

# Prof. Dr. Anne Breitbarth

Research areas: historical linguistics; syntactic change; interfaces (syntax-semantics, syntax-pragmatics); dialects; corpus linguistics (parsed (historical / dialect) corpora)

## Personal Information

°24. Juni 1976

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## Education

- 2001–2005 **Ph.D.**, *Universiteit Tilburg*, Tilburg (The Netherlands), defended 5/11/2005.  
Title: *Live fast, die young: The short life of Early Modern German auxiliary ellipsis*, Promoter: Prof. Henk van Riemsdijk.
- 1995–2000 **M.A.**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany), German Linguistics, French, Mathematics & Computer Science.  
M.A. thesis: *Die Repräsentation des Dativs bei morphologischem Abbau*, Advisers: Prof. Josef Bayer, Prof. Peter Suchsland.

## Positions held

- 2018– **Associate Professor**, *Historical German Linguistics*, Ghent University (Belgium).
- 2013–2018 **Assistant Professor**, *Historical German Linguistics*, Ghent University (Belgium).
- 2012–2015 **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO)*, Ghent (Belgium).  
Project: *The development of the conditional use of modal verbs in West-Germanic*; from 2013 50%
- 2010–2012 **Postdoctoral researcher**, *Universiteit Gent*, Ghent (Belgium).  
FWO-Odyseus project *Layers of Structure*, PI Prof. Liliane Haegeman
- 2006–2009 **Research Associate**, *University of Cambridge*, Cambridge (UK).  
AHRC project *The Development of Negation in the Languages of Europe*, PI Dr. David Willis
- 2001–2005 **Assistent in Opleiding**, *Universiteit van Tilburg*, Tilburg (The Netherlands).  
Researcher in the the research group *Grammaticamodellen*, PI Prof. Henk van Riemsdijk
- 2001 **Language Engineer**, *SemanticEdge GmbH*, Berlin (Germany).

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## Research funding

- 2019–2023 **Prosodic cues to syntactic reanalysis: experimentally tracking Jespersen’s cycle in progress**, research project #G004519N (168,239.98€), Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO).  
Role: principal investigator, with Claudia Crocco
- 2018–2019 **A Parsed Corpus of Southern Dutch Dialects**, small research grant “Krediet aan navorsers” #1.5.310.18N (26,057€) to fund a pilot project, Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO).  
Role: principal investigator
- 2018 **Cross-linguistic studies at the syntax-phonology interface**, Gent-Kent strategic partnership (900£) to fund a pilot project, consortium: Tamara Rathcke, Claudia Crocco
- 2015–2019 **Continuity or change? The post-cyclic development of preverbal negation in Continental West Germanic**, *startkrediet* #BOF15/STA/033 (201,600.00€) of the Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds (BOF), Universiteit Gent.  
Role: principal investigator
- 2014–2020 **A Parsed Corpus of Historical Low German**, infrastructure grant (399,524.00€) of the *Hercules* Foundation (since 1/2016 = FWO).  
Role: 07/2014–12/2017: co-investigator (with Liliane Haegeman and Veronique Hoste), from 01/2018: principal investigator
- 2012–2015 **The development of the conditional use of modal verbs in West-Germanic**, Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO).  
Role: principal investigator (promoter: Liliane Haegeman)
- 2012–2013 **A Parsed Corpus of Historical Low German**, Small Research Grant from the British Academy.  
Role: co-investigator (PI: Sheila Watts (Cambridge))

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## Ph.D. and postdoc supervision

- 2020–2024 **Giacomo Bucci** (FWO/Universiteit Gent), *Onset and (De)Grammaticalization of Genitive of Negation in Germanic: A Historical and Typological Analysis*. FWO predoctoral mandate. Role: Promoter
- 2019–2023 **Giuseppe Magistro** (FWO/Universiteit Gent), *Prosodic cues to syntactic reanalysis. Experimentally tracking Jespersen’s cycle in progress*. Ph.D. project. Role: Promoter (together with Claudia Crocco)
- 2019–2022 **Karen De Clercq** (FWO/Universiteit Gent), *Allomorphy In sentential Negative markers conditioned by TAM (AINT)*. FWO postdoctoral fellowship. Role: Promoter
- 2019–2020 **Hannah M. Booth** (Universiteit Gent), *A Parsed Corpus of Historical Low German*. FWO/Hercules project. Role: PI
- 2018–2021 **Melissa Farasyn** (FWO/Universiteit Gent), *Nature and origin of V2-violations French Flemish*. FWO postdoctoral mandate. Role: Promoter

- 2016–2021 **Laura Bruno** (Universiteit Gent), *Non-canonical subject marking in Germanic vernaculars*. BOF Ph.D. project. Role: Co-Supervisor, Promoter: Jóhanna Barðdal.
- 2017–2018 **Aaron Ecay** (Universiteit Gent), *A Parsed Corpus of Historical Low German*. FWO/Hercules project. Role: PI
- 2015–2019 **Elisabeth Witzhausen** (Universiteit Gent), *Continuity or change? The post-cyclic development of preverbal negation in Continental West Germanic* (defended 08/10/2019). BOF Ph.D. project. Role: Promoter.
- 2014–2018 **Melissa Farasyn** (Universiteit Gent), *Fitting in or standing out? Subject agreement phenomena in Middle Low German* (defended 18/05/2018). Role: Promoter.
- 2013–2017 **Iker Salaberri** (Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea), *Reconstructing word order in Proto-Germanic: A comparative Branching Direction Theory (BDT) analysis of Old Saxon* (defended 26/07/2017). Role: External Promoter, main Promoter: Carlos García Castillero.
- 2009–2013 **Karen De Clercq** (Universiteit Gent), *A Unified Syntax of Negation* (defended 13/12/2013). Role: regular supervision; member of examining committee. Promoter: Prof. Liliane Haegeman.

### Ph.D. viva examiner

- 02/05/2018 **Chris De Wulf** (Universiteit Gent), *Bijdrage tot een klankatlas van het veertiende-eeuwse Middelnederlands: Het dialectvocalisme in de spelling van lokale oorkonden*. Promoter: Jacques Van Keymeulen.
- 22/01/2018 **Metin Bağrıaçık** (Universiteit Gent), *Pharasiot Greek: Word Order and Clause Structure*. Promoter: Mark Janse, co-promoters: Liliane Haegeman & Lieven Danckaert.
- 23/11/2017 **Deo Kawalya** (Universiteit Gent), *A corpus-driven study of the expression of modality in Luganda (Bantu, JE15)*. Promoters: Koen Bostoen & Gilles-Maurice de Schryver.
- 13/12/2013 **Karen De Clercq** (Universiteit Gent), *A Unified Syntax of Negation*. Promoter: Liliane Haegeman.

### Research group membership

- UGent ΔiaLing (Diachronic and Diatopic Linguistics)  
HPIMS (Henri Pirenne Institute of Medieval Studies)
- International Network “Morphosyntactic change through corpora in German and beyond”; Cambridge DAAD research hub (2016–2018)  
DFG young researchers network “Historische Syntax des Deutschen” (2006–2015)  
FWO Scientific Research Network (WOG) “Historical Sociolinguistics Research and Training Program”; lead: VU Brussels (2017–)

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## Academic Service

- Membership of professional organisations  
Verein für Niederdeutsche Sprachforschung (board member)  
GLOW (Generative Linguistics in the Old World)  
Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)  
Deutscher Germanistenverband (DGV)
- Journal editor  
*Niederdeutsches Jahrbuch* (editor in chief, since 2017)  
*Taal & Tongval* (treasurer, since 2018)
- External advisor  
Member of the *Wetenschapscommissie* (Scientific Advisory Board) of the Meertens Institute (since 2020)  
*SweNeg* project Prof. Rosenkvist (Göteborg) – Prof. Håkansson (Uppsala) – Prof. Brandtler (Stockholm) (<https://sweneg.wordpress.com/hem/om/>) (since 2016)
- University committees  
Faculty Committee for Scientific Research (CWO) (since 2016)  
Senior coordinator of the research group  $\Delta$ iaLing  
Coordinator of the Faculty's working group on Digital Humanities  
Steering committee Master Historical Linguistics and Literature  
Board of the consortium Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies  
ex officio member of the Department Council

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## Refereeing activities

- Funding bodies  
German Science Foundation (DFG)  
Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)  
member of the extended pool of referees for the Cult1-panel of FWO
- Publishers  
Blackwell, Oxford University Press, Benjamins, De Gruyter
- Journals  
Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics, Journal of Germanic Linguistics, Journal of English Linguistics, Language (Historical Syntax), Beiträge zur Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache und Literatur (PBB), Diachronica, Revue canadienne de linguistique/Canadian Journal of Linguistics, Lingua (up to 2015), Germanistische Mitteilungen
- Conferences  
Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop (CGSW), Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS), Going Romance, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), New Ways of Analysing Variation (NWAV), Formal Ways of Analyzing Variation (FWAV), Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL), Belgian Linguistics Circle, Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG)

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## Conference organisation

- 2020>2021 *Taal en Tongval* colloquium “Big Data in Dialectology”, KANTL Ghent.
- 2016 Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS) 18, Ghent University.  
Workshop “The Determinants of Diachronic Stability”, Ghent University.
- 2011 GIST 4-Workshop “Polarity emphasis: distribution and locus of licensing”, Ghent University.
- 2010 GIST 1-Workshop “Antilocality and Snowballing in June”, Ghent University.

- 2008 Conference “Continuity and Change in Grammar”, University of Cambridge.  
 2002 Workshop “Triggers”, Tilburg University.

## Teaching

### Ghent University

- since 2020 • Language Variation and Change (MA HTL/ManaMa)  
 since 2013 • Gothic (MA)
- Duitse Taalkunde II *Variation in German* (Ba2)
  - Duitse Taalkunde III *Syntax of German* (Ba3)
  - Sprachwandel im Deutschen (MA)
  - Historische Entwicklung des Deutschen (MA)
  - Seminarie Duitse Taalkunde (Ba3)
- 2015 • Sociolinguistic typology, language contact and the speed of syntactic change in Middle Low German  
 Lecture within the *Henri Pirenne Autumn School 2015* (topic: *Medieval Law/Medieval Germanic languages*)
- 2014 • Contact-induced language change  
 four lectures as part of *Language variation and Change* (Master of Advanced Studies in Linguistics: Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective)

### University of Cambridge

- 2008-2009 • Ge1: Structures and Varieties of German: Eight weeks of lectures and supervisions  
 2007-2008 • Ge1: Structures and Varieties of German: Supervisions, one lecture on “Sprache der DDR / Language of the GDR”
- MPhil Seminar Historical Linguistics on Long-term syntactic changes, four classes
  - MPhil Research Methods, one class on *Experimental Syntax*, two classes on *Using electronic resources for linguistics research*
  - Li7: Historical Linguistics: Supervisions
- 2006-2007 • Li7: Historical Linguistics: Supervisions  
 • Ge1: Structures and Varieties of German: Supervisions

## Publications

### Books as (co-)author

- 2020 Breitbarth, Anne, Christopher Lucas & David Willis. *The development of negation in the languages of Europe. Volume 2: Patterns and Processes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (<https://tinyurl.com/wcyxk3z>) (vol. 1 is an edited volume, see below)
- 2014 *The history of Low German negation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Oxford Studies in Diachronic and Historical Linguistics 13]

2005 *Live fast, die young – the short life of Early Modern German auxiliary ellipsis*. Utrecht: LOT dissertation 115.

#### Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

- accepted (with Melissa Farasyn, Anne-Sophie Ghyselen, Liliane Haegeman & Jacques Van Keymeulen). *Ge had dien e keer moeten en zien!* Neue Erkenntnisse zum Gebrauch der Partikel *en* im *Gesproken Corpus van de (Zuidelijk-)Nederlandse Dialecten*. In Speyer, Augustin & Anne-Kathrin Balo (eds.): *Syntax aus Saarbrücker Sicht 4 – Beiträge der SaRDs-Tagung zur Dialektsyntax*. *Zeitschrift für Dialektologie und Linguistik – Beihefte (ZDL-B)*, Stuttgart: Steiner-Verlag.
- accepted (with Melissa Farasyn, Anne-Sophie Ghyselen & Jacques Van Keymeulen) Het Gesproken Corpus van de zuidelijk-Nederlandse Dialecten. *Handelingen van de Koninklijke Zuid-Nederlandse Maatschappij voor Taal- en Letterkunde en Geschiedenis (KZM)*
- 2020 (with Hannah Booth, Melissa Farasyn & Aaron Ecay). A Penn-style Treebank of Middle Low German. *Proceedings of the 12th Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2020)*: 766–775. <http://www.lrec-conf.org/proceedings/lrec2020/pdf/2020.lrec-1.96.pdf>
- 2020 (with Anne-Sophie Ghyselen, Melissa Farasyn, Jacques Van Keymeulen & Arjan van Hessen) Clearing the transcription hurdle in dialect corpus building: The corpus of Southern Dutch dialects as case study. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* 3: 1–17.
- 2019 (with George Walkden) Complexity as L2-difficulty: Implications for syntactic change. *Theoretical Linguistics* 45/3–4: 183–209.
- 2019 (with George Walkden) Interpreting (un)interpretability. *Theoretical Linguistics* 45/3–4: 309–317.
- 2019 (with Jacques Van Keymeulen, Veronique De Tier, Anne-Sophie Ghyselen, and Melissa Farasyn) Het Dialectologische Corpus 'Stemmen Uit Het Verleden' van de Universiteit Gent. *Volkskunde* 120(2), 193–204.
- 2019 *Should a conditional marker arise ...* The diachronic development of conditional *sollte* in German. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 4(1), 21. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.599>.
- 2017 (with Mariya Koleva, Melissa Farasyn, Bart Desmet & Véronique Hoste). An automatic part-of-speech tagger for Middle Low German. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 22.1:108–141.
- 2016 (with Melissa Farasyn). Nullsubjekte im Mittelniederdeutschen. *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur* 138.4:524–559.
- 2016 (with Sara Delva & Torsten Leuschner). A (Very) Imperfect Sandwich: English *should* German *sollte* and Dutch *mocht* /*moest* as Grammaticalizing Markers of Conditionality. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 28.4:282–316.
- 2014 (with Liliane Haegeman). The distribution of preverbal *en* in (West) Flemish: syntactic and interpretive properties. *Lingua* 147: 69–86.
- 2014 Dialect contact and the speed of Jespersen's cycle in Middle Low German. *Taal & Tongval* 66.1:1–20.

- 2013 Indefinites, negation and Jespersen's Cycle in the history of Low German. *Diachronica* 30.2:171–201.
- 2011 Modality and negation in the history of Low German. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft* 30.2:131–167.
- 2009 A hybrid approach to Jespersen's Cycle in West Germanic. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 12.2:81–114.
- 2006 Pragmatic aspects of Early Modern German auxiliary drop. *Leiden Papers in Linguistics* 3.1: 1–15.
- 2005 Auxiliary drop as subordination marking. *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 22:37–47.
- 2004 Auxiliary drop in Early Modern German. *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 21:36–46.
- 2002 Dative Case, Morphological Decay, and Structural Deficiency. *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 19:25–35.

### Book chapters

- 2020 (with Melissa Farasyn). Null Subjects in Middle Low German: Diachronic stability and change. In: Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson & Torhallur Eythorsson (eds.). *Syntactic features and the limits of syntactic change*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2020 The negative cycle and beyond. In: Viviane Deprez and M.Teresa Espinal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Negation*, 530–545. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 (with Miriam Bouzouita) 'U Is' or 'U Bent'? Polite Forms of Address and Verbal Agreement in Historical Dutch and Ibero-Romance. In *Mapping Linguistic Data: Essays in Honour of Liliane Haegeman*, eds. Metin Bagriacik, Anne Breitbarth, and Karen De Clercq, 50–59. Gent: Ghent University.
- 2019 (with Lieven Danckaert, Elisabeth Witzenhausen, and Miriam Bouzouita) Cycling Through Diachrony. In Miriam Bouzouita, Anne Breitbarth, Lieven Danckaert & Elisabeth Witzenhausen (eds.), *Cycles in Language Change*, 1–12. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 (with Miriam Bouzouita, Lieven Danckaert, and Melissa Farasyn) The Determinants of Diachronic Stability. In Anne Breitbarth, Miriam Bouzouita, Lieven Danckaert & Melissa Farasyn (eds.), *The Determinants of Diachronic Stability*, 1–10. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2018 (with Melissa Farasyn, George Walkden & Sheila Watts). The interplay between genre and syntax in a historical Low German corpus. In: Richard J. Whitt (ed.), *Diachronic Corpora, Genre, and Language Change*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- 2018 (with Agnes Jäger). History of negation in High and Low German. In: Gisella Ferrarresi, Agnes Jäger & Helmut Weiß (eds.), *Clause structure and word order in the history of German*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2017 Jespersen's cycle = minimize structure + feature economy In: Silvio Cruschina, Katharina Hartmann & Eva-Maria Remberger (eds.), *Studies on negation: syntax, semantics, and variation*, 21–47. Göttingen: V+R unipress.

- 2014 The development of conditional *should* in English. In: Chiara Gianollo, Agnes Jäger & Doris Penka (eds.), *Language Change at the Syntax-Semantics Interface*, 293–322. Berlin: Mouton De Gruyter.
- 2013 The development of negation in Low German and Dutch. In: David Willis, Christopher Lucas & Anne Breitbarth (eds.), *The development of negation in the languages of Europe*, Vol. I: *Case studies*, 190–238. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 (with David Willis & Christopher Lucas). Comparing diachronies of negation. In: David Willis, Christopher Lucas & Anne Breitbarth (eds.), *The development of negation in the languages of Europe*, Vol. I: *Case studies*, 1–50. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 (with David Willis & Christopher Lucas). Incipient Jespersen's Cycle: the (non-)grammaticalization of new negative markers. In: Jürg Fleischer & Horst Simon (eds.), *Comparing Diachronies / Sprachwandelvergleich*, 143–164. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- 2010 (with Liliane Haegeman). Continuity is change: The long tail of Jespersen's cycle in Flemish, In: Anne Breitbarth, Christopher Lucas, Sheila Watts & David Willis (eds.), *Continuity and Change in Grammar*, 61–76. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- 2009 An asymmetric view on stage II of Jespersen's Cycle in the West Germanic languages, In: Monique Dufresne, Fernande Dupuis & Etleva Vocaj (eds.), *Historical Linguistics 2007: Selected papers from the 18th International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Montreal, 6-11 August 2007*, 61–71. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- 2005 Unbearably light verbs versus finite auxiliary drop. In: Hans Broekhuis, Norbert Corver, Riny Huybregts, Ursula Kleinhenz & Jan Koster (eds.), *Organizing Grammar: Linguistic Studies in Honor of Henk van Riemsdijk*, 53–58. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

#### Edited volumes

- 2019 (with Metin Bagriacik and Karen De Clercq). *Mapping Linguistic Data: Essays in Honour of Liliane Haegeman*. Ghent. <https://www.haegeman.ugent.be>
- 2019 (with Miriam Bouzouita, Melissa Farasyn & Lieven Danckaert). *The Determinants of Diachronic Stability*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- 2019 (with Elisabeth Witzhausen, Miriam Bouzouita & Lieven Danckaert). *Cycles in Language Change*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2014 (with Ben Hermans). *Dialects in contact: changes in transitional zones*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. [*Taal & Tongval* 66]
- 2013 (with David Willis & Christopher Lucas). *The development of negation in the languages of Europe*. Volume 1: *Case Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 (with Karen De Clercq & Liliane Haegeman). *Polarity emphasis: distribution and locus of licensing*, Special Issue of *Lingua* 128.
- 2010 (with Christopher Lucas, Sheila Watts & David Willis). *Continuity and Change in Grammar*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- 2004 (with Henk van Riemsdijk). *Triggers*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

## Invited talks

- 2020
- Keynote speaker at *Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS)* (Universität Konstanz).
  - Keynote speaker at *Cross-disciplinary approaches to linguistic variation in Early Modern West Germanic* (Universiteit Utrecht).
  - Invited discussant at the workshop *Complex prefields in V2 languages* (Bergische Universität Wuppertal).
- 2019
- Parsing voices from the past: The *Gesproken Corpus van de zuidelijk-Nederlandse dialecten (GCND)*. Workshop *Creating annotated corpora for historical languages* (University of Cambridge).
  - *An den Grenzen des Systems: Vom Wert von Psalmenübersetzungen für die Erforschung der mittelniederdeutschen Syntax*. Workshop *Syntax der Frühen Neuzeit* (Universität Potsdam).
  - *Adversative aber in adverbial clauses in historical German*. Bergische Universität Wuppertal (Germany).
  - (with Ursula Kundert) *Satzperipherie und Parallelismus in mittelniederdeutschen Psalmen*. Ringvorlesung *Texte analysieren – Linguistik trifft Literaturwissenschaft* (Christan-Albrechts-Universität Kiel).
- 2018
- *Het Gesproken Corpus van de (zuidelijk-)Nederlandse dialecten (CGND): Annotatie praktijk en theoretische achtergrond*. Dag van de Nederlandse Zinsbouw (Ghent University).
  - *Annotation phrasaler/transphrastischer Einheiten im CHLG*. InterGram-Workshop (Universität Paderborn)
- 2017
- *Adverbial clauses, correlatives, and (pseudo-)V3 in Middle Low German*. V3 and Resumptive Adverbials (Ghent University)
  - *Mittelniederdeutsche Syntax und Parsingentscheidungen im Corpus of Historical Low German*. Referenzkorpora des Deutschen: Konzepte, Methoden, Perspektiven (Universität Gießen)
  - *What can we know about Middle Low German syntax?.* Models of Grammar Meeting (Arezzo)
  - *The influence of genre on syntax: Case studies in Middle Low German*. Historical Literary Variation as a Mirror for Language Change (Utrecht University)
- 2016
- *Medial verb placement in Middle Low German: Verb projection raising or head-initial T?.* Morphosyntactic change through corpora in German and beyond (University of Cambridge)
  - (with Melissa Farasyn) *Agreement patterns in MLG relative clauses*. Research group on Relative Clauses (Goethe Universität Frankfurt/Main)
- 2015
- *Null Subjects in Middle Low German*. LAK Linguistics colloquium (Universität zu Köln)
  - *Exceptive negation in Middle Low German..* Oberseminar des Instituts für kognitive Linguistik (Goethe Universität Frankfurt/Main)

2014 *The variable speed of Jespersen's Cycle in Middle Low German*. Workshop on Microvariation (Arezzo)