The emergence of the extended projection of P
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In this talk I apply an emergentist approach to extended projections to the extended projection of P, as an alternative to the universalist approach. A universalist approach to categories and extended projections (e.g., Cinque 1999, Grimshaw 2005) holds that there is a rich universal basis for functional categories and the extended projections that they form, so that variation across languages is limited mainly to whether functional categories are in use and how they are expressed. This greatly simplifies the task for the learner, supporting the existence of abstract structures in grammars even in the absence of robust surface evidence. The universalist assumption drives analyses to seek cross-linguistic uniformity at the expense of transparency. The alternative, developed here, is an emergentist approach, which limits the role of UG and therefore places a greater burden on learning. An emergentist approach predicts a different kind of cross-linguistic variation, not restricted to the presence or absence of features and their overt expression.