

**Predicate-initial sentence patterns in English and Hebrew
from a typological perspective**

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In this lecture I will present two predicate-initial sentence patterns: (1) the existential sentence and (2) the evaluative (extraposition) sentence:

- (1) There are rats (in the kitchen).
- (2) It is annoying to find rats in the kitchen.

The constructional properties of the two patterns in English and Hebrew will be presented. I will discuss the prototype-based conceptual categories of the predicates participating in these constructions, and demonstrate their effects in syntax. The boundaries between these two constructions will be examined. I will conclude with a suggestion that the encoding of propositions in sentence patterns is not directly guided by information-structure considerations, but rather is mediated by principled cognitive choices, typologically mapped out across languages. Information structure only kicks in after these choices have been made.