Regularity and idiosyncrasy in the formation of nominals

Frank Van Eynde (invited speaker)
University of Leuven
frank@pricie.ccl.kuleuven.be

The talk explores the interaction of regularity and idiosyncrasy in the formation of nominals. Building on recent developments in Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar and Construction Grammar I propose a bi-dimensional hierarchy of nominal phrase types in which regular nominals inherit their properties from independently motivated higher types, while more idiosyncratic nominals are characterized by a mixture of inherited and inherent properties. The resulting treatment is sufficiently flexible to deal with the subtle interaction between the regular and the idiosyncratic, and sufficiently rigorous to be falsifiable.