

SPREMI, Monday 2 October 2023, 4pm
Arken, Källan C201 (Fabriksgatan 2, Åbo)
Zoom: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66312703059>, Meeting ID: 663 1270 3059).

CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR FORTY YEARS AFTER – CONSTRUCTIONS ALL THE WAY UP!

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This presentation has three parts to it: first, I'll give the basics of (Fillmorean) Construction Grammar (CxG) for those who would like to know what it's all about - and I'll very briefly situate it in relation to other models; second, I'll talk a little bit about the kind of CxG I have myself been developing during the last twenty years, Construction Discourse (CxD). The third part is very much work-in-progress that I've started with Tomas Lehecka (and we are not really sure it will lead to anything, but I'd very much appreciate your input). The thing is, is that construction grammarians all agree that there are "constructions all the way down", and CxD has taken CxG in the other direction, "upwards". But how far "up" can one go? Is, for instance, a CxG/CxD approach usable to explain/predict whether one asks a wh-question or a y/n-question? Ultimately, do we need a CxB – where "B" stands for 'behavior'?!?

Jan-Ola Östman has an FL exam from Åbo Akademi and a PhD in linguistics from UC-Berkeley. He retired from his professorship in Scandinavian languages at the University of Helsinki in 2016; at U Helsinki he was also professor of English linguistics for 13 years, until 2002. He has too many interests, but has especially worked on pragmatics and discourse, on construction grammar, on dialectology, on signed languages, and on various aspects of the sociology of language. For more details, publications etc., please see his home page at janolaostman.net.