



The Strong Minimalist Thesis (SMT): What it means for theories of human language and computation

Speaker: Sandiway Fong

Professor

University of Arizona,

Department of Linguistics

Discussant: Masayuki Oishi

Professor, Tohoku Gakuin University



日時 Dates

Day 1: Basics

2025年12月6日 12/6/2025 13:30-17:00

Day 2: In-depth

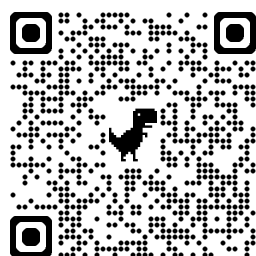
2025年12月7日 12/7/2025 13:30-16:00

使用言語：英語 Language: English

参加費：無料 Free

事前申し込みをお願いします。

Please register here.



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会場

Location

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Yoshida-South Campus

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<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/access/campus/yoshida/map6r-ys>

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and Environmental Sciences



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Abstract

Chomsky has argued that the condition of recent evolvability can serve as a guide to development of formal theories of the faculty of human language. The Strong Minimalist Thesis (SMT) argues that evolution recently made available Merge, the simplest operation for forming hierarchical structures. Nature then took on this Merge operation, adapted it for human thought, and built the simplest possible system around it, adhering to strict principles of computational efficiency that apply to all biological entities. This core language system was interfaced with ancient systems for the perception and externalization of language pre-dating Merge. Chomsky has explored the consequences of the SMT in a series of recent papers (2021, 2024, in press). This talk is a tutorial introduction to the limits and possibilities that SMT imposes on the space of possible theories and computational implementations.

Keywords:

Strong Minimalist Thesis (SMT), Merge, FormSet, Third Factor, Computational Efficiency, Perception

References:

- Chomsky, Noam. 2021. Minimalism: Where are we now, and where can we hope to go. *Gengo Kenkyu* 160:1-41.
- Chomsky, Noam. 2024. The miracle creed and SMT. A Cartesian dream: A geometrical account of syntax: In honor of Andrea Moro. eds. M. Greco & D. Mocchi, 17-40. Lingbuzz Press.