ISW Colloquium – Spring Semester 2024

08.04.2024 | 16:00-17:00 | UniTobler F -111 (U1)

Katarzyna Janic (AMU Poznán):

Capturing form-function correlations in the domain of P demotion constructions: A semantic map approach

In this presentation, I explore grammatical voice from a functional-typological perspective to assess the relationship between form and meaning. To achieve this goal, I will concentrate on various voice and valency alternations traditionally discussed separately, such as antipassives, noun incorporation, pseudo incorporation, P suppression, P omission, and conative alternations. Given that these alternations share a common denominator, namely, they show the syntactic demotion of the P argument without affecting the argument structure of the verb, they build a domain of the so-called P demotion constructions. Throughout the presentation, I will examine the diversity of P demotion constructions, considering their formal and functional characteristics across 56 languages. This cross-linguistic comparative analysis forms the basis for evaluating the form-function relationship within the P demotion domain. These relationships will be captured on a semantic map through Multiple Correspondence Analysis.