



AMSTERDAM CENTER
FOR LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION



Annual report ACLC 2019
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A note from the Director

In August 2019, I took over the leadership of the ACLC, following Paul Boersma who has led our institute for five successful years. I would like to thank Paul for his dedication to the institute and for our achievements under his leadership.

In the Fall 2019, the ACLC continued its research and community activities, and began a discussion around the questions regarding how to consolidate our unique profile, and how to meet the three challenges below which, according to me, will shape the future of our institute:

- (i) Becoming even more successful in acquiring (inter)national research grants.
- (ii) Developing an inclusive research community and a school of thought strongly anchored in interdisciplinary work involving a multifaceted approach to the study of Language, Communication, and Cognition.
- (iii) Engaging in strategic hiring of new talented staff who complement the different expertise in our institute, and bring in new horizons necessary for the development of innovative theories and methodologies.

In the past few months, despite the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, we have made significant headways in order to meet these challenges, and we have taken additional steps to further social safety within our institute. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment to the ACLC during these challenging times.

Enoch O. Aboh
Director ACLC

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Profile and Societal Relevance

The ACLC is a world-known research and training institute focusing on ***Constraints on Variation in Human Language and Communication***. Human languages and communication systems involve a duality that calls for explanation. On the one hand, they display readily observable differences across visual, oral, or symbolic (e.g., writing) modalities. On the other hand, these systems exhibit remarkable similarities, some of which apparently correlate with human learning biases. There is a unity in the apparent chaos of human language and communication systems. The ACLC investigates the nature of the constraints underlying this unity, be they related to human biology (e.g., anatomy of speech/signing organs, auditory and visual systems, brain structure), human psychology (e.g., processing capacity), and human social interactions and conventions. Unravelling these constraints will shed new light on what makes us most human: the ability to acquire and use languages.

The ACLC acknowledges at least two equally valid methodological sources of evidence of these constraints: generalizations about spontaneous data observed and elicited in the field, and behavioural experiments executed under controlled conditions. Observations of naturally occurring language involve the study of language use or corpora, the study of persuasive language use in various contexts (e.g., legal, medical), the study of the acquisition of language and appropriate communication by children and adults, the study of diachronic changes in language and communication systems, the comparative study of language structure and communication systems, with a special interest in the description of under-documented and endangered languages. Results obtained in these studies in turn lead to theoretical hypotheses that are further tested in behavioural experiments performed in controlled settings.

The ACLC is strongly engaged in developing and promoting research tools that are necessary for its mission, and useful to the scientific community. Accordingly, ACLC adopts an inclusive perspective integrating different research methods necessary for truly interdisciplinary research. ACLC research is organized within sixteen thematic **research groups** which represent the hubs of research activities, but exist only for the duration of the research program they carry out. Research groups that were active in 2019 can be found on the following [websites](#). These research groups regularly organise various local and (inter)national events during which new research ideas, pilot studies, or (partial) results of ongoing projects are discussed within the community. ACLC research groups therefore serve as a stimulating learning and research environment for both junior (e.g., rMA, PhD, Postdocs), and senior scholars.

In a constant effort to promote excellent research and teaching in the domain of language and communication, ACLC scholars actively contribute to the Graduate School's teaching programs thus enabling students to partake in research activities. The research group is also the level on which the ACLC collaborates with other parties in Amsterdam, namely the ILLC, the NKI, the VU, or participates in Research Priority Areas of the UvA (e.g., ABC, a university-wide platform involving psychologists, economists, neurologists, and biologists).

Research conducted within the ACLC has a **strong root in communities**, namely when it comes to public debates concerning social inclusion. The ACLC is one of the few institutes in the world that tie together scientific and social topics, such as, the effect of multilingualism, second language acquisition or language impairment in education; autism, language, and education; doctor-patient communication, cancer and speech-loss, deafness and education, persuasive communication, and social inclusion. A large number of ACLC publications aimed at professionals and the general public attests to this commitment. So does the engagement of ACLC scholars in North-South knowledge exchange through short-stay teaching or summer schools organised in the Global South.

Early 2019, the ACLC received the final report on the research review of the institute covering a six-year period from 2012 to 2017. During this process the appointed committee successively assessed 4 research centres in other universities which are all partners in LOT, the national research school of linguistics. This process allowed the ACLC to further evaluate its position within the field both nationally and internationally. In its review, the committee stresses that the excellent reputation of the ACLC, its flexible structure, and adequate resources represent a strong foundation to face future challenges (e.g., team science; acquisition of (inter)national research grants; strategic hiring of talented scholars). The assessment committee further concludes that the quality of ACLC research is very high.

Governance

Our current structure includes a Director, an Advisory Board, a Scientific Council, a Coordinator, and an Office Manager. Until August 2019, prof. dr. Paul Boersma was the director of the ACLC. He is succeeded by prof. dr. Enoch O. Aboh. 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 post-doc representative chosen by the post-doctoral researchers for a period of one year (in 2019 this was Josje Verhagen), and a PhD candidate representative elected by the PhD candidates also for one year. Marieke Olthof fulfilled this function until August 2019, and is succeeded by Thom Westveer since September 2019.

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, quality control, staff development etc. The Scientific Council consists of Prof. Richard Gerrig, prof. Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm and prof. Bencie Woll.

The ACLC Coordinator and Office Manager

The ACLC Director is supported by ACLC Coordinator Brigit van der Pas. Together, they are responsible for the day-to-day management of the research school. Office Manager Marijke Vuijk is responsible for administrative support.

Brief summary of activities

Current ACLC research is organized within sixteen thematic **research groups** which represent the hubs within which research is carried out: group members typically meet on a weekly/monthly basis for presentations/discussions on ongoing projects. In addition, the research groups organize small-scale international workshops in which (partial) results are presented to the community. Some of these workshops are organised conjointly with PhD thesis defense, the presentation of a newly published volume or the kick off of a research project. In 2019, the ACLC hosted, or sponsored several such workshops/colloquia some of which involved participation of international invited speakers. These events are listed below:

- 9/1 LOT Winter School Schultink Lecture, guest lecture by Prof. Sharon Peperkamp, Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique, Paris
- 15/2 Professor Petra Schulz (Goethe-University Frankfurt) and Professor Jeffrey Lidz (University of Maryland, College Park) guest speakers on the occasion of Caitlin Meyer's PhD defense
- 23/5 (With the Meertens Institute) Germanic Sandwich 2019

- 28/8 Metaphor Festival Amsterdam 2019 with keynote speakers prof. Anjan Chatterjee (University of Pennsylvania) and Dr Bodo Winter (University of Birmingham).
- 1/10 Vulnerability in Heritage Languages, a workshop to mark Brechje van Osch's PhD defense, with invited speakers prof. Jason Rothman (The Arctic University of Tromsø), Dr Maria del Carmen Parafita Couto (Leiden University), and Dr Cristina Flores (Universidade do Minho).
- 22/10 Professor Alison Wray (Cardiff University) guest speaker on the occasion of Imogen Cohen's PhD defense
- 13/11 "TaalOntwikkeling in Kinderen" Day (TOK day), with invited speakers Dr Jolien Faes (University of Antwerp), prof. Ben Maassen (University of Groningen), Dr Caitlin Meyer (University of Amsterdam), Dr Sharon Unsworth (Radboud University), Prof. Frank Wijnen (Utrecht University)
- 29/11 Prof. Camilla Bardel (Stockholm University) guest speaker on the occasion of Rosalinde Stadt's PhD defense
- 6/12 (with the Meertens Institute) Language Contact Symposium. This workshop involved several national guests speakers, and the following international guest speakers, Peter Bakker (Aarhus University), James Essegbey (University of Florida), Silvia Kouwenberg (The University of the West Indies at Mona), Jeanine Treffers-Daller (Reading University).

The ACLC is strongly engaged in developing a scientific community whose research and applied outputs are anchored in the broader society. To this end, we organise a general meeting for all members once a year to discuss the profile of our institute and further reflect on how our activities relate to current social challenges. In April 2019, this meeting focused on the *Nationale Wetenschapsagenda* (NWA, Dutch Research Agenda in order to inform the ACLC community about the NWA grant opportunities, and discuss how ACLC research relates (or could be related) to the NWA initiative.

Community development is further strengthened by ACLC-wide activities in which members collaborate to discuss methods and viewpoints outside their immediate area of expertise. Such events include:

- The Linguistics Research Fair, an initiative of ACLC PhD's, is an opportunity for junior and senior ACLC researchers to present their research/project to master students as well as other lecturers of the Department of Literary Studies & Linguistics. While this initiative allows ACLC members to make their research known to the UvA academic community at large, it is specifically designed to make it possible for master students to familiarise with the research conducted at the institute. This way, master students can be inspired by work being done within the ACLC and engage actively in a project

of their choice as research assistant. In so doing, master students can experience research as part of their training. In 2019, the Linguistics Research Fair took place on November 22nd.

- The “[[NOAP](#)]-dag”: During this event, both PhD candidates and senior researchers present their work. Also, new PhD candidates and guest researchers are given the floor to introduce themselves and their projects. The 2019 edition was held on December 13th. (The program can be found here: <https://aihr.uva.nl/content/events/events/2019/12/aclc-noap-dag.html>)
- The ACLC seminars: Nearly every other Friday afternoon the ACLC organizes a seminar. During these sessions, researchers from the UvA as well as other (inter)national universities present their work. In 2019, the ACLC seminar hosted:
 - 15/2 Prof. Jeffrey Lidz (University of Maryland, College Park): *First wait - then integrate. How children master the comprehension of complex sentences*
 - 15/2 Prof. Petra Schulz (University of Frankfurt): *On the Nature and Origin of Principle C*
 - 15/3 Prof. Geoff Pullum (University of Edinburgh): *Syntactic Theory from a Model-Theoretic Perspective*
 - 12/4 Dr Tom Lentz (UvA): *Machine learning as a tool for linguistic pattern comparisons: two applications in phonetics/phonology*
 - 26/4 Merel Maslowski & Joe Rodd (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen): *Speech rate variation: how to perceive fast and slow speech, and how to speed up and slow down in speech production*
 - 10/5 Dr Jody Polleck (Hunter College, CUNY): *Utilizing Book Clubs for Social-Emotional and Literacy Development with Linguistically, Culturally, and Neurally Diverse Students*
 - 24/5 Dr Calle Börstell (Radboud University Nijmegen): *Grammaticalization of differential object marking (DOM) across sign languages*
 - 7/6 Dr Dineke Schokkin (Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific): *Verbal number and aspect in Idi, a language of Papua New Guinea*
 - 21/6 Dr Sterre Leufkens (UU): *The typology of learnability: A tale of two projects*
 - 6/9 Dr Nivja de Jong (Leiden University): *Speaking fluency viewed from different research perspectives*
 - 20/9 Dr Rabia Ergin (Max Plank Institute): *Language Emergence and Development in the Absence of Conventionalized Linguistic Input*
 - 4/10 Dr Nel de Jong (UvA): *The role of vocabulary breadth and depth in second language speaking and writing*

- 18/10 Dr Charles Forceville (UvA): *Analyzing metaphors of depression in animation films*
- 1/11 Dr Esther Janse (RU Nijmegen): *Poor listeners and speakers (and the things we ask our participants to do)*
- 15/11 Sune Gregersen Rygard (UvA): *Historical variation in verbal constructions: Two case studies from West Germanic*
- 29/11 Prof. Camilla Bardel (Stockholm University): *The study of Third Language Acquisition. Potential pedagogical implications*

The ACLC is also committed to training young scholars in collaboration with other national universities under LOT. In this regard, the ACLC hosted the **2019 LOT Winter School**. The school took place on 7th-18th January 2019 and was attended by 196 participants. There were 18 courses on offer, of which three courses were taught by local ACLC members (Sible Andringa, Arjen Versloot, David Weenink). The other teachers were Hamida Demirdache (Nantes), Roumyana Pancheva (USC), Sharon Peperkamp (Parijs), Dirk den Ouden (South Carolina), Elena Tribushinina (UU), Asli Ozyurek (RU), Costas Gabrielatos (Edge Hill), Eva Schultze-Berndt (Manchester), Marina Terkourafi (LUCL), Christina Bergman (MPI), Antske Fokkens (VU), Susanne Brouwer (CLS), Sebastian Nordhoff (Max Planck Instituut) & Antonio Machicao y Priemer (Berlijn), Paul Vogt (UvT). The Schultink Lecture was given by Professor Sharon Peperkamp).

Paul Boersma, Brigit van der Pas and student assistants Door Spuijt and Nina Sczepurek took care of the local organisation, with a lot of help from the ACLC PhD community and RM students. The school was evaluated very positively by the participants.

As of January 2019, the UvA also took over the coordination of the LOT Graduate School which was previously administered by Utrecht University. Professor Kees Hengeveld from the ACLC has taken on the role of Director of LOT. Brigit van der Pas, the ACLC Coordinator, is also the Coordinator of LOT. Janacy van Duijn Genet is the LOT Office Manager, and responsible for the LOT Dissertation Series. Further details about LOT activities, and its open access Dissertation Series, can be found here: <https://lotschool.nl/>

Social impact

The ACLC multifaceted approach to the study of Language and Communication and to the development of applied research outcomes that impact our society has made it possible for ACLC scholars to actively engage in community services (e.g., close collaboration with the policy makers on issues of multilingualism and language learning), outreach to the general population to inform parents on issues of multilingualism and education or issues of

developmental language disorders. This commitment of ACLC research takes different forms, such as, contribution to different academic boards.

In this regard, **Kees Hengeveld**, has been elected as a member of the Academia Europaea. Other forms of commitment include participation to broader popularizing competitions.

Imme Lammertink, an ACLC PhD candidate, was the finalist of the 2019 edition of Science Battle during which she demonstrated her research on first language acquisition and its relation to statistical learning. Imme's effort to popularize science and inform care-takers is also illustrated by the publication of one of her blog articles on *wetenschap.nu* and *nu.nl*. This blog article describes the positive effect that writing Sinterklaas poems has on language development in children.

Sybrein Spit, another ACLC PhD candidate, was the face of science in 2019, an initiative of NEMO kennislink: www.nemokennislink.nl. In this function, Sybrein presents his research to the world in a short interview as well as well as in a short 3mn video "Het wonder van je moedertaal" <https://www.nemokennislink.nl/facesofscience/wetenschappers/sybrein-spit/>

African Linguistics School (ALS). Another spotlight in 2019 that contributed to educating the world by allowing North-South mutual exchange of knowledge is the organization of the ALS which took place at Rhode University in Grahamstown (South Africa), June 30th-July 13th. Founded in 2009 by E.O. Aboh (UvA), A. Akinlabi (Rutgers), C. Collins (NYU), and J. Singler (NYU), the ALS is unique in terms of its objectives and teaching methodology: to expose African students to new advances in Linguistics and help them conduct research on their native languages, thus contributing to the world knowledge of human languages and cognition, and to sustainable development. To this end, the ALS brings together about 80 students from all over Africa, and about 24 prominent international scholars who teach *pro bono* for two weeks. The school takes place every two or three years in a different African country. In 2019, the Faculty included 23 instructors from Africa, America, and Europe, including, for instance, Vicki Carstens (then Southern Illinois University, Carbondale), Veneeta Dayal (Yale University), Didier Demolin (University of Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle), Katharina Hartmann (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main), Carrie Jackson (Penn State University), Richard Kayne (New York University), Salikoko S. Mufwene (University of Chicago), Andrew Nevins, Doug Pulleyblank (University of British Columbia), Sharon Rose (University of California at San Diego), and Lotfi Sayahi (University at Albany, SUNY). The complete list of ALS 2019 Faculty can be found on the school's webpage. The sponsors of the 2019 edition were Rutgers, NSF, NYU, and UvA, see the school's page here: <https://sites.google.com/site/africanlingschool/home>.

New Staff and Visiting scholars



In 2019, we welcomed **Bertus van Rooy**, Professor of English Linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities at the UvA, and member of the ACLC. Before joining the UvA, Bertus Van Rooy was affiliated to North-West University in South Africa. His research focuses on the grammatical features of varieties of World Englishes, using corpus-based methods. He attempts to understand how grammatical innovations come about and gain acceptance within communities of speakers. This research involves both contemporary and historical development of varieties of English in the colonial and post-colonial eras, as well as the role contact plays in the emergence of these varieties (e.g., the development of Afrikaans since the 17th century). At the UvA, Bertus will further investigate the linguistic and sociolinguistic aspects of varieties of English among native and non-native speakers, that is, the expansion of English in a multilingual world, and the ongoing change in the linguistic shape of the language.

In 2019 the ACLC hosted the following visiting scholars:

- **Heleen Bos**, independent researcher (Oct 2019–Oct 2020). ACLC contact: Kees Hengeveld
- **Angela Brouwer**, PhD student at Universidad Autonoma Madrid (Sep–Nov 2019). ACLC contact: Charles Forceville
- **Jiandi Fan**, PhD student at Northeast Normal University, China (Sep 2018–Sep 2019). ACLC contact: Olga Fischer
- **Rui Huang**, PhD student at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China (March–Aug 2019). ACLC contact: Jeannette Schaeffer
- **Mijke Mulder**, PhD student at La Trobe University, Australia (July 2019–Sep 2020). ACLC contact: Kees Hengeveld
- **Hella Olbertz**, independent researcher (April 2019–April 2020). ACLC contact: Kees Hengeveld
- **Wellington Santos Da Silva**, PhD student at the University of São Paulo, Brazil (Aug 2019 – Feb 2020). ACLC contact: Enoch O. Aboh
- **Monielly Serafim**, PhD student at São Paulo State University, Brazil (Dec 2019–Dec 2020). ACLC contact: Kees Hengeveld
- **Maria Soledad Padilla Herrada**, PhD student at the University of Seville, Spain (July 2019–Sep 2019). ACLC contact: Kees Hengeveld
- **Guan Yue**, PhD student at Nanfang College of Sun Yat-sen University, China (Sep 2018–June 2019). ACLC contact: Charles Forceville

- **Cun Zhang**, PhD student at Northeast Normal University, China (Sep 2019–Sep 2020). ACLC contact: Charles Forceville
- **Chao Zhou**, PhD student at University of Lisbon (Nov 2018–Oct 2019). ACLC contact: Silke Hamann

PhD community and Postdoctoral Researchers

The ACLC boasts a dynamic PhD community and Postdoctoral Researchers who not only conduct their scientific project successfully but are strongly committed to address social challenges (cf. Social impact). This section presents PhD candidates who joined the ACLC or graduated in 2019, as well as new postdoc researchers.

PhD community

In 2019 the ACLC hosted 49 PhD candidates. Three new PhD candidates joined the ACLC in 2019:



Cindy van Boven: *Morphological reduplication in Sign Language of the Netherlands: A typological and theoretical perspective*

Supervised by dr. Roland Pfau and dr. Silke Hamann

This study will provide the first comprehensive description of morphological reduplication in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). We address how reduplication affects nouns (plural marking) and verbs (aspectual and reciprocal marking) in NGT, taking into account phonological and morphosyntactic restrictions on reduplication. Beyond description, we offer a typological and theoretical perspective. First, results will be compared to earlier findings from other languages. Second, the patterns will be analyzed within Optimality Theory (OT).



Saskia Leymann: *The Sound of Political Irony*

Supervised by prof. dr. Gerard Steen, prof. dr. Christian Burgers, dr. Tom Lentz, and dr. Jakub Szymanik

Saskia joined the ACLC in February 2019. to investigate prosodic characteristics and other markers of ironic speech in the context of political satire. This project connects theoretical and methodological approaches from cognitive science, linguistics, and communication science to create multifaceted views and classifications of how satirical speech is marked.



Henning Radke: *Networked Speech Acts and Multilingualism: The Role and Function of Computer-Mediated Communication for the German-Namibian Diaspora*

Supervised by prof. dr. Arjen Versloot and prof. dr. Horst Simon (Freie Universität Berlin)

What effects and constraints do sociolinguistic variables have on the choice between standard and non-standard language use in multilingual settings? This question takes center-stage in this PhD project. Together with his supervisors, Henning set up a corpus-based research project focusing on the transnational, multilingual practices among the German-Namibian community. The data originates from computer-mediated communication. This project, therefore, combines quantitative and qualitative research methods and draws on contemporary, sociolinguistic theory.

A lively PhD community comes with new members joining, while others complete their project and take on new challenges. Six ACLC PhD candidates defended their theses successfully in 2019. The following list presents ACLC new Doctors, including the title of their books, which are all freely accessible as part of the LOT Dissertation Series.

- **Caitlin Meyer**, *Rule and order. Acquiring orders in Dutch and English*. Supervisors: prof. dr. F.P. Weerman, prof. dr. L.C.J. Barbiers. Co-supervisors: prof. dr. J.E.C.V. Rooryck. 15-2-2019.
- **Pauline Koeleman**, *Professioneel taalgebruik in het economische beroepenveld. Behoeftenanalyse voor (taal)curriculumontwerp in het hoger economisch onderwijs*. Supervisor: prof. dr. F. Kuiken. Co-supervisor: dr. M.G.M. Meerman. 6-9-2019.
- **Bregje van Osch**, *Vulnerability in heritage speakers of Spanish in the Netherlands. An interplay between language-internal and language-external factors*. Supervisor: prof. dr. A.C.J. Hulk. Co-supervisors: dr. S.P. Aalberse, dr. A.P. Sleeman. 1-10-2019.
- **Imogen Cohen**, *Tropes in Translation. An Analysis of Dutch Creative Collocations and Compounds Translated into English*. Supervisors: prof. dr. O.C.M. Fischer, prof. dr. A.B.M. Naaijken. Co-supervisor: dr. E.A. Bannink. 23-10-2019.
- **Rosalinde Stadt**, *The Influence of Dutch (L1) and English (L2) on Third Language Learning: The Effects of Education, Development and Language Combinations*. Supervisor: prof. dr. A.C.J. Hulk. Co-supervisor: dr. A.P. Sleeman. 29-11-2019.
- **Sanne Berends**, *Acquiring Dutch quantitative ER*. Supervisor: prof. dr. A.C.J. Hulk. Co-supervisors: prof. dr. J.C. Schaeffer, dr. A.P. Sleeman. 12-12-2019.

Post-doctoral researchers



Dr Giulia Frezza joined the ACLC with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to conduct research about 'Metaphorical Narratives in Dementia Discourse (MeNDD)'. In doing so, she collaborates with Prof. Gerard Steen within the Metaphor Lab Amsterdam. Two main metaphorical narratives are used in dementia discourse across different contexts as journalism, clinical practice, and between people living with dementia and their caregivers: 'decline' and 'plasticity' narratives. When we say that people living with dementia are 'zombies' or that they can 'rewire their brain' what are we implying? Giulia Frezza's project analyses which scenarios such narratives entail for the different social agents involved and with which implications, risks and responsibilities for individual and social health.

Awarded Research Grants

The ACLC has demonstrated a strong capacity in acquiring personal and/or collaborative grants. In collaboration with the Faculty Grant Team, the institute has developed a system of peer mentoring and training for grant application that includes 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. Relevant grants include PhD applications within the NWO scheme, including socially relevant collaborations (e.g., ACLC-NKI) for PhD positions, ABC grants, NWO and ERC grant instruments for juniors and advanced scholars, Marie Curie, (inter)national consortia (e.g., H2020, COST).

In 2019, one PhD candidate from the ACLC, **Cindy van Boven** (supervisors Roland Pfau, Silke Hamann), competed within the national NWO PhDs in the Humanities scheme, and was awarded the grant. PhDs in the Humanities is a very competitive funding scheme, which provides talented researchers with a paid PhD position. In 2019 NWO awarded funding to a total of 18 talented researchers in the Netherlands.



Dr Marloes Oomen, a finishing PhD candidate, was awarded the *Niels Stensen Fellowship* to carry out postdoctoral research at the Institut Jean Nicod in Paris. This prestigious fellowship is awarded annually to 6 or 7 scholars at Dutch universities across all disciplines who have recently received their PhD. With this grant, young talented scholars can pursue their research abroad at a top university or institute. Marloes' project at the *Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure* (Paris) focuses on negation in sign languages, more specifically on the phenomenon

referred to as *Neg*-raising in formal syntax. The project is planned to last from 1 September 2020 until 31 August 2021.

The ACLC was also very successful with the NWO Veni, Vidi, Vici, scheme.



Dr Eva van Lier has been awarded a Vidi grant for the project "Exceptions rule! Lexical restrictions on grammatical structure." This project will start early 2020, and will involve one PhD candidate and a Postdoc. This innovative research on verb-argument constructions combines typological and psycholinguistic methods. First, it investigates cross-linguistic diversity in the grammatical behavior of alternating verbs, using spoken language corpora. Second, together with language specialists, the research team carries out experimental case studies on Kamang (Indonesia) and Chechen (Russia). These two languages have argument-coding properties that are almost non-existent in European languages. The project sheds light on the psychological reality, nature, and role of verb-specific grammatical knowledge, beyond the very few languages and constructions that have been studied experimentally to date. Thus, it shows how language processing and linguistic diversity are connected in verb-argument construction alternations world-wide.

Monitoring 'Kansenaanpak 2019-2020' City of Amsterdam

In the school year 2019-2020 the City of Amsterdam offered grants to 183 primary schools in order to support pupils who are at risk of getting behind. The monitoring of this so-called 'Kansenaanpak', consisting of a content, process and product evaluation, was performed by **Sible Andringa** and **Folkert Kuiken**, supported by student assistants Anna Glazenburg and Anne-Mieke Thieme. As most of the intervention programs designed by the schools could not be continued due to the corona crisis, results turned out to be mixed: some schools had problems in reaching their pupils when they had to switch to distance learning, while others continued teaching in small groups with even better results than expected.

ACLC funds

In collaboration with the Faculty Grant Team, the ACLC is actively engaged in supporting its members in developing innovative research proposals. In 2019 the ACLC strategic budget ("beleidsbudget") was 29,000 euros, the same as the previous year.

This year, the ACLC offered incentive grants (700 euros) to help support four ACLC applicants in preparing their proposals for the NWO PhDs in the Humanities programme. It also offered a few small research funds for student assistants to help ACLC members to complete research projects.

Likewise, the institute sponsored the organization of several conferences or workshops, i.e., *Going Romance* (500 euros), *Metaphor Festival* (1000 euros), *TOK Conference* (1000 euros), *FDG conference* (1500 euros).

The institute is also committed to supporting the publication of research outputs in open access venues, such as, the ACLC journal *Linguistics in Amsterdam* (714 euros) and the science popularization website *Kennislink* (through the Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics LOT, 2500 euros).

Other expenses included contributions to PhD candidates for publishing their theses in the LOT series, the annual ACLC-wide cultural and social event in June, the [N]OAP day in December, and gifts and travel costs for speakers at ACLC seminars.

Highlights of Research Outputs

The highlights of the research in the ACLC research groups in 2019 are described in an accompanying document called “Annual Reports ACLC Research Groups 2019”, and are publicly available on the websites of the groups.