Case Relationships

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In this talk, I discuss the relationships that underlie case assignment across languages. Much recent work has shifted from an approach in which Xo-DP is the basic case assignment relationship, to one in which DP-DP is. That is, rather than a head assigning case to a nominal, one nominal is marked with case in opposition to another nominal. I consider a variety of data crosslinguistically that cannot be captured by a DP-DP analysis, as well as data showing that case assignment can apply that obscures the distinction between nominals, running counter to the intuition behind DP-DP approaches.