Seminar: Undertanding the theory of syntax
Summer 2014

Asad Sayeed

Uni-Saarland

Goals of the course

- To give students with some CoLi background a feel for current work in syntactic theory.
- To expose students to "introspective" and theoretical ways of analyzing the syntax of human language.
- To give students some high-level ability to appreciate, read, and understand theoretical work at a very abstract level.
  - Theory is a whole degree in itself!
- To give students further practice in debating, critiquing, and creating linguistic thoughts.

Ideally: a discussion group atmosphere.

What we'll cover

- I will largely focus on government-and-binding and minimalist approaches.
  - But discussion of other frameworks are welcome, particularly in student presentations and term papers!
- This Is Not A Formalisms Course.
  - Formalisms are a related issue.
  - We'll focus on questions similar to: "What does it mean that some Slavic languages allow multiple wh-questions at the left periphery of the same sentences?"
- Will have some leeway to focus on students' interests and existing competencies.

And the details. . .

- Meeting: Thursday 12-14.
- First meeting: Thursday, April 24.
- Location: C7.2 2.11.
- And there may be the occasional doge.