**Case and Spatial Prepositions**

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Case and adpositions have often been considered as different manifestations of the same relationship, either crosslinguistically or within the same language. In this talk I will employ case in order to discern the syntax of a group of prepositions that are not taken to instantiate case in the language at hand: these are a type of spatial prepositions, the locatives.

The point of departure is (Modern) Greek, in which locative prepositions appear in two syntactic frames: a) with a genitive ground argument, which only surfaces as a clitic, or b) with an accusative DP ground argument, which has to be preceded by another preposition. Based primarily on the genitive case of the clitic, and the ban of genitive DPs in the same position, I draw a parallelism between the structure of locative prepositions and the structure of nouns. I then propose that locative prepositions are the modifiers of an unpronounced noun (Place), and that the genitive ground argument is the possessor of it. The additional preposition required in frame b) is claimed to assign case to the DP ground argument.

I demonstrate that the view advocated above has crosslinguistic validity, and holds even for spatial terms that are perceived as case. I then look into why clitics, but not full DPs, may be licensed by the spatial prepositions in frame b). Finally, I point to the fact that the syntax of spatial prepositions thus reached has interesting similarities to proposals that draw on the semantic contribution of the various components of such prepositions in order to provide a syntactic structure for them.