

Ruby SLEEMAN

MAIN RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ordinal numerals, superlatives, generative syntax, language variation, language change, linguistic typology, morphosyntax of the nominal domain, syntax-semantics interface, corpus linguistics, Dutch Syntax, Phylogenetic Methods in Historical Linguistics

EDUCATION

- 2017.10 - **Ph.D. candidate in General Linguistics**, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
Institut für Linguistik
(Formally accepted by the Doctoral Committee of Faculty 10 on 12.2.2020)
Project: Nominal Modification (DFG-funded Research Training Group)
Dissertation working title: *The syntax of ordinal superlatives*
Advisors: Helmut Weiß (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)
Sjef Barbiers (Universiteit Leiden, the Netherlands)
Cecilia Poletto (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany /
Università di Padova, Italy);
- 2014 - 2017 **M.A. (Research) in Linguistics** (cum laude), Leiden University, the Netherlands
Department of Linguistics
Thesis title: *Ordinal Numerals in dialects of Dutch*
(Open access, available [here](#))
Supervisor: Sjef Barbiers
- 2011 - 2014 **B.A. in Linguistics** (cum laude) Leiden University, the Netherlands
Department of Linguistics
Thesis title: *Inversion of Preposition and Noun Phrase in Bidayuh*
Supervisor: Lisa Cheng

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2024.04 - **Institute for Mediterranean Studies - Foundation for Research & Technology Hellas (IMS-FORTH)**, Rethymno, Greece.
Research assistant. RESEARCH PROJECT: PhylProGramm: PHylogenies PRObing GRAMMar. Exploring morphosyntax at different scales of language change. PI: Elena Anagnostopoulou. Funded by the European Research Council.
- 2022.04 - 2023.05 **University of Crete**, Rethymno, Greece.
Research assistant. RESEARCH PROJECT: Modeling Glossogeny. Using biological tools in the study of genetic and areal stability of morpho-syntactic parameters. PI: Elena Anagnostopoulou. Funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation.
- 2016.09 - 2017.09 **Leiden University Centre for Linguistics**, Leiden, The Netherlands.
Conference assistant.
- 2016.03 - 2016.12 **Meertens Institute, Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW)**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
Research assistant. RESEARCH PROJECT: [Language and Number](#).
Supervisor: Sjef Barbiers. Postdoc: Lisa Bylinina. Language and Number was a subproject of the NWO Horizon project Knowledge and Culture

2015.09 – 2015.12 (PI: Johan Rooryck). Funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). **Meertens Institute, Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW)**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
Research intern. RESEARCH PROJECT: [Language and Number](#) (subproject of Horizon project “Knowledge and Culture”). PI: Johan Rooryck.) Funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 “Aller- is not an intensifier but part of a domain defining superlative compound.” Lamoure, N. & Sleeman, R. In: Balsemin, T., et al. (Eds.). *Festschrift in Honour of Cecilia Poletto’s 60th Birthday, Quaderni di Lavoro ASIt*. Available at http://asit.maldura.unipd.it/documenti/q125/6_QLASIt25.pdf.
- 2017 “Ordinal Numerals in dialects of Dutch.” MA thesis, Leiden University, the Netherlands. Available at <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/54385>.
- 2016 “Ordinal Formation in Standard Dutch and Dialects of Dutch.” In: *TWISTx Proceedings*, pp.57-68. Available at <https://zenodo.org/record/58157#.XKJN95gzaUk>.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2020.01 “Modifying superlatives: cardinal or ordinal?” Talk presented at the workshop Formal and Experimental Approaches to Adjectival Modification, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2019.09 “The superlative-internal ordinal in the Dutch and German DP.” Talk presented in workshop on Number, Numerals and Plurality at SinFonIJA 12, Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia.
- 2019.08 “The second best word order: How ordinals restrict superlatives and why it’s not reciprocated.” Talk presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the SLE (Societas Linguistica Europaea), Leipzig University, Germany.
- 2019.07 “Variation and its Limits in Ordinal-Superlative Order in Dutch.” Talk presented at the ATINER 12th Annual International Conference on Languages & Linguistics, Athens, Greece.
- 2019.05 “DP-internal modification: Ordering ordinals and superlatives in Dutch and German.” Poster presented at A Germanic Sandwich 2019, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2019.03 “The second best word order: How ordinals restrict superlatives and why it’s not reciprocated.” Poster accepted at workshop “The meaning of numerals: cognitive, experimental, and semantic perspectives”, Leibniz-Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS), Berlin, Germany.
- 2019.03 “DP-internal modification: ordering ordinals and superlatives in Dutch and German.” Talk in the DeMiNeS Masterclass, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2019.02 “Variation and its limits in ordinal-superlative order in Dutch.” Poster presented at IGG45, Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy.
- 2018.06 “Ordinal numerals in dialects of Dutch.” Poster presented at TEAM 2018, Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy.
- 2016.04 “-ste or -de? The intriguing patterns found in the ordinal paradigms of Dutch dialects and other Germanic languages.” Talk at TWISTx 10th Linguistics Student Conference, Leiden University, the Netherlands.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)

- 2022.12 “*Aller* as a domain definer for superlatives.” Joint colloquium presentation with Nicolas Lamoure in the Historical Linguistics colloquium (Helmut Weiß).
- 2019.07 “Nominal numbers and numeral nouns.” Poster presented at the 3rd Crete Summer School of Linguistics, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece.
- 2019.06 “Modification by ordinal.” Talk at the Goethe University RTG retreat, Fulda, Germany.
- 2018.06 “Ordering Ordinals.” Talk at the Goethe University RTG retreat, Fulda, Germany.

TEACHING

- FALL 2017 Biweekly reading group for prof. dr. Cecilia Poletto’s colloquium at Goethe University Frankfurt (LING-COLL-VAR)
- FALL 2016 Guest lecture for prof. dr. Sjeff Barbiers (‘Accentgroep Moderne Taalkunde: Een bijzonder onderwerp’ at Leiden University, catalogue number 5583K93)
- SPRING 2016 Weekly tutorial Syntax 1 for prof. dr. Lisa Cheng (catalogue number 51V1027)

REVIEWING

- 2020-2021 Linguistic Inquiry Squibs and Discussion

LANGUAGES

- Dutch: Native speaker
- English: Bilingual native speaker
- Greek: Proficient
- German: Proficient
- French: Basic

PARTICIPATION IN SUMMER/WINTER SCHOOLS

- 2019.07 3rd Crete Summer School of Linguistics, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece
- 2018.07 2nd Crete Summer School of Linguistics, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece
- 2018.06 Potsdam Summer School “Limits of Variability in Language”, Potsdam, Germany
- 2018.01 LOT winter school, VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands