West Greenlandic (WG) is the most vital and populous member of the Inuit family of languages, by most measures the most synthetic family of languages on earth. The productivity of the morphological system of WG and its centrality to the expressive power of the language has important implications for our understanding of the interplay among the several components of a grammar and the several abilities that these components have been set up to model.

I will first of all describe the workings of the word-building system in WG, the major subcomponents of which are the derivational system and the inflectional system. The former consist of about 500 fully productive suffixes that take morphological stems and form more complex stems from them. The new stems can be further derived, and so on without theoretical limit. At any point, the iteration ceases when a stem is appropriately inflected with one of the 700 or so inflectional suffixes, forming a morphological word. The most basic principles of Inuit morphology can therefore be represented by the following two context-free phrase structure rules. That is not all there is to it, of course, so I will delve into some of the further intricacies of WG morphology.

a. Stem $\rightarrow$ Stem + DA  
b. Word $\rightarrow$ Stem + INF

In this talk I will concentrate on the expression of negation in WG, which is carried overwhelmingly by a verb-modifying suffix, -nngit-, one of the many iterative derivational suffixes of the language. Some of the most interesting features of the negative affix have to do with the relationship between its position within a word and its scope in syntax and in semantics. I will suggest that these facts shed light on the still vexed question of the nature of Neg-Raising in natural languages.