Title: **The Strong Minimalist Thesis (SMT)**: *what it means for theories of human language and computation*.

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: GK, 2024: MC and D (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.

References:
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