Invited talk Information Structure Workshop:

Extraposition and the ban on derived marked orders

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A'-scrambling in Dutch and various other languages seems to be subject to a ban on derived marked orders: focus-topic order is allowed, as long as it is not derived by movement of the focus. Provisional data from Dutch and English suggests that extraposition is not subject to a similar ban. It can create both topic-focus and focus-topic orders. In this talk I will try to explain why this contrast should exist. The explanation involves an account of the ban on derived marked orders, an analysis of extraposition as rightward movement, and a violable constraint that favours left-to-right scope over right-to-left scope. The picture that emerges is that certain types of movement must be leftward, and that it is in the nature of those movements to give rise to the relevant ordering effects.