AG 12: Datives and similar cases

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A lot of research has been devoted to determining the syntax and semantics of indirect objects in German and other languages. Despite these efforts, no consensus has been reached in key areas of analysis. On the syntactic side, the following matters are controversial: dative nominals as arguments or adjuncts, the dative as a structural case, the array of unmarked word order patterns found with datives, the similarity of dative nominals with prepositional phrases, quirky case/inverse linking, or binding phenomena involving dative nominals. The semantic analysis of dative nominals typically struggles with the following problems: dative nominals as linking to a single thematic role vs. dative nominals as instantiating many different thematic roles, dative nominals as linking to the main eventuality as opposed to a secondary eventuality. While these phenomena are diverse, there is a certain degree of cohesion in the literature: Many researchers are aware of several of the above-mentioned issues and aim at an overarching analysis. Another area in which datives likewise figure prominently is typically treated in a very different tradition: The discussion of so-called possessor raising, external possession and extra argumentality has often detached itself from the above topics. One reason for this lies in the difference among frameworks and their pet issues: Chomskyan Generativism vs. approaches in the tradition of Relational Grammar vs. (functional) typology. Another reason is provided by the fact that, from the typological point of view of external possession, datives are just one kind of structural realization of a more general phenomenon. The workshop strives to bring together linguists of diverse theoretical persuasions to assemble a state-of-the-art picture of research into datives, into similar morphological cases, and into phenomena that are semantically or functionally similar while displaying a divergent constructional make-up (e.g., applicatives). The organizers aim at a balanced representation of theoretical papers on the one side, and of submissions concentrating on empirical generalizations and/or cross-linguistic coverage.