An articulatory look at the sonority scale
Ioana Chitoran (Paris 7)

It is known that the phonotactics of several languages cannot be accounted for by a strict interpretation of the sonority sequencing principle. In this talk I will review several cases of more or less extreme departure from the principle (e.g., Georgian, Salish, Slovak, Tashlhyit), typically characterized as sonority reversals or plateaus. The focus will be on experimental results of kinematic studies of such data. I will discuss a possible understanding of the sonority scale as it relates to articulatory timing.