

**The Department of Linguistics  
is pleased to present**

**Christian Ruvalcaba  
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**speaking on**

**Part-whole datives and integral predicates in English**

**Friday, April 21, 2023**

**1:20 - 3:00 PM**

**in HUM 1 - 202**

**Abstract:**

Much of the work on predicative possession in English has focused on *have* constructions (e.g., *I have a book*) (Kayne 1993; Hornstein et al. 1995; Harley 1995, 2002; Kyumin 2011, Levinson 2011). Nevertheless, there are several copular or existential constructions that express possession in English, and an analysis of them can provide a more comprehensive understanding of grammatical possession in general. These constructions express possession with morphosyntactic elements typically associated with location and path. Predicative possession constructions with locative morphosyntax can be found in many other languages including Latin, Russian, Irish, Japanese, Hindi, Hebrew, Malayalam, Palestinian Arabic, Guarijío, Rarámuri, Eudeve (Freeze 1992; Heine 1998; Harley 1995, 2002; Jayaseelan 2007; Boneh and Sichel 2010; Haugan 2017). An example in English are sentences that Hornstein et al. (1995) referred to as integral construals. In integral construal constructions, the possessor is marked with a locative preposition: *there is a new engine in my car*. Another example mentioned in Jayaseelan (2007) are sentences that use a dative preposition to mark the possessor: *there are a lot of pieces to this puzzle*. This presentation will systematically describe and explain both types of constructions. Drawing from Harley's (1995, 2002) analysis of Irish and her notion of an underlying small clause headed by P<sub>LOC</sub>, my overall claim is that the possessive or part-whole reading of sentences like *there are many branches to the tree* stems from the preposition itself rather than from other elements in the sentence or from the structural prominence of the prepositional object as has been proposed elsewhere (Freeze 1992, Belvin and den Dikken 1997; Boneh and Sichel 2010). The analysis uses a cartographic approach to prepositions (Svenonius 2010; Pantcheva 2011; Levinson 2011) to explain the syntactic and semantic characteristic of these constructions. It argues that a functional p (called p<sub>INTEGRAL</sub> or p<sub>INT</sub>) selects for a possessum subject and merges with a PP headed by *to*: [<sub>PP</sub> possessum [<sub>PP</sub> p<sub>INT</sub> [<sub>PP</sub> P [possessor]]]]. This light p denotes the characteristic part-whole relation of dative possessor constructions in English. The analysis is extended to dative possessor doubling constructions (*the puzzle has a lot of pieces to it*), psych verbs (*puzzles bore them*) and integral constructions in Spanish (*la casa es de madera*).