Reverse Agree: A unified view of syntactic dependencies
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This talk proposes that syntactic dependencies are established through Reverse Agree, specifically the claim that an unvalued feature is valued by the closest c-commanding element with the appropriate valued feature. I illustrate that this view unites dependencies such as Case assignment, anaphor binding, control, polarity licensing, negative concord, and the selection of verbal morphology. In comparison with standard Agree à la Chomsky (2000, 2001), as well as the feature sharing version of Agree (Pesetsky and Torrego 2007), I argue that Reverse Agree provides a more straightforward account of the distribution of VP-ellipsis in English, the Germanic IPP-construction, and parasitic participle morphology in Germanic.