From \textit{HAVE} to \textit{HAVE}-verbs: relations and incorporation

In this talk we bring together two lines of research. The first is that of so-called \textit{HAVE}-verbs, which come with the peculiarity of allowing for bare nominal objects in Norwegian, Catalan, Romanian, etc. These languages normally impose the use of articles in argument position and don’t have a generalized incorporation option. The second is that of \textit{HAVE} itself, a verb that has been claimed to select (predicative) relations rather than arguments in many languages including English. We argue that the literature on relational \textit{HAVE} provides the key to understanding why \textit{HAVE}-verbs behave as incorporation verbs. We further show how a unified analysis sheds light on the scopal properties of relational \textit{HAVE}.

Time permitting, we also look into the predictions we make about second language acquisition and, in particular, about indefinite article drop and definite article overproduction in the L2 English of learners with an articleless L1.

The talk is based on joint work with Henriëtte de Swart and Joost Zwarts (Le Bruyn, de Swart & Zwarts 2016) and Kirsten Schutter (Le Bruyn & Schutter, ms.). Both references are available at https://sites.google.com/site/blebruyn/.