

## **Workshop: Possessive relations: interpretation, syntax and argument structure**

**University of Stuttgart**

**Call deadline: 16-August-2017**

Possession is a semantic relation holding between two referents: the *possessor* and the *possessee*. A marker/construction is said to express possession relation if it can minimally express ownership of some object by a person. However, morphosyntactic means used to code ownership such as English *have* usually express many more related meanings (*possession sensu lato*) such as part-whole, kinship, location, experiencer/beneficiary, attributive or social relations (*inter alia*, Belvin 1996). Alongside with this versatility in meaning there is also significant variation in the morphosyntactic means that code *possession*. E.g., languages vary as to whether they employ the intransitive presentational/existential strategy (BE type) with no dedicated lexical verb or the transitive strategy with a special possession verb (HAVE type) for the predicative possession (cf. Stassen 2013); there is even more variation with internal possession: genitive case/adpositions, possessive agreement indexes, zero, etc. (cf. Aikhenvald & Dixon 2013; Börjars et al. 2013; Jacob 2003). Finally, other constructions have been claimed to involve possession: different kinds of external-possessor constructions (EPC), e.g., the “possessor promotion to dative”, the locative EPC, restrictive-topic or applicative constructions, etc. (cf. Payne & Barshi 1999; Lee-Schoenefeld 2006; Pylkkänen 2008). The workshop aims at bringing together linguists working on possession from different angles and with different theoretical persuasions. Topics on any aspect of possession such as the following ones are welcome:

- Interpretation: To what extent can the particular interpretation be derived from the meaning of the parts and how much is determined by pragmatic reasoning and context (e.g., Vikner & Jensen 2002; Seržant 2016)?
- Syntax: Are subtypes of possession associated with different structures or are they derived from one underlying locative structure (Boneh & Sichel 2010 vs. Freeze 1992)?
- Argument structure: How can new developments in the representation of arguments, thematic roles and possessor binding (e.g., Wood & Marantz 2017; Geist & Hole 2016; Hole 2012) enhance our understanding of argument structure in EPCs?

### **Organizers**

Ljudmila Geist (University of Stuttgart, Daniel Jacob (University of Freiburg), Ilja Seržant (University of Leipzig)

## **Invited Speaker**

Nora Boneh (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

## **Submission Guidelines**

We invite abstracts for talks (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes for discussion) for the workshop “Possessive relations: interpretation, syntax and argument structure” to be held during the Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, March 7-9, 2018, University of Stuttgart, Germany.

URL: <http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/linguistik/dgfs2018>

Abstracts should be 2 pages in length (references may be on a third page), using a 12-point font and 2.5cm/1 inch margins on all four sides. Please submit anonymous abstracts in pdf and doc format to [possessionworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:possessionworkshop@gmail.com) by August 16, 2017. Please include your name, affiliation, and title of the abstract in the body of your email.

## **Important Dates**

- Deadline for abstract submission: August 16, 2017, via e-mail to: [possessionworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:possessionworkshop@gmail.com)
- Notification of acceptance: September 16, 2017
- Workshop dates: March 7-9, 2018

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