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Die Wiener Sprachgesellschaft lädt zu folgendem Vortrag herzlich ein:

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Voice morphology and clause structure in Latin

Abstract: Latin non-active verb forms like the passive *amābatur* ‘love.IPFV.NACT.3SG’ and the deponent *sequentur* ‘follow.FUT.NACT.3PL’ have attracted scholarly attention because of an apparent violation of the universal functional sequence (Calabrese 1985; Zyman & Kalivoda 2021). Specifically, assuming that the so-called ‘-r morphology’ characteristic of non-active imperfective verbs expresses the category Voice, it appears that instead of sitting in their expected position between the lexical root of the verb and Tense, the non-active suffixes appear to the right of those expressing tense. From a comparative point of view, this state of affairs would indeed be surprising.

In this talk, I defend a variant of an alternative approach, which treats both the active and non-active endings as contextual allomorphs expressing person and number differentially, depending on the voice properties of the host clause. Specifically, I argue that the alternation between the active and the non-active inflection series (i) is governed by a phonologically empty Voice head which occupies its canonical place above *v*P and (ii) that the distance between the conditioned allomorphs and the conditioning category poses no locality problems (in the sense of Embick 2010). In addition, I propose that the fact that Latin voice morphology has no true in situ exponence has consequences for the structure of the Latin clause which go far beyond what first impressions would suggest, both synchronically and diachronically.

Zeit: Dienstag, 28. 04. 2026, 18.00h

Ort: Hörsaal 1, Sensengasse 3a, 1. OG

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L. Grestenberger m. p.