Complex nominal modification in Arabic

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In this talk, I look at how prenominal adjectives, which typically resist inflection, can inflect for nominal features in certain contexts. This unexpected behaviour arises in contexts where the adjective appears in between two nouns. In such contexts, different patterns of nominal agreement emerge on the adjective, either agreeing with the unmodified noun or agreeing with both nouns. A closer look at the derivational properties of these adjectives reveals that they have a different syntactic representation from other prenominal adjectives, consequently their accessibility to nominal features is not after all unexpected. The corollary of this discussion is that nominal agreement is syntactic and subject to locality and adjacency.