



Jenneke van der Wal (she/her)

<https://jennekevanderwal.com>

Vidi project [BaSIS](#) | Vici project [MapLE](#)

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

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About me

I am a proactive researcher and teacher with a passion for African languages and linguistics. In my research I investigate what determines how we express ourselves and what that tells us about human cognition and interaction. I believe this is best done through collaborative research. In my teaching and outreach I aim to spark enthusiasm for African languages, interactively making students think critically about bigger questions.

Academic employment

2020-current	Senior University Lecturer at Leiden University
2017-2020	University Lecturer at Leiden University
2016-2017	Lecturer on Linguistics at Harvard University
2011-2016	Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, on the ERC-funded project <i>Rethinking Comparative Syntax</i>
2012-2016	Research Fellow at Darwin College, Cambridge
2009-2011	Post-doctoral researcher at the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren (Belgium), on the Interuniversity Attraction Pole <i>Grammaticalization and (Inter)Subjectification</i>

Education

2004-2009	PhD at Leiden University; thesis <i>Word order and information structure in Makhuwa-Enahara</i>
2000-2004	MA in African linguistics at Leiden University; thesis <i>Lusoga phonology</i>

Publications

All scientific publications are openly accessible, either through open access publishing or through my personal website under [publications](#), where links to PDFs are provided. For the BaSIS project, the data underlying the findings are available, and the databases will be accessible through an archive after the end of the project.

2025

- Barbiers, Sjef, Guido Vanden Wyngaerd, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2025. Theoretical approaches to comparative syntax. In Maria Polinsky, Norbert Corver, and Sjef Barbiers (eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax*, 23-74. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2025. The conjoint/disjoint alternation. In Lutz Marten, Ellen Hurst-Harosh, Nancy Kula, and Jochen Zeller (eds.), *The Oxford Guide to the Bantu Languages*, 260-268. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke (ed.). 2025. The expression of information structure in Bantu. Contemporary African Linguistics series. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke, Allen Asimwe, Patrick Kanampiu, Elisabeth J. Kerr, Zhen Li, Amani Lusekelo, Ernest Nshemezimana, and Nelsa Nhantumbo. 2025. On the expression of information structure in Bantu (introduction). In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 1-52. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Kanampiu, Patrick N. and Jenneke van der Wal. 2025. The expression of information structure in Kĩĩtharaka. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 199-270. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Nshemezimana, Ernest, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2025. The expression of information structure in Kirundi. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 171-334. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Asimwe, Allen, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2025. The expression of information structure in Rukiga. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 335-406. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Lusekelo, Amani, Jenneke van der Wal, and Simon Msovela. 2025. The expression of information structure in Kinyakyusa. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 407-452. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2025. The expression of information structure in Makhuwa-Enahara. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 453-510. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Nhantumbo, Nelsa, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2025. The expression of information structure in Cicopi. In Jenneke van der Wal (ed.), *The expression of information structure in Bantu*, 511-566. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- GLOWing lecture 'Why we all need some fieldwork in our linguistics': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC4ml_nhdOc
- Videos for the ELSEA project: <https://www.youtube.com/@ELSEA25>

2024

- Verdonschot, Rinus, Jenneke van der Wal, Birgit Knudsen, Ashley Lewis, Sarah Von Grebmer zu Wolfsturn, Niels O. Schiller, Peter Hagoort. 2024. Information structure in Makhuwa: Electrophysiological evidence for a universal processing account. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* 121:30.

González, Paz, Jenneke van der Wal, Claudia Berruti, V.T. van Doorn, Irina Morozova, Jai von Raesfeld Meyer, Thomas Vorisek. 2024. Using virtual reality for linguistic fieldwork. *Semantic Fieldwork Methods* 6(1).

2023

- Kerr, Elisabeth J. and Jenneke van der Wal. 2023. Indirect truth marking via backgrounding: evidence from Bantu. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft* 42(3). 443-492. <https://doi.org/10.1515/zfs-2023-2010>
- Msovela, Simon, Jenneke van der Wal, and Amani Lusekelo. 2023. Subject inversion in Kinyakyusa. *Africana Linguistica* 29. 157-178. <https://doi.org/10.2143/AL.29.0.3292607>
- Kujath, Elizabeth J., and Jenneke van der Wal. 2023. Copular constructions in Makhuwa-Enahara. In Sterre Leufkens & Marco Bril (eds.), *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 40, 155-177. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Asiimwe, Allen, Maria Kouneli, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2023. Determiner spreading in Rukiga. *Linguistics* 61(5). 1285–1339. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ling-2021-0027>
- Kerr, Elisabeth J., Allen Asiimwe, Patrick Kanampiu, Zhen Li, Amani Lusekelo, Ernest Nshemezimana, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2023. Bantu word order between discourse and grammatical roles. *Linguistique et Langues Africaines* 9(1).
- Li, Zhen, Elisabeth J. Kerr, Allen Asiimwe, Patrick Kanampiu, Ernest Nshemezimana, Jenneke van der Wal (eds.). 2023. Bantu Universals and Variation. Special issue of *Linguistique et Langues Africaines* 9(1).

2022

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2022. *A featural typology of Bantu agreement*. Oxford University Press.
- Fuchs, Zuzanna, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2022. Gender on little n in Bantu. *Linguistic Variation* 22(1). 267–323.
- Bárány, András, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2022. We don't Agree (only) upwards. *Linguistic Inquiry* 53 (3): 501–521.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke, and Aurélio Simango. 2022. Subject inversion in Changana. In Ezra Chambal Nhampoca and Letícia Cao Ponso (eds.), *Pesquisa e ensino em línguas moçambicanas. Um tributo a Bento Siteo*, 229-247. Maputo: Gala-Gala Edições.
- Kruijsdijk, Iris, Nina van der Vlugt, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2022. The insubordinated infinitive in Makhuwa-Enahara (P31) and the expression of feelings. In Jorrig Vogels & Sterre Leufkens (eds), *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 39, 122-142. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2021

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2021. On the use of idioms for testing focus. *Semantic Fieldwork Methods* 3(2).
- Asiimwe, Allen, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2021. The multifunctionality of -o in Rukiga: pronoun, contrastive topic, and mirative marker. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 30 (1).

2020

- Van der Wal, Jenneke, Heleen Smits, Sara Petrollino, Victoria Nyst, and Maarten Kossmann (eds.). 2020. *Essays on African languages and linguistics in honour of Maarten Mous*. ASCL Occasional Publication 41. Leiden: ASCL.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. From macroparameters to nanoparameters – a comparative Bantu case study. In András Bárány, Theresa Biberauer, Jamie Douglas, and Sten Vikner (eds.), *Syntactic architecture and its consequences I: Syntax inside the grammar*, 25-60. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. Review of Van de Velde, Mark, Koen Bostoen, Derek Nurse and Gérard Philippson (eds.), *The Bantu Languages*, second edition. London: Routledge. *Linguistic Typology* 24(2). 399-412.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2020. The AWSOM correlation in comparative Bantu object marking. In Katharina Hartmann, Johannes Mursell, and Peter W. Smith (eds.), *Agree to agree: Agreement in the Minimalist Program*, 199-234. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke, and Allen Asiimwe. 2020. The residue of the conjoint/disjoint alternation in Rukiga. *Studies in African Linguistics* 49(1). 43-59.

2019

- Ahn, Dorothy, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2019. What does that Lugwere demonstrative refer to? A semantic analysis of proximity and exteriority. *Studies in African Linguistics* 48(1). 1-24.
- Holmberg, Anders, Michelle Sheehan, and Jenneke van der Wal. 2019. Movement from the double object construction is not fully symmetrical. *Linguistic Inquiry* 50(4). 677-721.

2018

- Sheehan, Michelle and Jenneke van der Wal. 2018. Evidence for nominal licensing in caseless languages. *Journal of Linguistics* 54. 527-589.

2017

- Van der Wal, Jenneke and Larry Hyman (eds). 2017. *The conjoint/disjoint alternation in Bantu*. Trends in Linguistics series. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. What is the conjoint/disjoint alternation? Parameters of crosslinguistic variation. In Jenneke van der Wal and Larry Hyman (eds), *The conjoint/disjoint alternation in Bantu*, 14-60. Trends in Linguistics series. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Gibson, Hannah, Andriana Koumbarou, Lutz Marten and Jenneke van der Wal. 2017. Locating the Bantu conjoint/disjoint alternation in a typology of focus marking. In Jenneke van der Wal and Larry Hyman (eds), *The conjoint/disjoint alternation in Bantu*, 61-99. Trends in Linguistics series. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2017. Flexibility in symmetry: An implicational relation in Bantu double object constructions. In Michelle Sheehan and Laura R. Bailey (eds.), *Order and structure in syntax II: Subjecthood and argument structure*, 115–152. Berlin: Language Science Press.

2016

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2016. Diagnosing focus. *Studies in Language* 40(2), 259-301.

- Sheehan, Michelle and Jenneke van der Wal. 2016. Do we need abstract Case? In Kyeong-min Kim et al. (eds), *Proceedings of the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 351-360. Somerville, MA: Cascadia Proceedings Project.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke and Saudah Namyalo. 2016. The interaction of two focus marking strategies in Luganda. In Doris L. Payne, Sara Pacchiarotti & Mokaya Bosire (eds.), *Diversity in African languages*, 355–377. Berlin: Language Science Press.

2015

- Van der Wal, Jenneke and Jacky Maniacky. 2015. How 'person' got into focus. *Linguistics* 53(1), 1-52.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2015. Information structure, (inter)subjectivity and objectification. *Journal of Linguistics* 14(2), 425-464.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke and Tonjes Veenstra. 2015. The long and short of verb alternations in Mauritian Creole and Bantu languages. *Folia Linguistica* 49(1), 85-116.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2015. A note on the (non-existing) passive in Matengo. *Linguistique et Langues Africaines* 1, 81-98.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2015. Evidence for abstract Case in Bantu. *Lingua* 165, 109-132.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2015. Bantu Syntax. *Oxford Handbooks Online*.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2015. Bantu object clitics as defective goals. *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* LX(2-3), 277-296.

2014

- Devos, Maud and Jenneke van der Wal (eds). 2014. *COME and GO off the beaten grammaticalization path*. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2014. Tests for focus. In Dina El Zarka and Steffen Heidinger (eds), *Grazer Linguistischer Studien*, 105-134.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2014. Subordinate clauses and exclusive focus in Makhuwa. In Rik van Gijn, Jeremy Hammond, Dejan Matić, Saskia van Putten & Ana Vilacy Galucio (eds), *Information structure and reference tracking in complex sentences*, 45-70. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Marten, Lutz and Jenneke van der Wal. 2014. A typology of Bantu subject inversion. *Linguistic Variation* 14(2), 318-368.

2013

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2013. (Inter)subjectification and demonstratives as pragmatic particles. *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*, 1-44.

2012

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2012. Location, time, condition: grammaticalisation of a demonstrative in Makhuwa. *Africana Linguistica* XVIII, 235-259.
- Kavari, Jekura, Lutz Marten and Jenneke van der Wal. 2012. Tone cases in Otjiherero: head-complement relations, linear order, and information structure. *Africana Linguistica* XVIII, 315-353.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2012. Subject agreement and the EPP in Bantu Agreeing Inversion. *Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics* 6, 201-236.

2011

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2011. Focus excluding alternatives: conjoint/disjoint marking in Makhuwa. *Lingua* 121(11), 1734-1750.
- Buell, Leston, Kristina Riedel and Jenneke van der Wal. 2011. What the Bantu languages can tell us about word order and movement. *Lingua* 121(5), 689-701.
- Buell, Leston, Kristina Riedel and Jenneke van der Wal (eds). 2011. *Movement and word order in Bantu*. Special issue of *Lingua* 121(5).

2010

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2010. The Makhuwa non-subject relative as a participial modifier. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics* 31(2), 205-231.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2010. Functions of demonstratives in Makhuwa narratives. *Africana Linguistica* XVI, 183-213.
- Devos, Maud and Jenneke van der Wal. 2010. 'Go' on a rare grammaticalisation path to focus. In Rick Nouwen and Jacqueline van Kampen, *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 27, 45-58. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2010. Review of 'Information structure, meaning and form', edited by Kerstin Schwabe and Susanne Winkler. *Linguistische Berichte* 222, 253-256.

2009

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2009. *Word order and information structure in Makhuwa-Enahara*. Utrecht: LOT.

2008

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2008. Agreement inthetic sentences in Bantu and Romance. In Cécile De Cat and Katherine Demuth (eds), *The Bantu-Romance connection. A comparative investigation of verbal agreement, DPs and information structure*, 323-350. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2006

- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2006. Predicative tone lowering in Makhuwa. 2006. In Jeroen van de Weijer, and Bettelou Los (eds), *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 23, 224-236. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke. 2006. The disjoint verb form and an empty Immediate After Verb position in Makhuwa. In Downing, Laura, Lutz Marten and Sabine Zerbian (eds), *ZASPiL* 43, 233-256.

Submitted

- Jerro, Kyle, and Jenneke van der Wal. Predicate doubling in Bantu: relational alternatives and contrastive topics.

In preparation

- Lipták, Anikó, and Jenneke van der Wal. Gapping in Makhuwa-Enahara.
- Van der Wal, Jenneke, and Patrick Kanampiu. Kĩĩtharaka clefts revisited.

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Administrative functions and academic service

2023-present	Member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Contemporary African Linguistics (ACAL)
2021-present	Organisor of the Descriptive Linguistics research group at LUC.
2021-2024	Member of Steering Committee Leiden African Studies Assembly (LeidenASA).
2023-2024	Board member of the Foundation for Endangered Languages
2019-2024	Representative of the AVT in the General Assembly of the Comité International Permanent de Linguists (CIPL).
2018-2024	Secretary of the Algemene Vereniging voor Taalwetenschap (AVT , Dutch Linguistics Association)
2022	Thinktank Humanities Campus, FGW Leiden University.
2021	Committee Cluster Noord, FGW Leiden University.
2021	Committee Contractverlengingen Covid-19, FGW Leiden University.
2015	Committee member for Adrian Research Fellowship competition, Darwin College Cambridge.
2012-2016	Member of the Education and Research Committee at Darwin College Cambridge.
2013-2014	Member of the Finance Committee at Darwin College Cambridge.
2007- 2008	Member of the University Council of Leiden University, and chair of the PhD fraction.
2003-2004	Secretary of the Education committee of the African Linguistics department, Leiden.
2015-2018	External project advisor for Leverhulme project 'Morphosyntactic variation in Bantu: typology, contact and change' (Principal Investigator Lutz Marten, SOAS).
2013	Guest researcher at the University of Potsdam (in the project of Gisbert Fanselow).
2010	Guest researcher at the Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin (with Tonjes Veenstra).
2024-present	Series editor of Wiley <i>Companion to Linguistics</i> series.
2019-present	Member of Editorial Board of <i>Linguistic Variation</i> .
2024-present	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Syntactic Theory and Research</i>
2017-2024	Member of Editorial Board of <i>Syntax</i> .
2024-present	Editor of the Journal of African Languages and Linguistics
2009-2012	Editor of <i>Africana Linguistica</i> .
2006-2008	Editor of the Leiden Working Papers in Linguistics.
2006-present	Peer reviewing of manuscripts for journals, including: Syntax, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Lingua, Glossa, Linguistic Variation, Linguistics, Journal of Linguistics, Studies in Language, The Linguistic Review, <i>Africana Linguistica</i> , Journal of African Languages and Linguistics, Proceedings of ACAL, Studies in African Linguistics, Linguistique et Langues Africaines,

	Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics, South African Journal of African Linguistics.
2014-present	Peer reviewing of proposals for British Academy, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Leverhulme Foundation, FWF Austrian Science Fund, US National Science Foundation.
2022, 2023	External assessor Tenure procedure, universities in Canada & USA.

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Professional development

2024	Training dialogue in the classroom (Comenius project Karin Nijenhuis).
Spring 2024	Supervision sessions.
May 2022	Active bystander training, FGW Leiden University.
August 2021	Online course <i>Leadership at FGW</i> .
Autumn 2019	Course <i>Situational Leadership</i> , by Aletta Wubben at Leiden University.
Autumn 2018	Course <i>Supervising PhD candidates</i> , HRM Learning and Development, Leiden University.
30 Nov 2018	Training <i>Basic project management</i> , HRM Learning and Development, Leiden University.
24 Nov 2015	Training <i>Undergraduate admissions</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge.
Autumn 2014	Course <i>Becoming a research leader</i> , Leadership Foundation, at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge.
21 May 2014	Training <i>MBTI: Understanding Personality in a Research Environment</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge.
February 2014	Training <i>Making the most of meetings</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge
February 2013	Training <i>Solving research problems creatively</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge.
May 2012	Training <i>Effective Research Presentations</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge.
October 2011	Training <i>Undergraduate supervisions</i> , Personal and Professional Development, University of Cambridge.
September 2008	Training <i>Effective Time Management</i> , Leiden University.
Spring 2007	Course <i>Effective Teaching in Higher Education</i> , ICLON, Leiden University.
Spring 2006	Course <i>Writing Academic English</i> , Leiden University.

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Grants and awards

2025	Ammodo Award for Fundamental Research.
2024	NWO Vici grant (NWO Talent programme). Project <i>Mapping linguistic epistemicity</i> (MapLE).

- 2024 Una Europa Africa Partnership seed fund (with Lotta Aunio, Allen Asimwe, Bert Remijnsen, Saudah Namyalo). Project Enhancing linguistic scholarship in Eastern Africa ([ELSEA](#)).
- 2024 [LOT Populariseringsprijs](#) for Stemmen van Afrika.
- 2022 Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities Small Grant to pilot the use of VR in fieldwork, with Paz González.
- 2019 African Studies Assembly grant for a Field School in Kenya, with Peter Muriungi (Tharaka University College, Kenya).
- 2017 NWO Vidi grant (Innovational Research Incentives Scheme). Project *Bantu Syntax and Information Structure* (BaSIS).
- 2017 Derek Bok Teaching and Learning Centre (Harvard) Certificate of Excellence in Teaching.
- 2016 LUCL grant *Profile Area Language Diversity*, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (declined).
- 2014 SLE 47th Annual Meeting - Best presentation by a postdoctoral researcher, second prize.
- 2014 Alborada Trust grant for cooperation with Dr Saudah Namyalo (Makerere University, Uganda). Project 'The morphosyntax of information structure in Luganda'.
- 2011 Grant for a short stay abroad from Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen (FWO).
- 2008 Grant for conference travel from Leiden University Fund (LUF).

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Linguistics teaching

In 2019, I obtained the Dutch higher education basic teaching qualification (basiskwalificatie onderwijs).

Summerschools

- 28 July-8 August 2025 Co-organiser and instructor of the ELSEA field school at Makerere University.
- 13 June-2 July 2022 Co-organiser and instructor of the *Linguistics In Malawi Experience*, a three-week field school for collaborative linguistic fieldwork with students from Leiden University and the University of Malawi. See the [website](#).
- 5-25 January 2020 Co-organiser and instructor of the *Linguistics In Kenya Experience*, a three-week field school for collaborative linguistic fieldwork with students from Leiden University, Tharaka University College, and Chuka University. See the [news report](#) and [website](#).
- 6-10 August 2018 University of Abidjan, course *Investigating information structure in the field* (invited by the project 'La Langue en Contexte: Documentation, Description, Application'), partly taught in French.
- 17-22 June 2018 Potsdam Summerschool *Limits of variability in language*, course *Variation in Bantu morphosyntax*.

Leiden University

Since 2022	Co-coordinator and instructor <i>Samples of linguistic structure</i> (2 intro classes, 4 classes on Makhuwa), ResMA Linguistics (with Martine Bruil).
Since 2021	<i>Diversity Linguistics</i> , MA linguistics (with Marian Klammer & Martine Bruil).
Since 2024	<i>Thesis seminar BA descriptive linguistics</i>
Autumn 2023	<i>Fieldwork A</i> , BA Linguistics.
Autumn 2023	<i>Languages of the World & Talen van de Wereld</i> , BA Linguistics (with Rik van Gijn)
Spring 2023	<i>Linguistics 2</i> , BA English (with Lisa Cheng).
Autumn 2022	<i>Topic A Information structure</i> , ResMA Linguistics.
Nov 2022	Scientific integrity for PhD candidates, descriptive linguistics session.
Autumn 2019	<i>Topic A Information structure</i> , ResMA Linguistics (co-taught with Elisabeth Kerr).
Autumn 2018	<i>Taaltypologie</i> , BA Linguistics.
Spring 2018	<i>Syntaxis 1</i> , BA Linguistics.
Autumn 2007	Third-year course <i>Vorm en betekenis</i> (form and meaning), BA Linguistics

Harvard University

Spring 2017	Ling 117r <i>Field methods</i> course on Lugwere, graduate.
Spring 2017	Ling 156 <i>Structure of Bantu</i> , undergraduate+graduate.
Autumn 2016	Ling 148 <i>Language universals</i> , graduate.
Autumn 2016	Ling 102 <i>Sentence structure</i> , undergraduate.
Autumn 2016	Reading group on Focus and Features.

University of Cambridge

2015-2016	Fieldwork seminar undergraduate and graduate students (with Joe Perry) on Manange.
2014-2015	Supervision second and third year students for Li17 <i>Language Typology</i> .
Autumn 2014	Supervision first year students Li2 <i>Structures and Meanings</i> (Introduction to syntax).
Autumn 2014	Lectures Li17 <i>Language typology</i> .
2013/2014	Supervisions 2 nd and 3 rd year students for Li17 <i>Language Typology</i> .
Autumn 2013	Coordinator and lecturer of Li2 <i>Structures and meanings</i> (Introduction to syntax).
January 2013	Lectures Li17 <i>Language typology</i> .
Autumn 2012	Coordinator and lecturer of Li2 <i>Structures and meanings</i> (introduction to syntax).
2012-2013	Supervisions second year Li17 <i>Language typology</i> .
Spring 2012	Supervisions first year <i>Structures and Meanings</i> (semantics/pragmatics part).
Spring 2012	Lectures in MPhil seminar on null arguments.
Autumn 2011	Lectures Li2 <i>Structures and Meanings</i> (Introduction to syntax).

Other

2025	Online MapLE masterclass for 41 participants worldwide.
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2025	Online ELSEA course for 40 participants in eastern Africa, together with Lotta Aunio, Saudah Namyalo, Allen Asiimwe, Bert Remijnsen.
2020, 2021	Invited for a video mini class in the online experience for linguistics at Leiden University, as well as the 'matching' (together with recruitment team: developing class, writing script, recording video in studio, developing test questions).
Spring 2025	Reading group <i>Epistemicity</i>
Autumn 2021	Reading group <i>New developments in (Bantu) syntax</i>
Spring 2021	Reading group <i>Northwestern Bantu</i>
Spring 2020	Reading group <i>Syntactic features of information structure and Case</i>
Spring 2019	Reading group <i>Information structure and Bantu languages</i>
Autumn 2018	Reading group <i>Definiteness, specificity and (their influence on) information structure</i> (see overview reading groups on the BaSIS site)
August 2010	<i>Introduction à la structure informationnelle</i> (whole day for PhD and staff), Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren.

Transferrable skills teaching

June 2024	LOTschool workshop <i>How to not procrastinate</i> .
Autumn 2021	Topic B <i>Academic skills</i> , sessions on presentation skills, MA Linguistics LUCL.
October 2019	PhD students workshop <i>How to not procrastinate</i> , LUCL.
May 2017	Graduate students workshop <i>How to not procrastinate</i> , Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
2015-2016	Professional skills workshops <i>How to not procrastinate</i> and <i>How to stay confident in Cambridge</i> , Darwin College Cambridge.
May 2016	<i>Managing procrastination</i> , University of Cambridge Researcher Development Programme.
January 2016	MPhil training <i>Presentation skills</i> , DTAL Cambridge. PhD training <i>How to not procrastinate</i> , DTAL Cambridge.
September 2015	LAGB Summer School training <i>How to not procrastinate: understand your motivations for procrastination and effectively manage them</i> .
2014-2015	Professional skills workshops <i>How to give an effective presentation</i> and <i>How to not procrastinate</i> , Darwin College Cambridge.
November 2014	PhD training seminar <i>How to write a good abstract</i> , DTAL Cambridge.
February 2014	Professional skills workshop <i>How to not procrastinate</i> , Darwin College Cambridge.
Jan/Feb 2013	PhD training seminars <i>Presenting research without losing your audience</i> and <i>Visual support in presentations</i> , Darwin College Cambridge.
January 2013	PhD seminar <i>The worst powerpoint ever</i> , DTAL Cambridge.
February 2012	PhD training seminar <i>How to write a good abstract</i> together with John Williams, DTAL Cambridge.

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Outreach

2019-current	Editor of Dutch website Stemmen van Afrika (Voices of Africa).
2013-current	Author of various posts on Stemmen van Afrika.
2025	Escape room at Avond van de Talen.
2024	Escape room at Nacht van Ontdekkingen.
2024	Interview for popular science magazine Quest .
2022	<i>Taboetaal</i> – Wetenschapsfestival Stedelijk Gymnasium Den Bosch.
2022	Interview Radio Weetlust (Leiden City of Science 2022).
2022	Virtual visit class 4 primary school NSV2 for their theme <i>Around the world</i> , from Malawi.
2021	Online escape game at Stemmen van Afrika.
2021	<i>Het Makhuwa mysterie</i> – Wetenschapsfestival Stedelijk Gymnasium Den Bosch.
2020	<i>Taalkundig veldwerk: Bantoe en de arrogantiehierarchie</i> – Wetenschapsfestival Stedelijk Gymnasium Den Bosch.
2019	<i>Escape from Linguistics</i> – escape room with African language puzzles at the Nacht van Ontdekkingen , Leiden.
2019	<i>Wat onmogelijke talen ons kunnen vertellen over menselijke Taal</i> - talk at Wijhese Heeren Sociëteit.
2016	<i>Linguistic fieldwork puzzles in African languages</i> - Insight event, Cambridge Admissions Office, Sidney Sussex College.
2016	<i>Bantu objects and the arrogance hierarchy</i> - Linguistics Masterclass at Corpus Christi College Cambridge.
2015	<i>The youths on the wheel</i> - interactive talk on Ugandan youth language, with Saudah Namyalo, Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge.
2012, '13, '14	<i>Lingquiztics</i> with ReCoS at the Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge - Family Fortunes, Who wants to be a millionaire and Blockbusters with linguistics questions.
2014	<i>Puzzles and patterns in language</i> - interactive talk on English, Beja and Makhuwa, with ReCoS team.
2013	<i>Frontiers of linguistic fieldwork</i> - interactive talk on Bantu object markers, with András Bárány, at the Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge.
2008	Presentation about African languages at the <i>Dag van de Talen</i> (Day of Languages) at a primary school.

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Supervision

In June 2021, I was granted the *ius promovendi* at Leiden University.

PhD

Crisófia Langa da Câmara	PhD project The truth in Cinyungwe (ongoing), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Jenny Doetjes.
Dominique Loviscach	PhD project A grammar of Mararit (ongoing), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Maarten Kossmann.
Ryan Buttacavoli	PhD project A descriptive grammar of Tsuvadi (ongoing), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Maarten Kossmann.

Elisabeth Kerr	PhD dissertation <i>Information structure in Tunen</i> (completed 2024), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Maarten Mous.
Zhen Li	PhD dissertation <i>Information structure in Teke-Kukuya</i> (completed 2024), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Maarten Mous.
Rich Boutwell	PhD dissertation <i>A grammar of Ncane</i> (completed 2020), Leiden University. Co-supervised with Maarten Mous.
Tim Bazalgette	PhD dissertation <i>Algorithmic acquisition of focus parameters</i> (completed 2015), University of Cambridge. Co-supervised with Ian Roberts and Theresa Biberauer.
David Iorio	PhD dissertation <i>Subject and object marking in Bembe</i> (completed 2014), University of Newcastle. Co-supervised with Anders Holmberg.

BA/MA

Violet Pecchioli	MA Linguistic knowledge management in Ihanzu (ongoing)
Naama Tiroshi	ResMA The augment in Kĩĩtharaka (ongoing)
Iris Dijkstra	BA Narrative structure in Kĩĩtharaka (ongoing)
Cameron Hoitink	BA Locative classes of Chitumbuka (2025).
Giosuè Balocco	BA Evidentiality in Quechua (2025).
Linde Giljam	MA <i>Referent tracking in Bambara</i> (2025).
Nicolas Lotman	BA <i>The expression of aspect in Emihavani</i> (2024).
Kowsar Amiri	BA <i>Copular clauses in Makhuwa-Shirima</i> (2024).
Dominique Loviscach	ResMA <i>Differential object marking in Kĩĩtharaka</i> (2024), Leiden University.
Mihai Tomoiaga	BA <i>Consonant strengthening in Setswana</i> (2024), Leiden University.
Glen Homann	BA <i>Object doubling in Xitsonga</i> (2023), Leiden University.
Jesper Tittse	BA <i>Predicate doubling in Chitumbuka</i> (ongoing), Leiden University.
Iris Kruijsdijk	ResMA <i>The Kimbugwe noun class system and its interaction with semantics</i> (2022, <i>cum laude</i>), Leiden University.
Elizabeth Kujath	MA <i>Copular constructions in Makhuwa-Enahara</i> (2022), Leiden University.
Melle Groen	BA <i>Predicate-centred focus in Kiambu</i> (2020, <i>cum laude</i>), Leiden University.
Martha Wechsler	MPhil <i>Case assignment in applicative, causative, and double object constructions</i> (2016), University of Cambridge.
Rodrigo Ranero	MPhil <i>The syntax of dislocated objects in Luganda</i> , University of Cambridge (2015), University of Cambridge.

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Examination

I have been a second reader or examiner for various BA, MA, ResMA and MPhil theses at different institutions. I was an external examiner of the following PhD theses:

Tom Jelpke	The grammatical, pragmatic, and social motivations of variation in relativisation strategy in Nairobi Swahili, SOAS London, 2025.
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Heidrun Kröger	<i>A descriptive grammar of Mozambican Ngoni (Xingoni)</i> , Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, 2024.
Alzenir Mendes Martins de Menezes	<i>O vocabulário relativo aos instrumentos musicais nas línguas bantu e a herança no português do Brasil</i> , Leiden University, 2024.
Lora Litvinova	<i>A grammatical analysis and documentation of Kugama, an Adamawa language of Nigeria</i> , INALCO Paris, 2023.
Astrid van Alem	<i>Life of Phi</i> , Leiden University, 2023.
Erika Just	<i>A functional approach to differential indexing – combining perspectives from typology and corpus linguistics</i> , Leiden University, 2022.
Henry Fominyam	<i>Aspects of Awing grammar and information structure</i> , University of Potsdam, 2021.
Andreas Joswig	<i>The Majang language</i> , Leiden University, 2019.
Raed Al-Janabi	<i>Ditransitives in Iraqi Arabi and English</i> , University of Newcastle, 2019.
Franca Wesseling	<i>There is more</i> (on Dutch expletive ‘er’), Utrecht University, 2018.
Ana Gauché	<i>A relevance-theoretic analysis of selected South African English pragmatic markers and their cultural significance</i> , Stellenbosch University, 2017.

Mentoring

Molly Rolfs	MEiN programme Konstanz University, 2023
Zorica Puškar	Leibniz mentoring programme, 2019-2020
András Bárány	2017-2020

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Invited lectures

June 2026	Invited for plenary at workshop on linguistic indeterminacy, Barcelona.
February 2026	Invited for plenary at workshop ‘Finding patterns through Fieldwork in West-African Languages’, DGfS meeting Trier.
June 2025	Invited for plenary The innovative diachrony of Bantu clefts at DiGS workshop , University of Oxford.
January 2025	Glowing lecture ‘Why we all need some fieldwork in our linguistics’: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC4ml_nhdOc
May 2024	Invited for panel at <i>LeiBieCoS</i> , Leiden University/University of Bielefeld.
April 2023	Invited to the seminar on information structure, Leuven (Karen Lahousse).
29 March 2023	Invited guest lecture at NYU (Chris Collins).
25 January 2022	We don’t Agree (only) upwards. Invited in Konstanz, together with András Bárány.
11 August 2021	Collaborative linguistics: experiences from the BaSIS project. Keynote speaker at 2 nd meeting of the Linguistics Association of East Africa.

31 May 2021	Information structure as A-syntax. Invited at Move and Agree forum, McGill & UBC.
24 April 2021	Exclusive focus and givenness: How Eastern Bantu languages have their cake and eat it. Invited at workshop <i>Syntactic asymmetries in African languages</i> , Potsdam.
8-9 Nov.2018	The phoenix probe. Plenary speaker at workshop <i>Multiple Agreement across Domains</i> , ZAS Berlin.
6-8 September 2017	Resetting object marking parameters in Bantu. Plenary speaker at Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS) conference, Stellenbosch University.
3 May 2017	Investigating focus marking in Luganda and Lingala. Invited for Bantu Workshop. McGill University, Montréal.
30 March - 2 April 2017	The need for an alternative system of nominal licensing in Bantu. Keynote speaker at the Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Indiana University
11 January 2017	The AWSOM and RANDOM in Bantu object marking. Invited for the IGRA Colloquium series, University of Leipzig.
29 November 2016	The need for an alternative system of nominal licensing in Bantu. Invited for job interview presentation at the University of Oxford.
18 November 2016	Beyond the cracks in the system: An alternative system of Case licensing in Bantu. Invited at the University of Minnesota.
10 November 2016	On the elicitation of focus and information structure in fieldwork. Invited at the Fieldwork Group, Harvard University and MIT.
5-8 July 2016	Two reasons to be suspicious of surface form-meaning mapping in focus constructions. Invited at conference 'The semantics of African, Asian and Austronesian languages'. University of Tübingen.
12-13 November 2016	Idioms and Bantu syntax. Invited at workshop on idioms. University of Potsdam.
5-6 November 2015	What you see is (not) what you get: on the interface between information structure and syntax. Keynote speaker at the Manchester Forum in Linguistics, University of Manchester.
12 February 2015	How to elicit information structure in fieldwork? An illustration from focus strategies in Luganda. Invited at the Fieldwork Forum, University of California at Berkeley.
5 February 2015	Disentangling focus constructions in Luganda. Invited at the Linguistics Society of Cambridge.
28-29 March 2014	Morphological marking of term focus. Keynote speaker at Workshop on information structure in head-marking languages, Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen.
12-15 June 2013	A typology of Bantu subject inversion (with Lutz Marten). Plenary lecture, Bantu 5, Paris.
4 June 2013	Structuring parameters in comparative Bantu subject inversion. Invited at University of Potsdam.
5 March 2013	Subordinate clauses and exclusive focus in Makhuwa: no independent information structure? Invited at the Institute for Linguistics and Language Studies, University of Manchester.

- 29 October 2011 Focus on conjugations: conjoint and disjoint verb forms in Bantu. Invited at the 6th South of England LFG meeting, London.
- 3 August 2011 Focus encoded in grammar: the case of Bantu verb forms. Invited at Nagoya University, Nagoya.

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Conference organisation

- Since 2023 Co-organiser of Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics, Leiden.
- July 2028 Co-organiser of ICL, Leiden.
- June 2023 Co-organiser of BaSIS conference, Leiden/hybrid.
- October 2021 Co-organiser of online workshop on *Mirativity and evidentiality in Bantu languages*, with Hannah Gibson.
- June 2021 Co-organiser of WOCAL 10, Leiden/hybrid.
- June 2021 Co-organiser of workshop *Bantunivar* on universals and variation in Bantu languages, at WOCAL 10, Leiden/hybrid.
- June 2021 Co-organiser of workshop on *Definiteness in Bantu languages*, with Eva-Marie Bloom-Ström, Allen Asiimwe, and Jochen Zeller, at Bantu 8, Essex.
- July 2018 Co-organiser of workshop *Information structure in Bantu languages*, with Allen Asiimwe, at Sintu 7, Cape Town.
- June 2016 Organisator of workshop *Bantu Objects and Object Marking* (BOOM!), at Bantu 6, Helsinki.
- May 2016 Co-organiser of the fifth Cambridge Comparative Syntax conference (CamCoS 5).
- Sept 2015 Co-organiser of themed session *Differential marking: implications for Case and Agree* at the 48th meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, Leiden.
- May 2015 Co-organiser of the fourth Cambridge Comparative Syntax conference (CamCoS 4).
- Jan 2015 Co-organiser of Comparative Syntax workshop with University of York (CoSy 3).
- Nov 2014 Co-organiser of the workshop *Syntactic Variation*, Bucharest.
- May 2014 Co-organiser of the third Cambridge Comparative Syntax conference (CamCoS 3).
- Feb 2014 Co-organiser of Comparative Syntax workshop with University of York (CoSy 2).
- Dec 2013 Initiator and co-organiser of Comparative Syntax workshop with University of York (CoSy).
- October 2013 Co-organiser of workshop *Comparative syntax of English*, Darwin College, Cambridge.
- August 2013 Co-organiser of themed session *Subtypes of thetic expressions in a comparative perspective* within Annual meeting of the LAGB.
- May 2013 Co-organiser of the second Cambridge Comparative Syntax conference (CamCoS 2).
- August 2012 Co-organiser of workshop *Parametric variation in discourse-configurationality* within 45th meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, Stockholm, Sweden.

May 2012	Co-organiser of the first <i>Cambridge Comparative Syntax</i> conference (CamCoS 1).
Sept 2011	Co-organiser of workshop <i>Come and go off the beaten grammaticalisation path</i> within 44th meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, Logroño, Spain.
March 2009	Organiser of the workshop <i>Inversion constructions in Bantu</i> , Tervuren.
March 2008	Co-organiser of the conference <i>Movement and word order in Bantu</i> , Leiden.

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Fieldwork

July 2024	Fieldwork on Kĩĩtharaka in Marimanti, Kenya.
July 2022	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique. Support in EEG experiment at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
June 2022	Elicitation sessions on Emihavani, Zomba, Malawi.
November 2020	Fieldwork on Nyakyusa in Kiwira, Tanzania, with Amani Lusekelo and Simon Msovela.
December 2019	Fieldwork on Kĩĩtharaka in Marimanti, Kenya, with Patrick Kanampiu.
August 2019	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
July 2019	Fieldwork on Copi in Chidenguele, Mozambique, with Nelsa Nhantumbo.
June 2019	Fieldwork on Changana in Magude, Mozambique, with Aurélio Simango.
January 2019	Fieldwork on Rukiga in Kabale, Uganda, with Allen Asiimwe.
Spring 2017	Data collection and field methods class on Lugwere, Cambridge MA.
August 2014	Fieldwork on Luganda in Kampala and Masaka, Uganda, with Saudah Namyalo.
2013	Data collection on Matengo at the Institute of Education UCL, London.
March 2011	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
Jan-Feb 2008	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
Sept-Dec 2006	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
Apr-Sept 2005	Fieldwork on Makhuwa at Ilha de Moçambique, Mozambique.
Summer 2003	Fieldwork on Lusoga in Jinja, Uganda.

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Language skills

Swahili and Makhuwa have a competing competence; my passive German is better than active; I use French, Portuguese, and English regularly in my work with African colleagues (and English also in teaching); and Dutch is my native language.

October 2020	Lessons Swahili via Italki.
March-Apr 2020	Lessons French via Italki.
April-June 2019	Lessons Portuguese via Italki.
Autumn 2010	Course 'French at work', level B1, training institute of the Belgian federal government (OFO/IFA, Brussels).
February 2005	Intensive course Portuguese, University of Coimbra (Portugal).
July 2002	Advanced course Swahili, Zanzibar (Tanzania).

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Vita

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