Workshop
The Syntax of Small Objects

Preliminary description
The aim of the workshop *The Syntax of Small Objects* is to provide a platform for discussion of empirical and theoretical questions about the nature of roots and formal features as grammatical primitives. The identity of roots and formal features has been a recurring topic in generative circles over the past decades, particularly within generative frameworks of a non-lexicalist/neoconstructist ilk. The recognition of roots and formal features as the atoms of grammar recovers a long-standing division between conceptual/open-class and functional/closed-class categories, which are — across varied generative frameworks of morphology and syntax — approached differently by syntactic and post-syntactic operations (e.g., as triggers for *Merge* and *Agree*, labeling, post-syntactic competition, etc.). With the goal of contributing with the development of a minimalist theory about roots and formal features, we encourage discussion of any phenomenon that sheds light on (i) the defining characteristics of roots as opposed to formal features, (ii) the syntactic properties roots and formal features can or cannot exhibit, (iii) the kinds of semantic content they can encode, (iv) the interpretive properties that allow them to serve as instructions to the phonological and semantic interfaces, and (v) the way(s) in which locality domains affect their interpretation.

Invited speakers
- Artemis Alexiadou (ZAS Berlin)
- Elena Anagnostopoulou (University of Crete)
- Antonio Fábregas (The Artic University of Norway)
- Phoevos Panagiotidis (University of Cyprus)
- Natascha Pomino (Bergische Universität Wuppertal)
- Florian Schäfer (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Venue
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel West, Raum 223

Workshop dates
 December 2–3, 2022

Organization
- Susann Fischer
- Vitor Nóbrega

Program

Friday — December 2nd — Day 1

9:00-9:15	Opening of the Workshop
9:15-10:15	*Multiple plural marking and nominal interpretation* Artemis Alexiadou (ZAS Berlin)
10:15-11:00	Agree *as last-resort grammaticalization or 'How little syntax really needs'* Jorge Vega Vilanova (UHH)
11:00-11:30	Coffee
11:30-12:30	*Ways of modifying a root in the verbal domain* Antonio Fábregas (The Artic University of Norway)
12:30-13:15	*How small should it be to emerge? The emergent nature of features.* Mario Navarro (UHH)
13:15-14:45	Lunch
15:00-15:50	*The notion of root in a spanning approach to Romance verbal morphology* Natascha Pomino (Bergische Universität Wuppertal)
15:45-16:30	*Idiosyncrasies in the nominal domain: Phrasally- and configurationally- conditioned root allossemy* Vitor Nóbrega (UHH)
16:30-17:00	Coffee
17:00-18:00	*Roots in context: Some case studies and their implications* Elena Anagnostopoulou (University of Crete)

Saturday — December 3rd — Day 2

9:15-10:15	*Transitive anticausatives: An argument for expletive Voice* Florian Schäfer (Humboldt University of Berlin)
10:15-11:00	*Determiner-omission in heritage Italo-Romance in New York City* Luigi Andriani (UHH) & Manuela Pinto (University Utrecht)
11:00-11:30	Coffee
11:30-12:30	*Formal features and the syntax of derivational suffixes* Phoevos Panagiotidis (University of Cyprus)
12:30-12:45	Closing remarks