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## Competing motivations: what, how, and why?

In our talk, we introduce the phenomenon of competing motivations and conflict resolution in language sciences. First, we provide some illustrations of the competing motivations approach to grammar, building on earlier insights of functional typology and Optimality Theory. In the domain of morphology, the examples cited involve conflict resolution of functionally infelicitous grammatical categories. In the domain of syntax, we illustrate the potential of the competing motivations account for constraining and predicting case-marking patterns and alignment types of certain constructions.

In the second part of the talk, logical possibilities of resolving conflicts are considered and the various resolutions of competing motivations attested in the literature are situated among these logically available options. By reference to examples from sciences outside linguistics and from everyday thinking, the issue of competing motivations and, more generally, of conflict resolution is suggested to have broad interdisciplinary significance.