

Definiteness and case through the lens of Serbian pronouns

Ivona Ilić

Pronouns in Slavic languages have been the subject of intense debate in recent literature (Stegovec 2019; Ruda 2021; Puškar-Gallien 2025). In this talk, I present two case studies on the structure and morphological realization of pronouns and clitics in Serbian, arguing that the Serbian data have important implications for the overall structure of pronouns and the representation of features in the syntax. Examining both full pronouns and clitics, I propose a novel analysis of Serbian pronominal forms in which they contain a definiteness morpheme that is linearized as an infix (Kalin 2022). Furthermore, a closer examination of allomorphy involving person, number, and case reveals that case features have a mobile position within Serbian pronouns. This provides support for the view that case is a dissociated morpheme, as well as for the existence of a number–case morpheme proposed for Indo-European languages by Halle (1992).