Johan van der Auwera

On the multiple exponence of clausal negation

The semantic aspects of (the rise of) double clausal negation as in French *ne … pas* or in earlier English *ne … not* are reasonably well understood. The talk will first focus on the semantics of what could be called 'non-classical' cases of double clausal negation, as when a copula turns into a negator (a claim I will argue for the Kiranti languages of eastern Nepal). The second focus will be on the increasingly rare cases of triple, quadruple and even quintuple exponence of clausal negation.