



## Distinguished Lecture Series – Lecture 1

# Relative Clauses: On Raising, Reconstruction and a Typological Puzzle



**Prof. Caterina Donati**  
Université Paris Cité

**Date:** March 9, 2024 (Saturday)

**Time:** 10:30am - 11:30am (Hong Kong Time, UTC +8)

**Venue:** Lecture Theatre 1A, Cheng Yu Tung Building,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

### Abstract:

Whether relative clauses display reconstruction effects akin to Condition C is highly controversial, with some studies finding no such effects (e.g., Bruening & Al Khalaf 2019, Adger et al. 2017) and others detecting some (e.g., Stockwell et al. 2021; Georgi et al. 2018). This empirical controversy has nurtured a theoretical debate on the analysis to be given to relativization, whether in terms of raising of the head (Kayne 1994 a.o.), of matching (stemming from Carlson 1977), or of both (Sauerland 2003). Crucially, the vast majority of these studies have focused insofar on postnominal relative clauses. Here I will present some novel data (Huang 2020 on Cantonese; Su & Donati, in press on Mandarin; Dilara 2023 on Turkish) that document a very strong Condition C reconstruction effect in *prenominal* relative clauses, as opposed to *postnominal* relative clauses, where these effects are at best very weak. I shall explain this unexpected typological correlation in terms of a particular version of the Raising analysis capitalising on notions such as relabelling (Cecchetto and Donati 2015), remnant movement, late merge of adjuncts and the No Tampering Condition.

### Speaker:

Caterina Donati is full professor at the University Paris Cité. She works on syntactic theory and sign language linguistics, and has written, among other books, *(Re)labeling* (MIT Press, 2015, with C. Cecchetto) *SignGram Blueprint, A Guide to Sign Language Grammar Writing* (2019, De Gruyter, with J. Quer, et al.), and *Generative Grammar: Ideas, history and Models of analysis* (in press, Cambridge University Press, with G. Graffi). She is the author of some 50 articles on descriptive, theoretical and experimental syntax published in important journals and venues (*Linguistic Inquiry*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Glossa*, *Syntax*, *The linguistic review*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* etc).

**All Are Welcome**

Enquiries

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