

## **Voice syncretisms and the theory of underspecification**

Artemis Alexiadou (Stuttgart)

In this talk, I will be concerned with the relationship between syntactic voice alternations and voice morphology. The focus will be on voice syncretisms, i.e. situations in which distinct syntactic alternations (e.g. passive and reflexive) are realized with identical morphology. Adopting a Distributed Morphology perspective, voice syncretisms are best captured by appealing to underspecification, Embick (1998). Contra Embick, however, two strategies can underlie Voice syncretisms: i) the grammar produces one semantically underspecified morphosyntax whose interpretation is resolved at the conceptual component, labeled Middle Voice in Alexiadou & Doron (2012), or ii) the grammar produces different morpho-syntaxes and the element that realizes them is underspecified, i.e. it is sensitive to one (or a limited number) of feature(s) that are shared by their morphosyntaxes. I will mainly deal with option (i) in my presentation.