

## **FORM-MEANING ASYMMETRIES IN THE NOUN PHRASE: THE CASE OF NUMBER**

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In this talk I discuss two puzzles that occur with mass nouns in languages such as Greek. The first puzzle is the presence of plural morphology on mass nouns, which, however, does not lead to a count interpretation (Tsoulas 2006). The second is the unavailability of plural marking with argument supporting nominals, which have been argued to behave like mass nouns (Grimshaw 1990).

I will argue that these contexts provide further support for the idea that number is not a unified category, but can be sub-divided into a functional plural, which we associate with the category Number in the syntax and a lexical plural which is interpreted at the level of the NP (cf. Rijkhoff 1991, Acquaviva 2008). The former is always compositional and presupposes individuation, the latter is subject to a number of restrictions and is rather idiosyncratic.