Amalgamation in Morphology and Syntax

In this talk, I will talk about amalgamation in terms of the application of the pair-merge operation to the non-root in the course of derivations. I will discuss a whole range of phenomena in different languages. It will be shown that the amalgamation-operation is responsible for the base-generation of complex categories and that it can be input for movement of amalgamated categories in syntax and morphology as well. The focus of the discussion is the analysis of movement of complex (multi-segmental) heads and XPs. Verb incorporation, clitic climbing and nominal composition are analyzed in relation to head movement. With regard to XP-movement, the focus is on verb third sequences in German and the so-called bodyguard-condition in Malagasy. From the amalgamation analysis of these phenomena, characteristic order and locality constraints as well as category-specific conditions of the elements involved can be deduced. Other phenomena that I use as evidence for amalgamation in syntax are multiple wh-questions, multiple scrambling and both wh-quantifier interactions and covered wh-movement.