Compositional morphosemantics of plurality

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While less common in Indo-European languages, many languages of Africa and the Americas have robust ``pluractional'' systems—that is, verbal derivations that derive verbs which can only be predicated of plural events. Over the past 10 years there has been progressively more work on the formal semantics of pluractional systems, but many compositional issues remain. The goal of this course is to bring attendees to the forefront of open debates about the compositional semantics of pluractionality, while trying to hew as closely as possible to what we know about the composition of plurality in the nominal domain.

Day #1: A general introduction to pluractionality, its common typological manifestations, as well as some very basic initial compositional issues we could consider.

Day #2: We will focus on dependent indefinites and dependent pluractionality, which exhibit what looks like ``split scope'' (pre-theoretically speaking). We will consider how various authors have tried to deal with the complex scopal phenomena.

Day #3: We will take a deep dive into the incredibly complex morphological system of plural agreement/pluractionality we see in the language Seri, spoken in the Mexican state of Sonora. Seri pluractionality presents major hurdles for compositionality. We will consider how we might overcome these hurdles.