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Title: When morphologies come in pairs: verbs and collective nouns in Maltese

Abstract: Maltese, a language that is genealogically related to Arabic and that has been in close contact with Sicilian and Italian for about one millennium, has been often referred to as a “mixed language”. Without going into the complexities of this vague term, in this talk I will show that Maltese is indeed a hybrid language, having developed two word formation strategies: root-and-pattern association on the one hand, and concatenation on the other. Focusing on data from the verbal and the nominal morphology of Maltese, I will first highlight the differences and similarities between root-and-pattern and concatenative verbs, and then discuss the productivity, or lack of it, of the nominal morphological mechanisms in Maltese, in particular, the collective.