

### Research interests

My research is inspired by the question 'what determines our grammar and its variation across languages?'. Formulating our thoughts in sentences is for a large part restricted by the syntactic rules of the language we speak. Another force that shapes our sentences, however, is the packaging of information: what is the most important bit of information, and how do I convey that to my interlocutor? This interface between morphosyntax and pragmatics, and particularly the crosslinguistic variation in this area, keeps fascinating me.

Key research terms: comparative generative morphosyntax, information structure, Bantu languages, grammaticalisation, formal typology

### Academic employment

- 2017-current University Lecturer at Leiden University  
Project leader of NWO Vidi project 'Bantu Syntax and Information structure'
- 2016-2017 Lecturer on Linguistics at Harvard University
- 2011-2016 Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, on the ERC-funded project 'Rethinking Comparative Syntax' (PI Ian Roberts)
- 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 'Grammaticalization and (Inter)Subjectification'.

### Education

- 2004-2009 Ph.D. at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics; Ph.D. thesis 'Word order and information structure in Makhuwa-Enahara' (supervisors Lisa Cheng and Thilo Schadeberg).
- 2000-2004 M.A. in African linguistics at Leiden University; M.A. thesis 'Lusoga phonology'.

### Publications & Presentations

As can be seen under 'Presentations' on my website, I have published articles in peer-reviewed international journals, including *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Lingua*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Linguistics*, *Studies in Language*, *Language Variation* and the *Journal for African Languages and Linguistics*, written various book chapters, and edited 2 books at De Gruyter. I have presented at national and international conferences and workshops, including keynote lectures at Bantu 6 in Paris (France), the Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 48, Bloomington), and Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS 19, Stellenbosch).

### Academic activities

- 2006-present Peer reviewing of manuscripts for journals: *Syntax*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Lingua*, *Glossa*, *Syntax*, *Linguistic Variation*, *Linguistics*, *Journal of Linguistics*, *Studies in Language*, *Africana Linguistica*, *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*, *Proceedings of ACAL*, *Studies in African Linguistics*, *South African Journal of African Linguistics*.
- 2014-present Peer reviewing of proposals for British Academy, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), US National Science Foundation.
- 2015-2018 External project advisor for Leverhulme project 'Morphosyntactic variation in Bantu: typology, contact and

- change' (Principal Investigator Lutz Marten, SOAS).
- Aug-Dec 2016 Generals' committee Zuzanna Fuchs, Harvard University.  
2012-2016 Examination undergraduate and MPhil dissertations, DTAL Cambridge.
- 2018-present Board member of the Algemene Vereniging voor Taalwetenschap (Dutch Linguistics Association)
- January 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.
- June 2013 Guest researcher at the University of Potsdam (in the project of Prof. Dr. Gisbert Fanselow).
- Feb 2010 Guest researcher at the Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin (with Dr. Tonjes Veenstra).
- 2017-present Member of Editorial Board of Syntax
- 2009-2012 Editor of *Africana Linguistica*.
- 2007- 2008 Member of the University Council of Leiden University, and chairman of the PhD fraction.
- 2006-2008 Editor of the Leiden Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2003-2004 Secretary of the Education committee of the African Linguistics department, Leiden.

### Linguistics teaching

- 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")
- 17-22 June 2018 Potsdam Summerschool 'Limits of variability in language', course 'Variation in Bantu morphosyntax'
- Autumn 2018 Taaltypologie, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.
- Spring 2018 Syntaxis 1, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.
- Spring 2017 Ling 117r Field methods course on Lugwere, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- Spring 2017 Ling 156 Structure of Bantu, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- Autumn 2016 Ling 148 Language universals, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- Autumn 2016 Ling 102 Sentence structure, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- Autumn 2016 Reading group on Focus and Features, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.
- 2015-2016 Fieldwork seminar undergraduate and graduate students (with Joe Perry) on Manange.
- 2014-2015 Supervisions 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students for Li17 'Language Typology', DTAL Cambridge.
- Autumn 2014 Supervision first year students Li2 'Structures and Meanings' (Introduction to syntax), DTAL Cambridge.
- Autumn 2014 Lectures Li17 'Language typology', DTAL Cambridge.
- 2013/2014 Supervisions 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students for Li17 'Language Typology', DTAL Cambridge.

Autumn 2013	Coordinator and lecturer of Li2 'Structures and meanings' (Introduction to syntax), DTAL Cambridge.
January 2013	Lectures Li17 'Language typology', DTAL Cambridge.
Autumn 2012	Coordinator and lecturer of Li2 'Structures and meanings' (introduction to syntax), DTAL Cambridge.
2012-2013	Supervisions 2 <sup>nd</sup> year students Li17 'Language typology', DTAL Cambridge.
Spring 2012	Supervisions 1 <sup>st</sup> year students semantics/pragmatics, DTAL Cambridge.
Spring 2012	Lectures in MPhil seminar on null arguments, DTAL Cambridge.
Autumn 2011	Lectures Li2 'Structures and Meanings' (Introduction to syntax), DTAL Cambridge.
August 2010	'Introduction à la structure informationnelle' (whole day for PhD and staff), Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren.
Autumn 2007	Third-year course 'Vorm en betekenis' (form and meaning), focusing on information structure, Department of Linguistics, Leiden University.

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### Supervision

Elisabeth Kerr	PhD dissertation 'Information structure in Tunen', Co-supervised with Maarten Mous (to start Sept. 2018).
Zhen Li	PhD dissertation 'Information structure in Teke', Co-supervised with Maarten Mous (ongoing).
Rich Boutwell	PhD dissertation 'A grammar of Nchane'. Co-supervised with Maarten Mous (ongoing).
Martha Wechsler	MPhil dissertation 'Case assignment in applicative, causative, and double object constructions' (completed 2016).
Tim Bazalgette	PhD dissertation 'Algorithmic acquisition of focus parameters', University of Cambridge (completed 2015). Co-supervised with Ian Roberts and Theresa Biberauer.
Rodrigo Ranero	MPhil dissertation 'The syntax of dislocated objects in Luganda', University of Cambridge (completed 2015).
David Iorio	PhD dissertation 'Subject and object marking in Bembe', University of Newcastle (completed 2014). Co-supervised with Anders Holmberg.

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### PhD examination

Andreas Joswig	'The Majang language', Leiden University, 2019
Raed Al-Janabi	'Ditransitives in Iraqi Arabi and English', University of Newcastle, 2019
Franca Wesseling	'There is more' (on Dutch expletive 'er'), Utrecht University, 2018.
Ana Gauché	'A relevance-theoretic analysis of selected South African English pragmatic markers and their cultural significance', Stellenbosch University, 2017.

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### Transferrable skills teaching

Over the last years (2012-present) I have developed, organised and taught the following workshops on themes that are relevant beyond linguistics:

#### *How to write a good abstract*

Discover the ingredients for capturing reviewers' and readers' attention finding out for yourself what works best in an abstract and what to avoid. (taught 3 times for DTAL PhD and MPhil students)

*Presentation skills*

Find the ingredients of the worst presentation ever, turning that around to an effective presentation with appropriate visual support and without losing your audience. (taught various times at Darwin College, DTAL Cambridge PhD and Mphil training, and the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Cambridge)

*How to not procrastinate*

Identify your own procrastinators, learn about 6 types of procrastinators and concrete techniques to manage it such as 4D prioritising and pomodoris. (taught various times at Darwin College, Postdocs of Cambridge society, DTAL Cambridge PhD training, LAGB Summer School, Researcher Development Programma University of Cambridge)

*How to stay confident*

Understanding the reasons for feeling less confident in a highly competitive academic environment, the seven ways of recognising the 'impostor phenomenon' and discussing ways to thrive in spite of these thoughts. (taught at Darwin College)

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**Grants and awards**

- 2019 African Studies Assembly grant for a Field School in Kenya, together with Peter Muriungi (Tharaka University College, Kenya).
- 2017-2022 NWO grant Vidi (Innovational Research Incentives Scheme). Project 'Bantu Syntax and Information structure' 'How salience determines grammar'.
- 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).
- September 2014 SLE 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - Best presentation by a postdoctoral researcher, second prize.
- Summer 2014 Alborada Trust grant for cooperation with Dr Saudah Namyalo (Makerere University, Uganda). Project 'The morphosyntax of information structure in Luganda'.
- March 2011 Grant for a short stay abroad from Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen (FWO).
- October 2008 Grant for conference travel from Leiden University Fund (LUF).

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**Conference organisation**

- July 2018 Co-organiser of workshop on Information structure in Bantu languages, with Allen Asimwe, at Sintu 7, Cape Town.
- June 2016 Organiser 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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).

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

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### Fieldwork

- Spring 2017 Data collection and field methods class on Lugwere, Cambridge MA.
- August 2014 Fieldwork on Luganda in Kampala and Masaka, Uganda.
- 2013 Data collection on Matengo at IoE, 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

(In approximate descending order of competence)

Dutch (native speaker), English, French, German, Portuguese

- 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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### Outreach

- 2013, 2014, Posts on the Dutch blog 'Stemmen van Africa', on Bantu  
2017 syntax.
- June 2016 Linguistic fieldwork puzzles in African languages - Insight event, Cambridge Admissions Office, Sidney Sussex College.
- March 2016 'Bantu objects and the arrogance hierarchy' - Linguistics

- Masterclass at Corpus Christi College Cambridge.
- Oct 2015 'The youths on the wheel' - interactive talk on Ugandan youth language, with Saudah Namyalo, Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge.
- 2012, '13, '14 'Lingquiztics' with ReCoS at the Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge - Family Fortunes, Who wants to be a millionaire and Blockbusters with linguistics questions.
- March 2014 'Puzzles and patterns in language' - interactive talk on English, Beja and Makhuwa, with ReCoS.
- Oct 2013 'Frontiers of linguistic fieldwork' - interactive talk on Bantu object markers, with András Bányi, at the Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge.
- September 2008 Presentation about African languages at the 'Dag van de Talen' (Day of Languages).

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## Vita

Name Guenever Johanna (Jenneke) van der Wal  
Date of birth 19 December 1981 (Jos, Nigeria)