related meanings and their relative positions in the social hierarchy. Although these honorific forms have attracted much attention within Korean linguistics, traditional descriptions tend to follow certain ideologies related to the organization and usage of these forms. One such ideology is that honorific forms are “closed sets” of linguistic features that operate in isolation to produce politeness-related meanings. In this talk, however, I provide an overview of some of my recent research that challenges this traditional picture. My research shows that Korean speakers can differentiate honorific and non-honorific speech even in the absence of verbal honorific markers due to phonetic and other cues. Rather than being isolated to particular morphemes, politeness-related meanings are communicated by converging cues that are layered throughout speech.

**Bio:** Lucien Brown is Assistant Professor of Korean Linguistics at the University of Oregon. His research focusses on honorifics and politeness in the Korean language, including the acquisition of these features by second language learners. He has recently been conducting research on the sarcastic use of honorifics, the phonetic perception of honorific and non-honorific speech and the acquisition of gendered address terms by second language learners. He is the author of Korean Honorifics and Politeness in Language Learning (John Benjamins, 2011) co-author of Korean: A Comprehensive Grammar (Routledge, 2011) and co-editor of The Handbook of Korean Linguistics (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming).