

Argument structure out and about?

On the role of Romance varieties in creole contexts – the cases of reflexives and ditransitives

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Creole formation involves several languages (and within these several varieties) and thus shows to be highly complex. Many different hypotheses have been put forward in order to illuminate the processes involved therein. In this talk, I look more closely at the role of historical Romance varieties (medieval up to the 17th century) in creole body-part reflexives and creole ditransitive constructions (more specifically, double object constructions). In both cases, research has maintained that these structures are likely to go back to West African L1/substrate structures, but also Romance input structures have been identified as possible candidates. The latter will be scrutinized in greater detail by discussing the results of corpus analyses of Romance varieties and available data collections of (mostly earlier) creole stages.