Topic in the argument structure

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In the presentation I explore the idea that topicality is not just a notion of information structure but also a specific type of thematic involvement in an event and as such topic should be considered (at least in part) a category of argument structure. This will allow to distinguish embedded topics such as in (1a) that are usually expressed with a PP or case marking in various languages and are parts of the argument structure of the respective verbs; and matrix topics such as in (1b).

(1) a. i. Kim talked about Mia.
   ii. Kim told me something about Mia.
   iii. Kim told me about Mia, that she is an excellent linguist.

   b. i. Mia is an excellent linguist.
   ii. (As for) Mia, I think she will pass the exam.

I will argue that as parts of the argument structure of the respective verbs, embedded topics have a semantic interpretation that is captured by the term intentionality, which is a weak enough effect to correctly predict the intuition that topic does not standardly have a truth conditional effect; but strong enough to correctly predict de re interpretations, binding constraints and restrictions on the distribution of embedded topics. Further, I argue that matrix topics are part of the event structure of speech acts and as thus play pragmatic roles in the syntactic structure. Finally, I explore how this analysis of topicality can extend to focus and the question under discussion.