SPREMI 29 OCTOBER 2020
TIME: 15.15-17
PLACE: https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66312703059 (Meeting ID: 663 1270 3059)

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EXPLORING STATIVE POSSESSIVES HAVE GOT AND GOT IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

Stative possessive verbs have gone through great grammatical changes over the past four centuries. Not only do we still use have, but we have also seen the emergence of alternative forms have got and even bare got. In Present-Day English the sentences I have green eyes, I have got green eyes and I got green eyes are semantically equivalent. As the original sense of get is acquisition, what makes the subsequent possessives have got and got peculiar is the semantic shift from acquiring to stative possession.

In this seminar, I share key findings from my master’s thesis, including the evolution of the stative possessives have got and got, the grammars surrounding these verbs, as well as the uses of the two. Finally, I will briefly discuss my plans for further research.