MEREL KEIJZER

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LINGUISTICS & ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



CONTACT

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EDUCATION

PHD IN LINGUISTICS • 2007

VU University, Amsterdam

Dissertation: “First in last out? An investigation of the regression hypothesis in Dutch emigrants in Anglophone Canada”

DOCTORATE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE • 2002 (WITH DISTINCTION)

VU University, Amsterdam

Thesis: “Investigating ‘Remedioom’ as a remedy: The effects of a visually-oriented computer-based intervention program on the English spelling skills of Dutch dyslexic or poor spellers in secondary education”

GRAMMAR SCHOOL (GYMNASIUM) • 1998

Johannes Calvijn Lyceum, Kampen

Academic leader; Chair group leader
Innovating teaching and learning communities
Passionate about PhD supervision
Co-creating impactful science with scientific and societal partners
Former De Jonge Akademie & Young Academy Groningen (board) member
Advocate of academic citizenship

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

FULL PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LINGUISTICS & ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE • 2019-PRESENT

University of Groningen | Center for Language and Cognition

1.0fte: 0.4 research; 0.6 teaching and administrative tasks

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS • 2017-2019

University of Groningen | Center for Language and Cognition

0.8fte: 0.32 research; 0.48 teaching and administrative tasks

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS | ROSALIND FRANKLIN FELLOW • 2014-2017

University of Groningen | Center for Language and Cognition

1.0fte: 0.4 research; 0.6 teaching and administrative tasks

VISITING SCHOLAR AND LECTURER • 2013-2014

The Pennsylvania State University (PennState) | Center for Language Science (CLS)

1.0fte: 1.0 research (with guest lecturing tasks)

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER (VENI GRANT) • 2010-2013

Utrecht University | Utrecht Institute of Linguistics UiL OTS

1.0fte: 1.0 research

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE • 2008-2010

Utrecht University | Utrecht Institute of Linguistics UiL OTS

1.0fte: 0.4 research; 0.6 teaching

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE • 2006-2008

Delft University of Technology

1.0fte: 0.2 research; 0.8 teaching

PHD RESEARCHER IN LINGUISTICS • 2002-2006

VU University Amsterdam

1.0fte: 0.75 research; 0.25 teaching

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

FACULTY OF ARTS FULL PROFESSOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM • 2023 - PRESENT

Faculty of Arts | University of Groningen

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR LINE MANAGERS IN ACADEMIA • 2022 - 2023

Koosje van Frankenhuysen & HR Academy | University of Groningen

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP COURSE FOR NEW FULL PROFESSORS • 2019

HR Experts | University of Groningen

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS • 2016

Hfp Consulting Heidelberg & HR Academy | University of Groningen

COACHING PHD STUDENTS • 2014

Talent Development | University of Groningen

TEACHING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

UNIVERSITY TEACHING QUALIFICATION (UTQ) • 2010

Faculty of Humanities | Utrecht University

WORKSHOP: LECTURING LARGE GROUPS • 2008

Teaching Academy | Delft University of Technology

ACADEMIC SKILLS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

R4STAFF (STATISTICAL ANALYSIS USING R) • 2020

Dr. Hanneke Loerts | Center for Language and Cognition | University of Groningen

MEDIA TRAINING • 2016

Hakuna Matata Science and Media | Young Academy Groningen | University of Groningen

INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR MIXED-EFFECTS REGRESSION (LMER) AND GENERALIZED ADDITIVE MODELING (GAM) FOR PSYCHOLINGUISTS • 2016

Dr. Martijn Wieling | Center for Language and Cognition | University of Groningen

TRAINING IN EEG AND ERP METHODS • 2014

The Bilingualism and Language Development Lab | Center for Language and Cognition | The Pennsylvania State University

ONLINE COURSE: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF FMRI DATA • 2014

Bloomberg School of Public Health | Johns Hopkins University

INTRODUCTION TO FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING • 2014

Graduate School of Biological Engineering | The Pennsylvania State University

RESEARCH

I am deeply fascinated by the interplay between using multiple languages, on the one hand, and cognitive and mental health on the other. In Groningen, I founded the Bilingualism and Aging Lab (BALAB) in 2018. As a research group, we act on the increased relevance of this research line and conceptualize language studies that tackle societal challenges related to healthy aging. My group's work capitalizes on the fact that nothing is so intricately interwoven with personhood, identity and the self as language. Among other things, we found that growing old in an environment where the dominant language is not your own negatively impacts psychosocial and cognitive health; that lifelong multilingualism can lead to better cognitive and mental health in older adulthood; and that learning a new language later in life can help older adults battling memory and mental health problems. Most recently, my group has started to investigate language barriers that prevent equitable care for Persons Living with Dementia (PWD) with a migrant background as well as the question whether exposure to home languages can meaningfully improve the psychosocial well-being among migrant PWD. I strongly feel that major societal challenges like healthy aging can only be solved by multidisciplinary teams; my BALAB teams closely collaborates with researchers from medical sciences (Alzheimer Center Groningen; gerontology; psychiatry), researchers from the Hanze University of Applied Sciences' Healthy Aging Lectorate group and societal partners, such as Pharos, Alzheimer Nederland and Vilans.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles: 46
Book chapters: 12
Edited volumes: 5
Books: 3
Conference proceedings: 1

A full list of Bilingualism and Aging Lab (BALAB) publications can be found here:
https://www.balab.nl/publications

Selected key BALAB publications are highlighted below:

Berg, F. van den, Brouwer, J., Buurke, R., Loerts, H., Knooihuizen, R., Bartelds, M., Wieling, M., **& Keijzer, M**. accepted). Bilingual engagement and cognition across the adult lifespan: Insights from regional minority speakers in the north of the Netherlands. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition.*

Brouwer, J., Berg, F. van den, Knooihuizen, R., Loerts, H., & **Keijzer, M**. (accepted). Language learning as a non-pharmacological intervention in older adults with (past) depression. *Brain Sciences.*

van den Berg, F., Brouwer, J., Loerts, H., Knooihuizen, R., & **Keijzer, M.** (2025). The association between multilingual experience factors and cognitive functioning in older adults: A Lifelines study. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, *80*(3). https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbae200.

Brouwer, J., van den Berg, F., Knooihuizen, R., Loerts, H., & **Keijzer, M.** (2024). The effects of language learning on cognitive functioning and psychosocial well-being in cognitively healthy older adults: A semi-blind randomized controlled trial. *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition,* 1-37. https://doi.org/10.1080/13825585.2024.2384107

Brouwer, J., Buurke, R., van den Berg, F., Knooihuizen, R., Loerts, H., Bartelds, M., Wieling, M., & **Keijzer, M.** (2024). Minority language happiness: the link between social inclusion, well-being, and speaking a regional language in the northern Netherlands. *Ampersand*, *12*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2024.100173

Keijzer, M., Brouwer, J., van den Berg, F., van der Ploeg, M. (2023). Experimental methods to study late-life language learning. In S. Zuffery & P. Gygax (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Experimental Linguistics.* Routledge.

Nijmeijer, S., van Tol., M.J., Aleman, A., & **Keijzer, M.** (2022). Musical and multilingual experience are related to healthy aging: better some than none but even better together. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B*, *78*(4). https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbac185

Van der Ploeg, M., Willemsen, A., Richter, L., **Keijzer, M**., & Koole, T. (2022). Requests for assistance in the third-age language classroom. *Classroom Discourse, 13*(4). https://doi.org/10.1080/19463014.2021.2013910

Van den Berg, F., Brouwer, J., Tienkamp, T.B., Verhagen, J., & **Keijzer, M**. Language Entropy Relates to Behavioral and Pupil Indices of Executive Control in Young Adult Bilinguals. *Frontiers in Psychology, 13*. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.864763

Nijmeijer, S. E., van Tol, M.-J. , Aleman, A. & **Keijzer, M**. (2021). Foreign Language Learning as Cognitive Training to Prevent Old Age Disorders? Protocol of a Randomized Controlled Trial of Language Training vs. Musical Training and Social Interaction in Elderly With Subjective Cognitive Decline. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience, 13.* https://doi.org/10.3389/fnagi.2021.550180

Keijzer, M. & de Bot, K. (2019). Unlearning and relearning of languages from childhood to late adulthood. In: Ortega, L. & de Houwer, A. (Eds.), *Handbook of Bilingualism* (pp. 267-285). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Köpke, B. & **Keijzer, M**. (2019). Introduction to psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic aproaches to language attrition. In: Schmid, M.S. & Köpke, B. (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Language Attrition* (pp. 62-72). Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198793595.013.6

Pot, A., Porkert, J., & **Keijzer, M.** (2019). The Bidirectional in Bilingual: Cognitive, Social and Linguistic Effects of and on Third-Age Language Learning. *Behavioral Sciences*, *9*(9). https://doi.org/10.3390/bs9090098

Pot, A., **Keijzer, M.,** & de Bot, K. (2018). Intensity of multilingual language use predicts cognitive performance in some older adults. *Brain Sciences, 8*(5). https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci8050092

Pot, A., **Keijzer, M**. & de Bot, K. (2018). The language barrier in migrant aging. *International Journal of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education,* 23(9). https://doi/org/10.1080/13670050.2018.1435627

An exhaustive list of all other (non-BALAB) publications is given below:

Drury, M., Fuller, J., **Keijzer, M.,** Almonacid Hurtado, P., & Hoeks, J. (2025) Ecolinguistic phrasing in environmental communication: A comparative study. *Language & Ecology, 2025.* https://www.ecolinguistics-association.org/_files/ugd/ae088a_127c9b86c5264ff19a05f0340c8360d5.pdf

Verspoor, M., Kassenberg, T., Poarch, G., & **Keijzer, M.** (2022). *English Sentence Constructions.* Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Drury, M., Fuller, J., & **Keijzer, M.** (2022). Biodiversity communication at the UN Summit 2020: Blending business and nature. *Discourse & Communication*, *16*(1), 37-57. https://10.1177/17504813211043720

Groen, L., **Keijzer, M.,** Michel, M., & Lowie, W. (2021). An English academic reading course for Dutch pre-university students. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics, 9 (1-2).* https://doi.org/10.1075/dujal.19042.gro

Lowie, W., Michel, M., Rousse-Malpat, A., **Keijzer, M**., & Steinkrauss, R.(Eds.) (2020). *Usage-Based Dynamics in Second Language Development.* Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

Gombert, W., **Keijzer, M.,** & Verspoor, M. (2020). Effectiviteit van expliciete en impliciete instructie op de ontwikkeling van schrijfvaardigheid bij Frans. *Levende Talen Tijdschrift, 21*(1), 14-24.

Keijzer, M. (2020). First language attrition in the 21st century: how continued L1 contact in the digital age fuels language attrition theorizing. In Adamou, E., & Matras, Y. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Language Contact* (pp. 221-233). London and New York: Routledge.

Irshad, M., **Keijzer, M**., Wieling, M., & Verspoor, M. (2019). Effectiveness of a dynamic usage-based computer-assisted language learning program. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics, 8*(2). https://doi.org/10.1075/dujal.16018.irs

Vandeweerd, N. & **Keijzer, M.** (2018). J'ai l' impression que: Lexical bundles in the dialogues of beginner French textbooks. *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics, 21*(2). https://doi.org/10.7202/1057966ar.

Keijzer, M. (2018). The relevance of L1 attrition to usage-based theories of language development. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism, 7*(6). https//doi.org/10.1075/lab.00011,kei.

Jin, Y.X., de Bot, K. & **Keijzer, M.** (2017). Affective and situational correlates of foreign language proficiency: A study of Chinese university learners of English and Japanese. *Studies in Second Language Learning and Teaching, 7*(1). https://doi.org/10.14746/ssllt.2017.7.1.6

Jin, Y.X., de Bot, K. & **Keijzer, M**. (2015). Factors associated with foreign language anxiety. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics, 4*(1). https://doi.org/10.1075/dujal.4.1.07jin

Jin, Y.X., de Bot, K. & **Keijzer, M**. (2015). The anxiety-proficiency relationship and the stability of anxiety: The case of Chinese university learners of English and Japanese. *Studies in Second Language Learning and Teaching, 5*(1). https://doi.org/10.14746/ssllt.2015.5.1.3

Keijzer, M. (2014). Changes in neural activation patterns and brain anatomy as a function of non-pathological first language attrition. *Journal of Neurological Disorders, 2*(4), https://doi.org/10.4172/2329-6895.1000171

Hoeijmakers, M.J.H., de Bree, E.H. & **Keijzer, M.** (2013). English spelling performance of Dutch grammar school students of derived and base targets. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics, 2*(2).

Keijzer, M. (2012). Kun je je moedertaal verliezen? In M. Boogaard (Ed.), *Taalcanon.* Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Meulenhoff.

De Jong, N., Juffermans, K., **Keijzer, M.** & Rasier, L. (2012). *Papers of the 2012 Anela Applied Linguistics Conference.* Delft: Eburon.

Keijzer, M. (2011). Language in the brain: a review. *Journal of Neurolinguistics, 24*(3).

Keijzer, M. (2011). Language reversion versus general cognitive decline: Towards a new taxonomy of language change in elderly bilingual immigrants. In M.S. Schmid & W. Lowie (Eds.), *Modeling Bilingualism: From structure to chaos* (pp. 221-232). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Keijzer, M. (2010). *First Language Acquisition and First Language Attrition: Parallels and divergences.* Saarbrucken: Lambert Academic Publishers.

Backus, A., **Keijzer, M.,** Weltens, B. & Vedder, I. (2009). *Anéla Conferentie 2009*. Delft: Eburon.

Keijzer, M. (2009). A cognitive approach to the mirror symmetries in language acquisition and language attrition. In M. Pütz & L. Sicola (Eds.), *Cognitive Processing and Second Language Acquisition* (pp. 227-239). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Keijzer, M. (2009). Language attrition in first-generation Dutch migrants in Ontario, Canada. *Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies, XXX*(ii Fall), 1-8.

Keijzer, M. (2008). Language attrition in Dutch emigrants in Anglophone Canada: Internally or externally-induced change? In M. van Koppen & B. Botma (Eds.), *Linguistics in the Netherlands* (pp. 97-108). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Keijzer, M. (2008). Language and Aging in Multilingual Contexts: a review. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism, 11*(3-4).

Keijzer, M. (2008). A usage-based approach to the mirror symmetries in language acquisition and language attrition. In *Proceedings of the 33rd International LAUD Symposium: Cognitive approaches to second/foreign language processing: Theory and Pedagogy* (pp. 300-318). Essen: LAUD.

Keijzer, M. (2007). Last in first out? An investigation of the regression hypothesis in Dutch emigrants in Anglophone Canada. *Toegepaste Taalwetenschap in Artikelen, 78*(2).

Keijzer, M. (2007). Is taalverlies het spiegelbeeld van taalverwerving? *Over Taal: Tijdschrift over Taal, Tekst en Communicatie, 46*(4).

Keijzer, M. & Schmid, M.S. (2005). Building language attrition research. *Toegepaste Taalwetenschap in Artikelen, 74*(2).

Keijzer, M. (2004). The role of second language acquisition in first language attrition. *Bilingual Basics, 6*(2).

Keijzer, M. (2003). Remedioom als Remedie: Het effect van een visueel ingesteld remediërend computerprogramma op de Engelse spellingvaardigheid van leerlingen in het voortgezet onderwijs. *Toegepaste Taalwetenschap in Artikelen, 69*(1).

Keijzer, M. (2002). Remedioom als Remedie. *Tijdschrift voor Remedial Teachers, 10*.

SELECTED KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AND PLENARY CONFERENCE ADDRESSES

Number of keynote and invited presentations: 22

Selected keynote and invited presentations:

30th LIPP Symposium: Variation and Cognition in Language • Munich, Germany • May 2025

"Language Learning Never Gets Old: Comparing the effects of lifelong multilingual experiences to later life language learning on the cognitive and psychosocial health of older adults"

Multilingual Outcomes Across the Lifespan Workshop • Acqva Aurora Center, Arctic University of Norway • March 2024
"The link between multilingual life experiences and cognitive and mental health in older adulthood"

Language learning in older adults: Interdisciplinary perspectives • University of Essex, UK • June 2022

"The cognitive and socio-affective effects of third-age language learning in healthy older adults and older adults experiencing cognitive or mood problems"

Distinguished Lecture Series Hainan • Hainan Normal University, China • December 2021

"Language learning as a vaccine to promote healthy aging: the linguistic, social and cognitive effects of third-age language learning"

Faculty of Education lecture series • University in Ljubljana, Slovenia • November 2021

"Language learning as a vaccine to promote healthy aging: The linguistic, social and cognitive effects of third-age language learning"

The Multilingual Mind (MultiMind): International lecture series on multilingualism across disciplines • April 2021
"Language learning as a vaccine to promote healthy aging: the linguistic, social and cognitive effects of third-age language learning"

KNAW Symposium Meertalig Nederland • Trippenhuis Amsterdam, the Netherlands • December 2019

"Een nieuwe taal leren als middel om gezond ouder te worden? Het verband tussen meertaligheid en volksgezondheid"

Approaches to Language, Migration, and Identity (AMLI2019) • University of Essen, Germany • September 2019
"A lifetime of controlling experiences: Bilingualism as an experience-dependent mechanism governing aging"

Mehrsprachigkeitskolloquium • University of Dortmund, Germany • February 2017
"Bilingualism and healthy aging"

3rd International Conference on First Language Attrition • University of Essex, UK • July 2016
"Aging attriters: How methodological challenges can help construct bilingualism theories"

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

I have given paper presentations at the following venues, among others:

- European Second Language Association (EUROSLA: Aix-en-Provence, France; San Sebastian, Spain)
- International Conference on Language Attrition (Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Essex, UK)
- Cognitive Aging (Atlanta, USA)
- International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB: Edmonton, Canada; Oslo, Norway; Utrecht, Netherlands)
- Conference on Multilingualism (COM: Ghent, Belgium; Groningen, the Netherlands)
- American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL: Chicago; Portland; Orlando, USA)
- Bi/Multilingualism and the declining brain (Reading, UK)
- AILA Europe (Winterthur, Switzerland)
- Georgetown Roundtable in Linguistics (GURT) (Washington DC, USA)

STIPENDIA AND AWARDS

Total externally acquired research funding: € 3,593,724

Selected stipendia and awards:

NWO Talent Program: Vici • €1,496,670 • 2025

Center for Advanced Studies, Norway (CAS) Fellowship • 2024-2026

Ammodo Science Award • €350,000 • 2023

NWO PhD in the Humanities • €263,328 • 2022

Brain Sciences journal • Best Paper Award (best cited editorial choice paper) • 2018

Lecturer of the Year Nomination • Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen • 2019

NWO Talent Program: Vidi • €799,691 • 2018

Young Academy Groningen Interdisciplinary PhD Stipend • €115,200 • 2017

KNAW De Jonge Akademie • selected as member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (DJA) • 2017

Young Academy Groningen • selected as founding member • 2016

Rosalind Franklin Fellowship, University of Groningen • €266,000 • 2013

NWO Talent Program: Veni • €250,000 • 2009

TEACHING

I investigate the effects of lifelong (language) learning in my research lines, and teaching and co-learning with students across the lifespan is a natural extension of that. I view teaching as fully on a par with research as to university staff's premier tasks. I feel privileged to be able to share my passion for language sciences with my undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate classroom communities, and am inspired when they, too, grasp the pivotal role that language research plays in tackling major societal challenges. I am highly invested in interdisciplinary teaching, and teach and (co-)develop modules beyond the confines of my own faculty. Having taught at university level for over 20 years and at four different universities, I am more mindful than ever that each individual learning experience is a different one. I actively spend time in all of my courses to get to know my students and learn about, for instance, their multicultural backgrounds, or the fact they are first-generation university students, or that they are neurodivergent. This helps me in making my classroom as welcoming and effective as possible that celebrates the diverse experiences of its community members. My study outlines by default contain a diversity statement that I use as a point of entry and contracting in the first week of meeting any new class. My teaching evaluations are consistently very good to excellent and I was honored to be nominated for the best lecturer of the year award at my home institution in 2019. I have acted upon teaching innovation implementations in my capacity as chair of the Cluster Board of Culture, Language, Literature and Politics education in my Faculty of Arts in Groningen, and chair of the Continuous Professional Teaching Development committee within that same faculty. As chair group leader, I have had to lead my team in curriculum reforms due to budget cuts (2025-2027) and am proud to see how we cooperatively arrived at a strong new program in spite of financial challenges and uncertainties. As a next step, I want to commit to continuous and lifelong language learning trajectories, from primary to tertiary and post-tertiary education. Education should make a lasting and equitable impact for all individuals.

Number of undergraduate courses taught and (co-)developed: 27
Number of graduate courses taught and (co-)developed: 11
Number of post-graduate courses taught and (co-)developed: 3

ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT AND (CO-)DEVELOPED • UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

University of Groningen

- **Bachelor English Language & Culture:**
  - English linguistics: Sentence structure
  - English linguistics: Research tools
  - English for academic purposes: Research reports
  - Learning and teaching English as a second language
  - BA thesis course and supervision
- **Minor in Linguistics:**
  - Second language development: Language attrition
  - Second language processing: Experimental methods in psycholinguistics

Utrecht University

- **Bachelor English Language & Culture:**
  - Proficiency 1: Written English

    - Proficiency 2: Spoken English
    - Proficiency 3: Accurate English
    - Academic and research writing
    - Language development across the lifespan
    - Thesis training course
- **BA Honors Liberal Arts and Sciences:**
    - Academic English for non-native speakers
    - Academic English for native speakers

Delft University of Technology

- **Institute for Technology and Communication:**
    - Lower intermediate English
    - Upper intermediate English
    - Advanced English
    - Academic writing for PhD students
    - Spoken English
    - English pronunciation
    - English Admissions for staff (C1)
    - English Proficiency for staff (C2)
    - Oral presentations skills

VU University Amsterdam

- **Bachelor English Language & Culture:**
    - Introduction to phonetics
    - Language history and language change
    - Academic skills: oral presentation

ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT AND (CO-)DEVELOPED • GRADUATE LEVEL

University of Groningen

- **Research Master Language & Cognition:**
    - Language development
- **MA Linguistic: Applied Linguistics track:**
    - Second language development, teaching and assessment
    - Theories of second language development
    - MA thesis course and supervision
- **Masterlanguage inter-university curriculum:**
    - Learner corpus research and teaching methodology

Utrecht University

- **Educational Master:**
    - Language learning

- **Linguistics Master:**
  - Language acquisition and language attrition
- **Research Master in Linguistics:**
  - Special topics course: first language attrition
  - Term paper course: second language acquisition and the critical period
  - Linguistics rotation course: Bilingualism and aging
  - Comparative psycholinguistics

ACADEMIC COURSES TAUGHT AND (CO-)DEVELOPED • POST-GRADUATE LEVEL

- **Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics (LOT)** Research Master and PhD education:
  - Intermediate course: Multilingualism and Aging • University of Antwerp • 2025
  - State of the Art course: Language attrition • University of Groningen • 2018

- **Neuroscience and Cognition Summerschool** for PhD students:
  - The bilingual advantage effect and individual differences • Utrecht University • 2013

IMPACT

Impactful science in my view has two dimensions: scientific and societal impact. Across both of these dimensions, I see impact as creating a ripple effect: small acts can be meaningful and impact individuals, creating a community and group. That community, in turn, can have a more profound and sustained impact. In the scientific domain, I feel that academics create most impact by facilitating meaningful learning experiences for their students, from undergraduate to graduate and postgraduate levels. I find it important to instill in my students that academic excellence does not have to be at the expense of being kind. I find it important to monitor where my students end up, be it inside or outside of academia, and it prides me to see how they continue to live by these same academic conduct values. As chair of English Linguistics at my home institution, I am additionally responsible for the career advancement and enjoyment of 14 people under my line management. I support and equip them to be mindful about their own impact. In the societal domain, my group's research projects serve the people who need the outcomes. I am mindful of the time our research participants invest in our research protocols and, through newsletters and science festivals, give back to them. Additionally, I mindfully disseminate findings through venues such as science events, as well as newspaper and television outlets. I have sought collaborations with societal partners, through whom our research can be more impactful. My efforts were recognized in an invitation to join the Evening of Science and Society (Avond van Wetenschap & Maatschappij), an annual formal event celebrating the interconnectedness between science and societal impact, in 2025. Departing from both the scientific and societal impact, listed below are both PhD supervision as well as public engagement activities.

SCIENTIFIC IMPACT •

Chair of English Linguistics & English as a second Language | Line management tasks

Number of lecturers under supervision: 6
Number of assistant lecturers under supervision: 4
Number of associate lecturers under supervision: 2

Postdoc and PhD supervision

Number of PhD projects served on reading committee: 9
Number of PhD project served on promotion committee: 18

Completed PhD supervision projects:

Matthew Drury • defended September 2025 (cum laude)
Local to Global Ecolinguistics: In the name of sustainability

Joanna Porkert • defended May 2025
Can She Be a Trucker? Pronoun and Gender Processing in the Multilingual Brain

Sylwia Niewacz • defended May 2025 (external committee member Lublin University, Poland)
A Positive Aging Approach to Later-Life Language Learning: The Polish older adults' perspective

Floor van den Berg • defended November 2024
Introducing Bilingual Experience as a Healthy Cognitive Aging Tool

Jelle Brouwer • defended April 2024
Learning for Life: Investigating the potential of language learning as a non-pharmacological intervention in older adults with (past) depression

Wim Gombert • defended November 2022
From "Learning to Use" Towards "Using to Learn": Long-term effects of structure-based versus dynamic-based programs for French

Mara van der Ploeg • defended November 2023
Language Learning Never Gets Old: Learning a new language in later life

Saskia Nijmeijer • defended February 2023
Flexible Aging: A multidisciplinary approach to learning to preserve

Anna Pot • defended January 2019
Aging in Multilingual Netherlands: Effects on cognition, wellbeing & health

Yinxing Jin • defended February 2016
Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety: A study of Chinese university students of Japanese and English over time

Fathima Mufeeda Irshad • defended October 2015
Second Language Development through the Lens of a Dynamic Usage-Based Approach

Ongoing PhD supervision projects:

Janine Rook – University of Groningen
Genetics, Language Experience & Aging Project (G-LEAP)

Marlies Oegema – University of Groningen & Hanze University of Applied Sciences
Language in Interaction on the Dementia continuum

Beatriz Duarte – Sandwich PhD University of Groningen & University of Lausanne
The Lived Multilingual Experience of L1 Portuguese versus L1 English Immigrants in Switzerland: Bridging sociolinguistic experiences and psycholinguistic models of language development and attrition

Louisa Richter - Sandwich PhD University of Groningen & University of Bamberg
Effects of a Combined Physical and Cognitive Training on Healthy Older Adults and Older Adults on the Dementia Continuum

Sarah Stolle – external supervisor Vrije Universiteit Brussels
The Influence of Language Control in Learning an Additional Language

Annika Rossmanith – external supervisor University of Zurich
The Influence of Socio-Affective Factors on Second Language Development across Retirement

Ongoing Postdoc Project

Ellie Harding – University of Groningen

A Sign of Cognitive and Psychosocial Maintenance or Improvement? The cumulative effects of singing in a choir and sign language interventions in hearing-impaired older adults (CUSILA)

SOCIETAL IMPACT •

Nuffic TTO Network *Auxiliary Appointment*
Chair site visit committees to bilingual secondary schools that are part of Nuffic's TTO Network
The Netherlands Association for the Internationalization of Education

Societal research partners: Pharos, Alzheimer Nederland, Vilans, Golden Hearing, Biblionet Groningen

Selected public engagement activities (an exhaustive list can be found at www.balab.nl)

[Videos about my group's research projects can be found at https://www.balab.nl/public-engagement/video]

European Researchers' Night Forum Groningen "Laat Gronings je blij maken" • September 2025

https://forum.nl/nl/agenda/europese-nacht-van-de-onderzoekers

Alzheimer Nederland Webartikel "Een nieuwe taal leren verbetert je geheugen" • June 2025

https://www.alzheimer-nederland.nl/gezond-brein/artikelen/een-nieuwe-taal-leren-verbetert-je-geheugen?WebID=&utm_campaign=GZBNB_250528&utm_source=GZBNB&utm_medium=email

OOG op Wetenschap Podcast • May 2025

https://open.spotify.com/episode/2zVEh6prV6rwStlT0uQCrU?si=tk6Gdj3FRsmGp_SuQt2pzw&nd=1&dlsi=15f434e6c45445f8

New York Times Magazine "Can you lose your native tongue?" • May 2024

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/14/magazine/native-language-loss.html

Volkskrant Wetenschap "Hoe leer je snel een nieuwe taal?" • August 2023

https://www.volkskrant.nl/beter-leven/hoe-leer-je-snel-een-nieuwe-taal~b293c6b4/

NPO Radio 1 "Taal als medicijn" • March 2023

https://www.nporadio1.nl/fragmenten/nieuws-en-co/007db7c2-d853-4460-89c1-1370c2a54002/2023-03-07-persoonlijk-taal-als-medicijn

Kletsheads Podcast "Meertaligheid en ouderdom" • April 2022

https://kletsheadspodcast.nl/2022/07/01/meertaligheid-en-ouderdom-seizoen-3-aflevering-11/

Weekendschool Groningen • January 2022

“Wat doet een wetenschapper”

Eva Jinek Talkshow “Wat is de link tussen meertaligheid en gezond ouder worden?” • October 2021
https://embed.rtl.nl/?uuid=e28d1e05-a41e-49da-92ef-181885e1dc37&publicatiepunt=rtlsharenl&autoplay=false

Universiteit van Nederland Podcast “Leef je langer als je twee talen spreekt?” • August 2021

BNR Nieuwsradio “Veroudering hersenen tegengaan met tweetaligheid” • August 2018
https://www.bnr.nl/podcast/wetenschap-vandaag/10351590/veroudering-hersenen-tegengaan-met-tweetaligheid

De Wereld Draait Door TV Show “Taalverlies in emigranten” • September 2009
https://www.bnnvara.nl/videos/236884

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP

Responsible academia is as much about science serving sustainable societal goals as safeguarding sustainable academia itself. In many respects, impactful science closely ties in with academic citizenship. I strongly believe that academia is the most beautiful workplace, but also see its demanding nature, with social safety questions being raised in recent years. Especially more senior academics have a responsibility to ensure that academia is a safe space to grow and learn. Serving as vice-president of the Young Academy Groningen and (board) member of the Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts and Sciences (KNAW)'s Young Academy (De Jonge Akademie), my time on the board saw *ius promovendi* becoming available beyond full professorial ranks. Additionally, as a member of Groningen's Rewards and Recognition Steering Group, I facilitate debate on changing academic landscapes and intrinsic reward systems. I am currently Groningen's academic lead in the implementation of the languages and cultures theme within the National Sectorplan for the humanities and social sciences, and am committed to strengthening the humanities sector in the Netherlands.

Steering Groups and Program Boards

- Founder and PI of the Bilingualism and Aging Lab (BALAB) - University of Groningen • 2018 - present
- Masterlanguage Programme Board and Chair of the Disciplinary Team English • 2025 – present
- Academic Lead National Sectorplan Humanities (Theme: Languages & Cultures) - University of Groningen • 2024 – present
- Recognition and Rewards Steering Committee – University of Groningen • 2021 – present
- Secretary Steering Committee of the International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB) • 2019-2022
- Member Steering Committee of the Conference on Multilingualism (COM) • 2018 – 2022
- Founder and co-PI of the Language and Aging Lab – Utrecht University • 2012-2013
- Coordinator of the Bilingualism and Multilingualism in Utrecht (BIMU) research group – Utrecht University • 2012-2013

Academic Board memberships

Member Advisory Board Social Sciences and Humanities – Dutch Research Council (NWO) • 2025 – 2028

Chair Advisory Board – Center for Language and Cognitive Groningen – University of Groningen • 2025 – present

Chair Committee Continuous Professional Teaching Development – Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen • 2023 – 2025

Chair Cluster Board 2 – Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen • 2022 – 2024
Cluster Culture, Language, Literature and Politics
Comprising educational programs: BA English Language and Culture; BA European Languages and Cultures; MA Euroculture; MA Literary Studies; University minor Gender & Diversity
Task focus: strategic personnel plan; social safety working group

Secretary Cluster Board 2 – Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen • 2019 – 2022
Cluster Culture, Language, Literature and Politics

Comprising educational programs: BA English Language and Culture; BA European Languages and Cultures; MA Euroculture; MA Literary Studies; University minor Gender & Diversity

BCN Board Member – University of Groningen • 2019 – 2023
Interdisciplinary Research School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience

Board member KNAW's De Jonge Akademie (DJA) • 2019 – 2021
Responsible for: *Content and Interdisciplinarity*

Vice-president Young Academy Groningen • 2016 – 2019

President of the Dutch Association of Applied Linguistics (Anélà) • 2013 – 2015

General Board member of the Dutch Association of Applied Linguistics (Anélà) • 2010 – 2013

Academic event organization

- BCN Symposium Speak your Mind: The role of language processing in detecting and improving cognitive and mental health problems • University of Groningen & University Medical Center Groningen • December 2023
- AILA World Conference on Applied Linguistics • University of Groningen • August 2021
- Symposium Multilingual Aging: Effects on cognition, wellbeing and health • University of Groningen • August 2021
- Conference on Multilingualism (COM2017) • University of Groningen • November 2017
- Multilingualism Winterschool • University of Groningen • November 2017
- International Conference on Bilingualism and Cognitive Aging • University of Groningen • January 2015
- 1st International Conference on First Language Attrition • VU University Amsterdam • 2002

Academic conference committees

I served as academic conference committee member for the following events, among others:

- Conference on Multilingualism (COM)
- International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB)
- European Second Language Association (EUROSLA)
- Georgetown Roundtable in Linguistics (GURT)

Academic editorial tasks

I served as reviewer for the following academic journals, among others:

- Bilingualism: Language and Cognition
- Language Learning
- Studies in Second Language Acquisition
- International Journal of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education
- Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development

- Cognitive Science
- Educational Gerontology
- Journal of Neurolinguistics
- Language
- Journal of Child Language
- Frontiers in Psychology

Grant scheme reviewer

I served as reviewer and committee member for the following grant schemes and funding agencies:

- Dutch Research Council (NWO)
    - PhD in the Humanities (committee member: 2025)
    - Open Competition M Social Sciences and Humanities (committee member: 2022)
    - Open Competition Social Sciences and Humanities (committee member: 2020)
    - Talent program: Rubicon (committee member: 2018-2019)
    - Talent program: Veni (external reviewer)
    - Talent program: Vidi (external reviewer)

- Other grant schemes and funding agencies:
    - British Academy/Leverhulme (external reviewer)
    - American National Science Foundation NSF (external reviewer)

Other Academic citizenship tasks

Panel member of the research accreditation for the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL) – Leiden University • 2024

Working group member for the conceptualization of faculty-wide courses (curriculum reform) – Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen • 2024 - 2025

Language Development and Neurolinguistics Research Group coordinator – Center for Language and Cognition Groningen • 2019 – 2022

Chair VIOT/ Anéla Master thesis award
Chair of the annual award committee for the best master thesis written in the Netherlands or Belgium in the realm of Applied Linguistics

Chair of the BCN Dissertation award committee
Chair of the annual award committee for the best PhD dissertation written as part of one of five faculties of the University of Groningen affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Research School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience