

Call for Papers

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the University VU Amsterdam will organise the 'Going Romance 2021' conference series on December 1 – 3, 2021.

Invited speakers are:

Ingo Feldhausen (Université de Lorraine)

David Paul Gerards (University of Leipzig)

Elisabeth Stark (University of Zürich)

Henriette de Swart (Utrecht University)

Francesca Volpato (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Going Romance is the European conference series that focuses on Romance languages from the perspective of current linguistic theorising. In the quarter of a century of its existence, it has developed into the major European discussion forum for theoretically relevant research on Romance languages.

Main session, December 2 – 3

The scope of the conference series lies at the intersection of linguistic theory with data from the Romance languages. Beyond this general tenet, there are no specific requirements as to the topic, the subdiscipline, the approach or the methodology, as long as it is clear how the Romance data contribute to linguistic theories of human language.

In addition to the main session, there will be two parallel special sessions:

Special session 1: 'Syntactic theory and language acquisition: the Romance perspective', December 1, 13.30 – 17.30h

Hosted by: Martine Coene (University VU Amsterdam) & Marco Bril (Utrecht University)

Ever since the 'cognitive revolution' in the 1950's-1960's, research on language acquisition has become a central part of the generative enterprise. Romance languages offer an astronomical variety of syntactic structures used by natural language learners that may help to formulate and refine linguistic theory.

Therefore, one of the two special sessions of Going Romance 2021 will be devoted to current approaches to the acquisition of Romance syntax. The session aims to

bring together researchers working in the field of language acquisition within a formal approach across different (types of) Romance languages. It therefore focuses on how syntactic data and phenomena from first and second language learners of Romance languages may shape current syntactic theory.

This special session will include an invited lecture by dr. Francesca Volpato (Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

For this session, we welcome presentations on first and second language acquisition in different populations including mono-, bi- and multilingual language development in both typical and atypical language learners of Romance languages. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes for Q&A.

Special session 2: Partitivity in Romance languages, December 1, 13.30 – 17.30h

Hosted by: Petra Sleeman (University of Amsterdam), Tabea Ihsane (University of Geneva & University of Zurich)

Some, but not all, Romance languages possess partitive markers, especially partitive determiners and partitive pronouns. Partitivity may also be expressed by partitive constructions, including pseudo-partitive constructions. The use of partitive markers and the properties of partitive constructions present a lot of variation within Romance languages and dialects: for instance, what is expressed by a partitive marker in one language/variety may be expressed by a similar or a different marker in another language/variety, or without resorting to a partitive marker at all, an observation that holds for non-Romance languages, too; partitive constructions, as well, present variation, for instance in the type of elements they involve (e.g., presence or absence of *de/di'of'*, restrictions on the determiners allowed in the constructions, etc.). This leads to questions about the types of variation, the nature and causes of similarities and differences, also in a cross-linguistic perspective, and about the consequences of this variation for acquisition. Although much research on partitivity in Romance languages has been carried out in recent years, many topics are still unexplored, and many questions remain unanswered. The goal of the workshop is thus to enhance our understanding of partitive markers and partitive constructions in Romance languages.

The workshop will include an invited lecture by prof. Elisabeth Stark (Universität Zürich) and dr. David Paul Gerards (Universität Leipzig).

We welcome presentations on any aspect of partitivity in Romance languages and dialects, also from a cross-linguistic, acquisitional and theoretical perspective. Presentations will be 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes for Q&A.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be anonymous and no longer than two pages A4, including references and examples, with margins of at least 2,5 cm, font size 12, single-spaced. The file should be anonymous both in the body of the text and in the filename. Please make sure all fonts and figures are correctly rendered.

Submissions are limited to a maximum of one individual and one joint abstract per author for the entire 3 day-event. Please indicate in your submission whether your abstract should be considered for the main session, or for one of the special sessions ('Acquisition', or 'Partitivity'). Please also indicate whether your paper is to be considered for oral or poster presentation (only main session). Abstracts not conforming to these requirements will not be taken into consideration. The abstracts should be submitted in PDF format through EasyChair <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=gr20210> **no later than July 20, 2021.**

Publication

We aim at the publication of a selection of the papers in an open access journal of linguistics.

More Information

For more information on the conference please visit the Going Romance website: www.uva.nl/goingromance2021. Please send an email to goingromance2021-fgw@uva.nl if you have any questions concerning the conference.