



Linguistics Colloquium*

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“ Possessive constructions: Syntactic puzzles in English and beyond ”

**Thursday, October 18, 2018 @ 5:30 pm
in SAR (635 Comm. Ave.) room 101**

Abstract:

What do linguists mean by possessive constructions and how do we approach and study these constructions? Are the English expressions 'the mother of John' and 'John's mother' sharing some underlying uniform syntactic structure or are these two alternative constructions generated by two unrelated syntactic mechanisms? Why can we say 'John's horse', but 'the horse of John' sounds suddenly odd? What do linguist mean by extrinsic/alienable and inherent/inalienable possession? What is external and what is internal possessive construction? This talk presents an engaging introduction to the terminology and the syntactic study of possession and introduces several theoretical puzzles that are the topic of lively ongoing debates among generative grammarians.

This is also a Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/313743986099219/>

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