

The
ASU
Interdisciplinary
Committee on
Linguistics (ICOL)
presents

Why an Icelander Can Give a Tourist Directions but Cannot Give Directions to a Tourist

Cherlon Ussery

Carleton College

Friday, January 24 2-3:30 pm
117 Ross-Blakley Hall

Long before Iceland became one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, Icelandic was known throughout the linguistics community for its complex morphological patterns. In this talk, I explore the morphological and syntactic patterns that are particular to ditransitive verbs in Icelandic and Faroese (spoken in the Faroe Islands). Although Icelandic and Faroese are grouped together as Insular Scandinavian languages, the differences between the two languages are particularly pronounced in constructions with verbs like *give*, *offer*, *send*, *tell*, and *throw*. I discuss theoretical implications of the patterns in each language, as well as ongoing corpus research and experimental work designed to systematically capture the differences between Icelandic and Faroese.

Cherlon Ussery is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Carleton College in Minnesota, where she has worked since completing her dissertation in 2009 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Professor Ussery's research focuses on the interaction between syntax, morphology, and semantics, primarily in Icelandic. She is currently a principal investigator on the project *Ditransitives in Insular Scandinavian*, which is funded by the Icelandic Research Fund, Rannís.