Nominalization and Event Complexity
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The talk argues that in addition to pure morpho-syntactic deficiency, derived nominals (with idiosyncratic affixes, such as –ment, -ation, etc.) are also restricted to denote simple, single events. The restriction to simple, single, events accounts for restrictions in the nominalization of causatives, restrictions on nominal passive (the Affectedness constraint), restrictions on the complement of by in nominal by-phrases, and the ungrammaticality of the particle construction in derived nominals. In this respect derived nominals differ from ING-OF gerunds, which share pure morphological deficiency but are not restricted in terms of event complexity. If correct, we gain new ground for studying the ingredients which enter into the licensing of event complexity, since these should be located within the theoretical space defined by the minimal difference between derived nominals and ING-OF gerunds.