What's New (and What's Given) in the Theory of Focus

Are focus and givenness two sides of the same coin, or two similar, but independent factors? The literature provides widely diverging positions, but rarely a systematic comparison. Moreover, concrete proposals regarding the representation of focus and givenness are far and few between.

In this talk I present a system using F only, based on Rooth 1992 and Schwarzschild 1999, but different in syntactic and semantic execution. Following the lead of Wagner 2008, it is also explored whether Rooth's/Schwarzschild's purely anaphoric notion of focus/givenness needs to be strengthened to a theory of semantic contrast, and how this can be done (I conclude that its does, and present some ideas on how).