**θ-Features and Projection**
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Thematic roles (or θ-roles) were originally introduced by Gruber and Jackendoff in the semantic description of predicates. θ-roles identified recurring parts that individuals play in the actions/states described by predicates; e.g., agent, theme, instrument, etc. Chomsky (1981) promotes θ-roles from semantic description to a central place in syntactic composition. LF is made sensitive to their presence and special grammatical principles regulate interaction between θ-roles and structure, e.g., the θ-Criterion. This centrality persists in the Minimalist Program (Chomsky 1995), where the core structure-building operation of External Merge is conditioned by θ-role assignment.

In this talk I address three basic questions: What are θ-roles? What does it mean to assign a θ-role? Where does this device fit in CHL? Developing ideas by Hornstein (1999), I pursue the following theses:

- θ-roles should be understood as syntactic features — θ-features
- θ-role assignment should be understood as feature agreement
- θ-features show the properties of features generally: they exhibit interpretable/non-interpretable, valued/non-valued instances, and show concord.

As I demonstrate, executing θ-roles as features is not obvious and depends crucially on the semantic conception accompanying it.