

Bielefeld University, September 23-24, 2026

**The Syntax of Nominal Copular Clauses: Cross-linguistic description  
and formal theories (SynCC)  
Programme**

**Wednesday, September 23 – Room: X-E0-205**

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| 9:00–9:20   | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9:20–9:30   | Opening                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9:30–10:10  | Sebastian Zawada (Polish Academy of Sciences) & Adam Przepiórkowski (University of Warsaw & Polish Academy of Sciences)<br><i>Non-canonical agreement in predicational copular clauses: Evidence from Polish</i>                                                                      |
| 10:10–10:50 | Stanislao Zompì (Universität Potsdam)<br><i>Case as a feature-gluttony repair in Italian assumed/mistaken-identity copular clauses</i>                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:50–11:15 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11:15–11:55 | Luke James Adamson (Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft)<br><i>Nominal predicates and gender</i>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:55–12:55 | Susana Bejar (University of Toronto)<br><i>Invited talk: TBA</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12:55–14:00 | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 14:00–15:00 | Poster Session (see below)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 15:00–15:40 | Masashi Harada (Williams College)<br><i>Context-Dependent Interpretations and Case in Copular Sentences</i>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 15:40–16:20 | Paul Roger Bassong & Edmond Ossoko (University of Yaounde 1)<br><i>Focus movement and criterial freezing in copular clauses in Bantu</i>                                                                                                                                              |
| 16:20–16:40 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 16:40–17:20 | Esther Lam (University of Edinburgh)<br><i>Specificational sentences are identity sentences: New evidence from Muong</i>                                                                                                                                                              |
| 17:20–18:00 | Isabelle Roy (Nantes Université), Ekadish Bal (University of Mumbai), Marina Chumakina (Surrey Morphology Group, University of Surrey), Aritz Irurtzun (IKER, CNRS) & Daniel Shevchenko (USC)<br><i>Predicational vs. Specificational Copular Sentences: Evidence from Tsova-Tush</i> |
| 19:00–      | Dinner: Nichtschwimmer, Arndtstrasse 6-8, 33602 Bielefeld                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Thursday, September 24 – Room: X-E0-205**

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| 9:30–10:10  | Denis Creissels (Université Lumière (Lyon II))<br><i>Typologically unusual properties of nominal copular clauses in Mande languages</i>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:10–10:50 | Piyapath T Spencer (Universität Konstanz)<br><i>Why the Copula Appears: Predicate Type and Copula Selection in Thai</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:50–11:15 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:15–11:55 | Caroline Heycock (University of Edinburgh) & Sten Vikner (Aarhus University)<br><i>Danish reflexives and the limits of connectivity in copular clauses</i>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 11:55–12:55 | Isabelle Charnavel (University of Geneva)<br><i>Invited talk: Indexical binding and agreement in French: what do they reveal about copular clauses?</i>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12:55–14:00 | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14:00–14:40 | Faruk Akkus (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Ouras Al-jani (Nantes Université), Maris Camilleri (University of Essex), Lina Choueiri (American University of Beirut), Isabelle Roy (Nantes Université) & Ur Shlonsky (University of Geneva)<br><i>Specificational copular clauses in Semitic: Pron, word order and focus</i> |
| 14:40–15:20 | Sebastian Zawada (Polish Academy of Sciences)<br><i>The fine structure of Slavic pronominal copula construction: Empirical investigations in Polish</i>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 15:20–15:45 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 15:45–16:25 | Caroline Heycock (University of Edinburgh) & Roberto Zamparelli (University of Trento)<br><i>Predicative Relatives as Manner Relatives</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 16:25–17:30 | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 17:30–17:40 | Closing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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## Posters

Léa Nash (Université Paris VIII/CNRS) & Isabelle Roy (Nantes Université / CNRS)  
*The Syntax of Georgian Copular Constructions*

Isabel Compes (University of Cologne), Elsadig Omda (University of Khartoum/ University of Cologne), Mika Hausmann (University of Cologne) & Celina Renner (University of Cologne)  
*Specificational copular clauses in Beria: A preliminary report*

Samuel Herrera Castro (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)  
*Morphological Characterization of Nonverbal Predication in Huave (isolated), México*

Yolanda Acosta Aguilera (El Colegio de México)  
*Nominal Predication in Caltimacán Otomí: Preliminary Observations*

Andargachew Getu (University of Gondar, Ethiopia)  
*Copula and Existential Constructions in Gwama*

Cecilia Fernández-Altonaga (Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU) & Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA))  
*Two copulas and a definite determiner: copular predication in Basque*

Muhammed Emir Tayız & Ümit Atılamaz (Bogazici University)  
*Case and Agreement in Turkish Equative Copular Clauses*

Marianna Lohmann (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Wo Kopula? Copula-less wh-questions in German*