During the past ten years I have been studying names and naming in computer science. Although this started as the study of abstract syntax, the focus of my research has since considerably broadened, though at the heart of it all is still the study of naming and referring. I argue that names are fundamental---as fundamental as sets, numbers, and functions---and that to understand fields as diverse as abstract logic or the concrete design of a parallel programming language, it helps to study explicitly how names are handled in these systems.

The past year or so has brought a particularly rich crop of results. In this talk I will give the broad outlines of my recent research, sketching what has been achieved so far and what I would like to do next.