

AMSTERDAM CENTER
FOR LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION

Annual report ACLC

2024

A note from the Director

Dear all,

You will find here our annual report in which we offer a snippet of some of the activities that were carried out within our community in 2024. Each academic year is of course a beginning of new initiatives, sometimes involving new colleagues, and a continuation of ongoing projects or activities.

In November 2024, the ACLC was assessed together with other AIHR research schools. The assessment covered our activities and development during 2018-2023. The assessment was very positive as you may have seen from the report. The committee writes that "[it] recognizes ACLC as a highly esteemed research centre in linguistics, demonstrating world-class excellence in some subdisciplines and exploring multiple aspects of the interaction of mind, language, and society [...] The committee endorses the self-evaluation report's characterization of ACLC's ambition [...] to maintain [this] status". I would like to take the opportunity of this annual report to thank you all again for actively helping with both writing our self-evaluation and hosting the committee during the site visit. The assessment committee issued three main recommendations which we have already been acting upon in the past and will continue to in the coming future. These include (i) a more systematic diversity policy in hiring procedure, (ii) grant applications to various ERC schemes, and (iii) an even more efficient monitoring of our PhD candidates.

As I had already informed you, Julia Noordegraaf, Director of the Amsterdam Institute for Humanities Research (AIHR), has offered me the opportunity to keep my function for another three years, and I have accepted. With your collaboration, I hope to devote these coming three years focusing on the committee's recommendations so as to ensure the sustainability of our institute, especially in times of hardship.

I'm very proud of what we achieve together year after year in our scientific community. I'm grateful to all for your dedication to making the ACLC an excellent and pleasant research institute engaged in both fundamental research and solving societal questions.

Sincerely yours,

Enoch O. Aboh
Director ACLC

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1. Profile and Societal Relevance

The Amsterdam Centre for Language and Communication (ACLC) is a world-renowned research and training institute focusing on ***Constraints on Variation in Human Language, Communication, and Cognition***. A unique aspect of the human species is language: it translates our thoughts into communication, while at the same time, it permeates all aspects of culture. As an interface between the human mind and the outer world we engage with and act upon, language can inform us on the mind itself and on how humans 'see' the outer world, the societies we live in and the challenges we face. The ACLC seeks to understand this complex interaction through an integrative and inclusive approach that favours collaboration across competing paradigms and methods in order to develop interdisciplinary solutions for the scientific community and society. Good science, the ACLC believes, is an endeavour that aims to solve both scientific and societal questions.

As such, the ACLC is the academic home to a large community of scholars involving PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, as well as faculty. It has its own SpeechLab and a SignLab. Over the years, the ACLC has remained a major actor in the field of the study of language learning and language uses in their different facets, language technologies, and the implications of these studies in society. In this regard, ACLC's scientific and educational policy to bridge fundamental research and societal impact focuses in particular on domains such as multilingualism and communication, second language acquisition and/or language impairment in education, autism, cancer and speech-loss, deafness, sign language in education and society, and persuasive communication. The ACLC further prides itself for its active and involved PhD community.

The ACLC is managed through a bottom-up structure. Research within this institute is carried out in thematic Research Groups (RGs). In December 2024, the ACLC involved 21 different RGs. This number may, however, fluctuate because RGs only exist for the duration of the thematic programs they carry out. ACLC thematic RGs thus form hubs of collaborative research activities and are the anchoring point of both national and international initiatives. ACLC's integrative and collaborative approach is instantiated, for instance, in the RG *Language and Cognition in Argumentation* where neurolinguists and argumentation and rhetoric specialists collaborate to develop new courses, tutorials, internships, and research projects, including how the human mind evaluates arguments in a discussion. Such topics are urgent in a world in which societal choices are debated on online platforms, where actors are subject to algorithmic biases. The coordinators of the RGs form the Advisory Board.

2. Governance

Our current structure includes a Director, an Advisory Board, a Scientific Council, a Coordinator, and an Office Manager. Since September 2019, prof. dr. Enoch O. Aboh has been the director of the ACLC. The ACLC director is also a member of the Research Council (*Onderzoeksraad*) of the faculty. This council consists of the directors of the six Research Schools and the director of the Amsterdam Institute for Humanities Research (AIHR). This board develops research policies and ensures their implementation within the Faculty.

The ACLC Advisory Board

The director of the ACLC consults with the ACLC Advisory Board on all important matters. These include research strategy, evaluation of research groups, research proposals, the elaboration of job profiles, and the selection of PhD candidates. This Advisory Board consists of the coordinators of the research groups, a PhD candidate representative elected by the PhD candidates for one academic year, and a Postdoc representative. The ACLC PhD-representatives in the academic year 2024 were Anne-Mieke Thieme (until September 2024) and Golshid Shekoufandeh (from September 2024). The ACLC postdoc representatives in 2024 were Sybren Spit (until September 2024) and Jasmijn Bosch (from September 2024). The ACLC organogram can be found in the Appendix.

The Scientific Council

The ACLC has an external committee, the Scientific Council, consisting of three members. This council has the task of advising the ACLC Management and Advisory Board on general questions of policy and quality control. The Scientific Council consists of Prof. Richard Gerrig (Stony Brook University), prof. Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm (Stockholm University) and prof. Bencie Woll (University College London).

The ACLC Office

The ACLC Director is supported by ACLC Coordinator, a role filled by Ava Creemers from April 2022 until March 2024 and by Tessa Arneri from April 2024. Together, the ACLC director and coordinator are responsible for the day-to-day management of the research school. The Office Manager is responsible for administrative support. Dian Hulsebosch held this position until March 2024 after which Ruby van Hooijdonk took over.

3. Brief summary of activities

Research groups

As of December 2024, a total of 21 research groups exist within the ACLC, as listed below. The research groups focus on specific themes and thereby transcend subfields.

- Comparative (Slavic) Verbal Aspect
- Complexity
- Corpus-based and/or Computational Approaches to Language and Literature (CCALL)
- Crossing Language Borders
- DeepFon
- Deliberate linguistic innovation
- Empirical Foundations of Phonology
- Habituals
- Historical sociolinguistics
- Lab Linguistics
- Language, emomtion and wellbeing
- Language Learning, Literacy, and Multilingualism
- Language and Cognition in Argumentation
- Lexical restrictions
- Linguistic Variation constrained by Cognition, Acquisition and Social context
- Linguistics for All
- Oncology-Related Communication Disorders
- Persuasive discourse across domains
- Relevance & multimodal communication
- Serial Verb Constructions across Modalities
- SignLab Amsterdam

ACLC Day 2024

During the ACLC Day, ACLC members meet to welcome newly hired staff members, congratulate PhD candidates who passed their 'pilot' phase. Also, new PhD candidates and guest researchers are given the floor to introduce themselves and their projects. This festive moment also offers the opportunity to reflect together on a specific research topic (e.g., open science, lab skills) and interact more across disciplines. In 2024, the ACLC-day took place on 12 April 2024. The program consisted of introductions by newly joined PhDs (Sarah der Nederlanden, Bart Siekman, Golshid Shekoufandeh, Harrie Reynolds, Mili Gabrovsek Sanders, André Looijenga, Yi Ai, Rosa Zaaijer, and Niklas Abel)), newly appointed UDs (Thom Westveer, Marloes Oomen, Riccardo Giomi, and Henning Radke), postdoc Sybren Spit, newly appointed full professor Jean Wagemans, and guest researchers (Zhang Cong, Xiufeng Zhao, and Maria Garraffa). In addition, the Lab Linguistics research group gave a presentation on *How to get started with your Lab Linguistics* (Marloes Roosingh, Ray Pelupessy), and we celebrated the PhD-candidates who have completed their pilots by presenting their first results to the ACLC community during a poster session (Erik Vellinga, Jia Zhangjingwen, Martijn Kingma, Rui Cai, Owen Kapelle, Michaela Watkins, Corrine

Foko Mokam, Sarah der Nederlanden, and Bart Siekman). The day was moderated by Anne-Mieke Thieme and ended with end with drinks and finger food at Brakke Grond.

Welcome Back Talks

We opened the new academic year on Friday 6 September, with presentations by thirteen research group coordinators about the goals, themes and activities of their groups. These were followed by a presentation by Rosa Zaaijer, who spoke about her experience with gathering data for her pilot study at *Lowlands Science*. The event concluded with drinks in the Leeuwenkuil at the P.C. Hoofthuis.

ACLC-seminars

On Friday afternoons, the ACLC organises a seminar series. During these sessions, researchers from the UvA as well as other (inter)national universities present their work. Research Groups are responsible for the program of the ACLC seminars. The ACLC-seminars in 2024 were:

Date	Speaker (affiliation)	Title
27 January	Ceyhun Servi	Assessing Language in Children With Autism: Spontaneous Language Sampling.
9 February	Hein van der Voort	Isolate languages of Rondônia, Brazil: Details from the field and general observations
16 February	Edsoun Souza	An FDG analysis of adverbs in South American native languages: first results.
15 March	Cindy van Boven	Morphological reduplication in Sign Language of the Netherlands.
22 March	Lab Linguistics	From observation in the world to study in the lab – two case studies & discussion
19 April	Yury Fedorushkov	Repository of neologisms in the Russian local press from the period – 1996–2006: more than 10,000 words: the interactive dictionary.
24 May	Joris van Zundert & Marijn Koolen	Fictional Effects or the Effects of Fiction: What do Online Reader Reviews Tell Us About the Impact of Novels?
21 June	Karen Roehr Brackin	Inductive instruction at beginner level: The contribution of metalinguistic awareness at the earliest stages of adult L2 learning
28 June	Bénéicte Grandon	Interactions between low- and high-level linguistic processing abilities in school-aged children with cochlear implants
13 September	Sharice Clough	Multimodal communication in adults with acquired brain injury: Advancing theory, methods, and communicative outcomes
27 September	Angelica Rodrigues	Tongue protrusion as a negation strategy in Tiros Sign Language (Brazil).

4 October	Thomas Moors	How singing, acting, beatboxing and writing poetry contribute to speech recovery and social reintegration after laryngectomy
9 October	Barbara Hans-Bianchi	Observations from an English – (Plain) Pennsylvania German translation corpus
11 October	Alex Housen & Bram Bulté	Difficulty in second language acquisition and applied linguistics research – a complex(ity) matter
15 November	Mily Crevels	The structure of Itonama body-part terms
13 December	Chao Zhou	L1 tonal learners may use unexpected abstract knowledge to acquire L2 lexical stress

The Linguistics Research Fair

The Research Fair is an initiative of ACLC PhDs and provides an opportunity for junior and senior ACLC researchers to present their research/project to BA and (r)MA students of linguistics as well as other faculty of the Department of Literary Studies & Linguistics. The Research Fair gives a platform to PhD-students, researchers and teachers to present their research to (r)MA and/or BA students (Linguistics/CLC). The purpose of the event is twofold: on the one hand, students can use this platform to get some directions and ideas for their thesis/tutorials, or for a research internship. On the other hand, faculty take this opportunity to present their work and 'recruit' students who can collaborate to their research by investigating a specific question or by collecting and/or analysing data. This collaboration can take the form of a thesis, a tutorial or an internship. The fair was held online on Friday 15 November and was organized by Bart Siekman and Elise van Wonderen. On Tuesday 19 November, a social get-together was organized, to give students the chance to talk to the ACLC researchers in an informal setting.

4. Societal impact

The ACLC encourages collaborations with policy makers as well as practitioners involving, for instance, schools, professionals, parents, and other societal target groups. ACLC accomplishments in this regard can be measured via attendance of ACLC public events (e.g., the SignLab open day), websites developed for practitioners or parents or public policies informed by ACLC research (as was the case with regard to the MIND project) . The ACLC takes pride in the visibility and usefulness of its research in society. The school therefore values projects that are commissioned by societal institutions or when research time of faculty members are funded by societal parties. Likewise, the ACLC values fellowships attributed to its members by societal funds (e.g., Niels Stensen Fellowship) as well as awards made to ACLC scholars who won public competitions (e.g., Science battle). Furthermore, the contribution of ACLC scholars who appear in the media (printed, radio or television) is acknowledged and valued.

Based on the output registered in *Pure,* we provide a few examples of valorisation activities in 2024.

Interviews in the media

Several ACLC members were invited to share their expert insights across various Dutch media channels in 2024. **Anne-Mieke Thieme** appeared on the NEMO Kennislink Podcast *Oplossing gezocht*[1] to talk about the benefits of pre-school education for children's language development. On the radio show OOG op Wetenschap[2], **Floor van den Berg** was asked to explain how actively learning new skills can help you age more healthily. **Arjen Versloot** was part of the documentary *De leste zeuventig: Verdwijnt het West-Fries?*[3]. On the television programme *Radar*, **Liesbeth Zack** made an appearance to talk about Arabic names.

Linguistics Institutes

The African Linguistics School (ALS)[4] co-founded and co-organised by **Enoch O. Aboh** took place at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. This school was partially sponsored by the AIHR.

[1] https://www.nemokennislink.nl/publicaties/voorsprong-voor-school/

[2] https://open.spotify.com/episode/70K0COL4QufOkijsFHU8aI?si=M3moOG1bTiS84FtwnRJhWw&nd=1&dlsi=08b6bd16b58a4f77

[3] https://www.streekomroepwestfriesland.nl/de-leste-zeuventig-hoe-erg-wordt-het-west-friese-dialect-met-uitsterven-bedreigd/

[4] https://sites.google.com/view/als6/home

6. News about ACLC members

PhD Candidates

In 2024, a total of six PhD candidates joined the ACLC:

- **Rosa Zaaijer** joined the ACLC in January 2024. The title of her project is *Novel Event Learning in Language and Cognition* and she is supervised by Monique Flecken, Cailtin Meyer, and Marieke Schouwstra.
- **Niklas Abel** joined the ACLC in February 2024. The title of his project is *Multilingual language teaching in pre-vocational secondary education* and he is supervised by Sible Andringa, Catherine van Beuningen and Linda Gijsen.
- **Annemieke de Jong Haarlem** joined the ACLC in September 2024. The title of her project is *Improving conversational skills in modern foreign language with digital technology* and she is supervised by Sible Andringa, Marrit van de Guchte, Marijke Kral and Elvira Folmer.
- **Carolina de Groot** joined the ACLC in September 2024. The title of her project is *Kritische doeltaalgebruikers: de integratie van taalbewustzijn en digitale geletterdheid in het vreemdetalenonderwij*s and she is supervised by Sible Andringa, Jean Wagemans and Marrit van de Guchte.
- **Bipasha van der Zijde** joined the ACLC in September 2024. The title of her project is *'Protecting all my relatives'- Investigating Journalistic Framing and Arguments in Climate Migration Communication and their impact on Public Perception* and she is supervised by Jean Wagemans and Christel van Eck.
- **David Mateus** joined the ACLC in December 2024. The title of his project is *Inclusive language in French: challenges for L2 education* and he is supervised by Thom Westveer, Enoch Aboh and Petra Sleeman.

Nine PhD candidates (Corrine Foko Mokam, Sarah der Nederlanden, Bart Siekman, André Looijenga, Golshid Shekoufandeh, Harrie Reynolds, Mili Gabrovsek Sanders, Yi Ai and Rosa Zaaijer) successfully defended their pilot studies. Six PhD candidates defended their dissertations:

- **Aartje van Dijk**: Effects of instruction in writing-to-learn in different disciplines and types of education (supervisors: Folkert Kuiken and Amos van Gelderen)
- **Dunja Wackers**: Argumentative resistance to violence metaphors for cancer. An analytical study of argumentation against metaphor (supervisors: Gerard Steen and Jose Plug)
- **Cindy van Boven**: Morphological reduplication in Sign Language of the Netherlands. A typological and theoretical perspective (supervisors: Roland Pfau and Silke Hamann)
- **Natalia Rivera-Vera:** Word Learning. When Associative Learning Meets Social-Pragmatic Expectations (supervisors: Judith Rispens, Sible Andringa, Padraic Monaghan, and Edmundo Kronmüller Rioseco)
- **Kathrine Walker**: Conditional Indexing (supervisors: Kees Hengeveld, Eva van Lier, and Sonja Riesberg)
- **Lois Kemp:** English evidential -ly adverbs from a functional perspective (supervisors**:** Kees Hengeveld, Olga Fischer, and Hella Olbertz)

Post-doctoral researchers

In September 2024, one postdoc joined the ACLC: **Floor van den Berg** , working on a project titled Multilingual Language Processing: Case studies in Belize and Benin, as part of the NWO awarded project *Crossing language borders: A quest for the human language capacity in West Africa and Central America*.

Newly appointed Associate Professors

The ACLC welcomed two new Assistant Professors in 2024. Henning Radke, an ACLC graduate, started his new position in April 2024, and focuses on multilingualism in (post)colonial contexts from a sociolinguistic and pragmatic perspective. Previously a postdoc at the ACLC, Kimberley Mulder started as Assistant Professor in August, focusing on motivation and emotion in second language acquisition.

7. Awarded Research Grants and prizes

The ACLC has demonstrated a strong capacity in acquiring personal and/or collaborative grants. The institute has developed a synergy with the Faculty Grant Team that allows an early identification of the members of the institute who are eligible to various grant schemes, and in collaboration with the AIHR, giving them the necessary support to succeed in their applications.

The following ACLC members were awarded external grants in 2024:

- **Judith Rispens** was awarded a NRO-grant (2024-2024), together with the Kohnstamm Institute (project title: *Effectmeting van NELI in het SBO*)
- **Jean Wagemans** participated as co-applicant in an NWO Open Competitie L grant which is led by a dr J.A. van Laar at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (project title: The normativity of multimodal arguments).

8. ACLC funds

For detailed information about the implementation of the 2024 strategic budget (‘*beleidsbudget*’), please contact the ACLC management via aclc-fgw@uva.nl.

9. Research Output

A total of 168 works were published by ACLC members in 2024. An analysis of these research outputs in terms of their publication category (where Academic refers to publications aimed at fellow academics; Professional refers to publications aimed at professionals in the public and private sector; and Popular refers to publications aimed at the general public) and the Open Access status of these articles can be found below.

Analysis of Count on Research outputs

Publication category	Peer-reviewed	Current publication status > Date > Year	Count
Academic	Not peer-reviewed	2024	13
	Peer-reviewed	2024	99
	-	2024	17
Professional	-	2024	8
Popular	-	2024	31

Open Access status	Count
Open	91
Embargoed	3
Closed	20
Indeterminate	5
None	49

Appendix: ACLC Organogram

