ANNUAL REPORT 2015
Center for Language and Cognition Groningen
## Foreword

On behalf of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG), we are pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report. The CLCG is a research institute within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen. It is home to all the linguistic research carried out within this faculty. The CLCG continued its research into 2015 and this report summarizes the institute’s activities during the year.

A substantial appendix, including a full list of publications of all CLCG staff members in 2015, their lectures and other academic and professional activities, may be found on the institute’s website, http://www.UG.nl/research/clcg/ (see the section on “Annual Reports”).

Petra Hendriks

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## Index

1 About CLCG  
  2 Mission  
  2 Research integrity and governance  
  3 Organization of the institute  
  3 CLCG staff  
  4 PhD programme  
  4 Externally funded projects / grants  
  5 CLCG research output – overview  

2 Research within CLCG  
  6 Computational Linguistics  
  8 Discourse and Communicaton  
  11 Neurolinguistics and Language Development  
  16 Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics  

3 CLCG in society  
  18 Computational Linguistics  
  19 Discourse and Communicaton  
  20 Neurolinguistics and Language Development  
  21 Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics  

4 Narrative  
  22 Health Communication  

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Prof. Petra Hendriks, Director CLCG
1 ABOUT CLCG

Mission
The mission of CLCG is to conduct and support high-quality linguistic research and disseminate the results of this research to the international scientific community and to society at large. Research in CLCG focuses on the dynamics of language. From a variety of monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives, CLCG studies computational processing of language, processes in discourse and communication, neurolinguistic processing and language development across the lifespan, and variation and change in linguistic structure and meaning. The aim is to uncover the processes that underlie the use of language in individuals and society.

CLCG aims to realise these goals by setting the following priorities:
• CLCG actively contributes to the University of Groningen’s societal themes (Energy, Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Society). In particular, CLCG contributes to the theme of Healthy Ageing with its research on typical and atypical language development and use across the lifespan and health communication, and to the theme of Sustainable Society with its research on multilingualism, mutual understandability between languages, literacy development and language teaching.
• CLCG fosters interdisciplinary approaches to the study of language. The contribution of CLCG to the cognitive neurosciences is reflected in the affiliation of several CLCG members with the Research School of Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN).
• Linguistic research in CLCG is closely connected to the instructional needs of the faculty, e.g., in the languages spoken in modern Europe.
• CLCG has a special responsibility for the Dutch languages and dialects, especially those spoken in the northern Netherlands (Dutch, Frisian and Lower Saxon, including Grunnings).

Research integrity & governance
The quality of research conducted at the University of Groningen (UG) is assessed against the highest international standards. In addition, the University complies with the behavioural rules drawn up by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU: Vereniging van Universiteiten), which can be found in the Dutch Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice. Important values in this code of conduct include care, reliability, verifiability and independence. The University of Groningen also has its own regulations for the protection of academic integrity, describing which actions must be taken in the event that academic norms are violated.

Shared responsibility
All those involved in teaching and research at the University of Groningen are jointly responsible for preventing and identifying academic misbehaviour. Upon being appointed, researchers declare that they are familiar with the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Practice and will obey it. Research integrity is a regular part of the assessment interviews with PhDs especially in the first year progress assessment interview.

Ethical Committee
Linguistic research involving human participants is reviewed by the Ethical Review Committee (Commissie Ethische Toetsing Onderzoek, or CETO) of the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. The Ethical Review Committee was appointed in 2015 to ensure that the ethical rules governing the conduct of research with human participants are adhered to. Linguistic research that is medical in nature (e.g., involving patients) or uses an invasive research method (such as fMRI or TMS) is subject to approval by the Medical Ethical Committee of the UMCG (Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie, or METc). All other linguistic research (including research involving EEG methodology, adults with aphasia or children...
with autism) can be assessed by the Ethical Review Committee. Currently, only research grant proposals which raise potential ethical issues and intended studies that require approval of the local ethics committee by editorial boards of journals are assessed by the Ethical Review Committee. In the future, given sufficient financial resources, the scope of the Ethical Review Committee could be broadened to include all research of staff and PhD candidates involving human participants.

Research Data management
Data management is high on the agenda of the University of Groningen. The University Board has requested all SEP institutes to prepare a Research Data Management Plan (RDMP) for their institute. Within the Faculty of Arts, a Research Data Management Committee has been installed in 2015 to look into current practices, advise the Faculty Board on a policy regarding the storage and management of research data, and advise the directors of the research institutes in their task to develop and implement a RDMP. In addition, data management is discussed by the director of CLCG in the first-year interviews with PhD candidates and their supervisors.

Organisation of the institute
Director
Prof. P. Hendriks

CLCG consists of four Research Groups, organized by subdiscipline:
- Computational Linguistics
- Discourse and Communication
- Neurolinguistics and Language Development
- Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

Coordinators of the Research Groups
Prof. G.J. van Noord (Computational Linguistics)
Prof. J.C.J. Hoeks (Discourse and Communication)
Prof. B.A.M. Maassen (Neurolinguistics and Language Development)
Dr. M. de Vries (Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics)

Advisory Board
Prof. Roelien Bastiaanse, Prof. Johan Bos, Prof. Kees de Bot, Prof. Kees de Glopper (chair), Prof. Jack Hoeksema, Prof. John Hoeks, Prof. Carel Jansen, Dr. Bob de Jonge, Prof. Tom Koole, Dr. Wander Lowie, Prof. Ben Maassen, Prof. John Nerbonne, Prof. Gertjan van Noord, Prof. Gisela Redeker, Prof. Siemon Reker, Dr. Laurie Stowe, Dr. Mark de Vries, Prof. Gerry Wakker, Prof. Jan-Wouter Zwart

Staff

Staff composition - position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full professor</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate professor</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant professor</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>133</td>
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</table>

Staff composition – position/gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate professor</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant professor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>74</td>
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</table>
PhD programme
Within the UG, CLCG participates in the Graduate school for Humanities (GSH). Formally the GSH is responsible for recruiting and selecting graduate students, for assigning them to supervisors, and for monitoring their progress toward the PhD degree. Nevertheless, CLCG members are involved in all of these processes. The director of CLCG carries out the first year assessment interviews on behalf of the GSH.

CLCG is also affiliated with various research schools. Many CLCG PhD students participate in Groningen’s Research School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN), a local interdisciplinary research school that brings together research from five different faculties of the University of Groningen. Likewise, many of CLCG PhD students choose to participate in the national graduate school in linguistics, LOT (Landelijke Onderzoeksschool Taalwetenschap). One of the major tasks of BCN and LOT is offering training courses to PhD students. Various PhD students attend courses that are organized by BCN and LOT, while some senior CLCG researchers teach such courses.

We hope to continue to serve as an excellent training center for students interested in research careers. In 2015, nineteen PhD projects were defended. A list of CLCG PhD students, together with the source of funding for their project and the title of their project can be found on the CLCG website.

Externally funded projects/ grants
15 ongoing externally funded projects continued, 8 projects were completed, and 4 projects were initiated in 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linguistic, sociolinguistic, social and sociodemographic factors of bilingual development among migrants (Kees de Bot)</td>
<td>NWO</td>
<td>2007-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossing communication borders: first language reversion in healthy, aging Dutch migrants in Australia (Merel Keijzer)</td>
<td>NWO-VENI</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Conversation Frame: Linguistic Forms and Communicative Functions in Discourse (Esther Pascual)</td>
<td>NWO-VIDI</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- The age effect in bilingual development (Monika Schmid) NWO-VICI 2010-2016
- INCPar (Incomplete Parenthesis) (Mark de Vries) ERC-Starting Grant 2010-2016
- Developmental project (DEVO #1): Experimenting with mixed modes of data collection (Yfke Ongena) NWO-MaGW 2010-2016
- International adoption and language development. a perspective from Kindertransport survivors development (Monika Schmid) NWO-Open Competition 2011-2015
- Language use in real time: the dynamics of lexical knowledge in L1 and L2 (Kees de Bot) NWO-DG 2011-2015
- Neurolinguistic profiles of developmental dyslexia in a longitudinal perspective (Ben Maassen) NWO-Open Competition 2011-2016
- IDEALAB International Doctorate in Experimental Approaches to Language and Brain (Roelien Bastiaanse) EU-EACEA 2011-2019
- Mutual intelligibility of closely related languages in Europe (Charlotte Gooskens) NWO-Open Competition 2011-2016
- IROHLA “Intervention Research On Health Literacy among Ageing population” (Carel Jansen en John Hoeks) EU FP7 2012-2016
- Literate: Early identification and prevention of reading problems in alphabetic and semanto-phonetic writing environments (Ben Maassen) Marie Curie EU (IRSES) 2013-2017
- Improving speech learning models and English pronunciation with articulography (Martijn Wieling) NWO-VENI 2013-2017
- QtLeap (Gertjan van Noord) EU FP7-ICT 2013-2016
- Effectiveness of explicit vs. implicit L2 instruction (Kees de Bot) NWO-DG 2013-2018
- A Crosslinguistic Perspective on Children’s Acquisition of Grammar Meaning Interface (Angelinek van Hout) Van Gogh Program 2014-2016
- Grasping Meaning across Languages and Learners (GraMALL) (Angelinek van Hout) NWO- Int. in the Hum. 2014-2017
- Frontiers of Language Variety (John Nerbonne) NWO- Int. in the Hum. 2014-2016
- Parsing Algorithms for Uncertain Input (Gertjan van Noord) Nuance Foundation 2014-2018
- PaQu in Clariah (Gertjan van Noord) CLARIN-NL 2015
- Taalportaal – Links naar Corpora (TPC) (Gosse Bouma) CLARIN-NL 2015
- Direct ter zake (Gosse Bouma) NWO-Kiem 2015
- Lost in translation - Found in Meaning (Johan Bos) NWO-VICI 2015-2020

**CLCG Research output – overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLCG research output 2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal article</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book chapter</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference proceeding</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-refereed publication</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited journal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edited book</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral thesis</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional publication</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular publication</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>148</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Computational Linguistics

Staff Members
Gertjan van Noord (coordinator), Johan Bos, Leonie Bosveld-de Smet, Gosse Bouma, Charlotte Gooskens, Gregory Mills, John Nerbonne, Malvina Nissim, Martijn Wieling

PhD Candidates
Valerio Basile, Johannes Bjerva, Kilian Evang, Jelena Golubovic, Rob van der Goot, Hessel Haagsma, Dieke Oele, Oscar Strik, Simon Suster, Femke Swarte, Noortje Venhuizen, Stefanie Voigt.

Research focus areas
The computational linguistics group focuses on language processing by computer, both from a theoretical, experimental and applied perspective. Important research areas include computational dialectology, computational syntax and semantics, and language technology applied to Dutch.

In the last decade, research in computational dialectology has been an important focus of the group, with NWO-funded research projects of John Nerbonne, Wilbert Heeringa, Charlotte Gooskens and most recently Martijn Wieling (VENI project).

Research in computational syntax has been a further important focus, with NWO-funded research projects of van Noord and Bouma, several NWO Stevin projects and a number of smaller scale CLARIN projects. As a result, tools (parser and generator) and resources (annotated treebanks) have been developed for Dutch which are widely used by researchers around the globe.

A third important focus of the research group is computational semantics, initiated by Endowed Chair Johan Bos. The Groningen Meaning Bank is a free semantically annotated corpus and related set of tools developed by members of the CL group. The tools include Wordrobe, a collection of linguistic games with a purpose: www.wordrobe.org. Those games are played by non-scientists, who produce as a side-effect useful data annotation, i.e., crowd-sourcing in an entertaining fashion with obvious links to citizen science.

Highlights 2015

Grants

VIVIS grant
Wieling received a VIVIS (Vereniging van Instellingen voor mensen met een Visuele beperking) project grant to investigate the efficacy of automatic speech recognition software for people who have been blind since their birth.

NWO grant
Johan Bos obtained an NWO VICI grant for the 5-year project "Lost in Translation -- Found in Meaning". Translating from one language into another is a complex task and meaning, undoubtly, plays a crucial role. Paradoxically, often slight changes in meaning improve translations. The aim of this project is to find out what the conditions are that determine good and bad translations, and investigate what role meaning plays in this process. The first results are presented in the Parallel Meaning Bank.

CLARIN-NL
The PaQu application (Gertjan van Noord) to search in syntactically annotated corpora was extended using funding by CLARIN and CLARIAH to support uploading of new corpora, to extend the number of supported input formats, and to incorporate meta-data in search queries and search results.

CLARIN-Taalportaal
In the CLARIN-Taalportaal (Gosse Bouma) project we enriched a web-version of the Syntax of Dutch (Broekhuis et al., 2012-2016) with links to syntactically annotated corpora (Lassy and CGN). Using the PaQu interface, we formulated sophisticated queries that correspond to the phenomena being discussed in the descriptive grammar. By connecting the descriptive grammar with corpus data, researchers can find real examples of complex syntactic phenomena, obtain frequency information and check the empirical status of the claims made in the descriptive grammar.
Member of the Young Academy

Martijn Wieling was elected member of De Jonge Akademie (the Young Academy), part of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The academy consists of fifty members and every year ten new members are elected for a five-year period. He gave an inspiring lecture about his research at the installment ceremony. (https://www.dejongeakademie.nl/nl/science-spots/leden-in-beeld/martijn-wieling-nieuw-bij-de-jonge-akademie).

PhD defenses

Three PhD theses were defended in 2015. Valerio Basile defended his thesis on natural language generation from logical forms (promotor Johan Bos). He is postdoctoral researcher at INRIA, the French National Institute for Computer Science (part of Université Côte d’Azur). Noortje Venhuizen successfully completed her PhD project on data-driven formal semantic analysis of projection in discourse (promotores Johan Bos, Petra Hendriks). She works as postdoctoral researcher at the Computational Linguistics and Phonetics Department of Saarland University, Germany. Oscar Strik defended his thesis on the history of Swedish and Frisian verb inflection (promotores Muriel Norde, John Nerbonne, Arjen Versloot). He has a position as postdoctoral researcher at the Linguistics Department of Antwerp University, Belgium.

Other activities

- John Nerbonne became Chair of Steering Committee ADHO: The Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations.
- John Nerbonne organized a session at the American Association for the Advancement of Science with Miriam Butt and Jacob Eisenstein, February 15, 2015, San Jose. He also held the opening talk, entitled ‘Visualizing Verbal Culture: Seeing Language Diversity’.
- Martijn Wieling hosted Stefanie Nickels from the Harvard Medical School in Belmont, MA for a research visit from July 7, 2015 until July 17, 2015.

Key publications - Computational Linguistics


Discourse and Communication

Staff Members
John Hoeks (coordinator), Veerle Baaijen, Marcel Bax, Kees de Groller, Myrte Gosen, Mike Huiskes, Carel Jansen, Tom Koole, Femke Kramer, Jacqueline van Kuiningen, Yfke Ongena, Gisela Redeker, Ielka van der Sluis, Ninke Stukker.

PhD Candidates
Lennie Donné, Agnes Engbersen (external), Marieke van Gerner-Haan, Anke Herder (external), Frans Hiddink (external), Ruth Koops van’t Jagt, Joëlle Ooms, Maaike Pulles (external), Nynke van der Schaaf (external), Ellen Schep (external), Lucas Seuren, Kashmiri Stec, Nienke van der Vliet, Louise van Weerdem (external), Annerose Willemsen, Lambert Zaad (external).

Research focus areas
The Discourse and Communication group conducts quantitative and qualitative research on language and communication. Our research addresses a variety of themes within the broad field of communication research. Object of study are communication processes in general, but also more specifically the design and optimization of communication products, the persuasive effects of these communication products, the development of communication skills, and the way these skills are taught in primary and secondary education and trained in the workplace. Communication is investigated primarily in professional settings such as health care (persuasive health campaigns, doctor-patient conversations), and education (teacher-student interaction), but also in public and private organisations (persuasive effects of advertisements, interaction and conversation during meetings, campaigns on sustainability). Our research program is closely linked to the University of Groningen research focus areas Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Society.

Featured publication - Computational Linguistics

Charlotte Gooskens, with Anja Schüppert and Nanna Haug Hilton (Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics) edited a special issue entitled ‘Experimental approaches to the mutual intelligibility between closely related languages’ for the Linguistics journal. The articles in the special issue, which include three articles by CLCG members, point to opportunities as well as obstacles for communication across linguistic borders. A wider use of receptive multilingualism as an alternative to using a lingua franca may strengthen the role of globally small languages and contribute to increasing their status within and outside their speaker community. However, this goal can only be achieved by a deeper understanding of the linguistic and non-linguistic factors that play a role in receptive multilingualism.


Highlights 2015

IROHLA has won the EAEA Grundtvig Award 2015

IROHLA coordinator Jaap Koot and PhD student Ruth Koops van ’t Jagt (photo) received the EAEA Grundtvig award on June 22, 2015 during the European Association for the Education of Adults’ (EAEA) Annual Conference Adult Education and Health at the Casa da Música in Porto, Portugal.

IROHLA won the European project category for having “demonstrated the wider benefits of adult learning, including its impact on health.” The winning projects combine innovation and excellence and were selected by a jury consisting of EAEA executive board members. Elderly people in Europe often have a hard time managing their own health as it comes to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, adhering to medication, and interacting with doctors, physicians, and the health system as a whole. The European FP7 project ‘IROHLA’ (innovative policies for healthy ageing) aims to find the most promising interventions to increase the so-called ‘health literacy’ of these older citizens.

Symposium

In January, Tom Koole and Myrte Gosen organized the first Groningen Symposium on Language and Social Interaction (GSLI). The theme of the symposium was ‘Language and Learning’. With 45 participants it was a successful symposium and kick-off event for a series of symposia to be held in Groningen the coming years.

PhD defenses

Three PhD projects were successfully defended. Marieke van Gerner-Haan completed her thesis on the effects of survey modes on participation and answering behavior (promotores Kees Aarts, Kees de Glopper, copromotor Yfke Ongena). She works as a postdoctoral researcher and as a lecturer of Social and Behavioural Sciences at the Department of Methods & Statistics of Utrecht University.

Michelle Knight defended her thesis titled ‘Cops, Critics and Confrontation: The public debate on police violence in New York and its historical roots’ (promotores Gisela Redeker, Doeko Bosscher). She currently works as speechwriter and senior advisor for online communications at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment in The Hague.

An external candidate, Albert Walsweer, finished his project ‘Ruimte voor leren: Een etnografisch onderzoek naar het verloop van een interventie gericht op versterking van het taalgebruik in een knowledge building environment op kleine Friese basisscholen’. (promotor Kees de Glopper, copromotor Jan Berenst). He works as Senior Education Advisor and as a researcher at the Lectureship Taalgebruik & Leren (Language Use & Learning) at the NHL University of Applied Science, Leeuwarden.

Other activities

• Veerle Baaijen became ‘Early stage research manager’ of the Steering group of the European Literacy Network (ELN) funded by COST Action IS1401.
• Gisela Redeker was member of the program committee of the EuroAsianPacific Joint Conference on Cognitive Science, September 2015.
• Tom Koole hosted Prof. Claire Penn, head of the Health Communication Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. May 5, 2015 – June 20, 2015.

• Carel Jansen was copromotor, with Prof. Fons Maes (Tilburg University), of Elizabeth Lubinga. Her dissertation ‘Stop HIV/AIDS. Start talking? The effects of rhetorical figures in health messages on interpersonal discussions among South African adolescents’ was defended on October 16, 2015 at Tilburg University.

**Featured publication** –
**Discourse & Communication**


A systematic review was conducted to assess the available evidence for the effectiveness of interventions aiming to improve the comprehensibility of health-related documents in older adults (≥50) with different levels of health literacy. Seven databases were searched (2005 forward), and references in relevant reviews were checked. The selection procedure was conducted by 2 independent reviewers. Data extraction and assessment of the quality of the resulting studies were conducted by 1 reviewer and checked for accuracy by a 2nd reviewer. A total of 38 intervention studies had a study population of older adults (n = 35) or made an explicit comparison between age groups, including older adults (n = 3). Inconsistent evidence was found for the importance of design features to enhance the comprehensibility of health-related documents. Only for narratives and multiple-feature revisions (e.g., combining revisions in textual and visual characteristics) did the included studies provide evidence that they may be effective for older adults. Using narrative formats and/or multiple-feature revisions of health-related documents seem to be promising strategies for enhancing the comprehensibility of health-related documents for older adults. The lack of consistent evidence for effective interventions stresses the importance of (a) replication and (b) the use of standardized research methodologies.

### Key publications - Discourse & Communication


Neurolinguistics and Language Development

Staff Members:
Roelien Bastiaanse, Wander Lovie, Gerard Bol, Kees de Bot, Hilde Hacquebord, Petra Hendriks, Bart Hollebrandse, Angeliek van Hout, Roel Jonkers, Merel Keijzer, Hanneke Loerts, Ben Maassen (coordinator), Djaina Satoer, Laurie Stowe, Wim Tops, Marjolijn Verspoor

Postdocs:
Rimke Groenewold, Sylvia Martinez-Ferreiro, Simone Sprenger, Rasmus Steinkrauss.

PhD Candidates:
Yulia Akinina (external), Miren Arenzeta*, Seckin Arslan*, Sanne Berends, Christopher Bergmann, Elisabeth Borleffs (external), Azadeh Elmianvari, Steven Gilbers, Toivo Glatz, Wim Gombert (external), Mirjam Günther-van der Meij (external), Sana Haidry*, Giang Hoang, Nienke Houtzager, Jakolien den Hollander*, JunPing Hou (external), Joost Hurkmans (external), Mufeeda Irshad (external), Fedor Jalvingh (external), Yinxing (Ivan) Jin (external), Folkert de Jong (external), Tim Kassenberg (external), Stefanie Keulen, Sanne Kuijper, Aleida Linares Calix, Camila Martinez Rebollo (external), Nienke Meulman, UGgero Montalto, Jessica Overweg, Rika Plat, Srdjan Popov*, Anna Pot, Rui Qin*, Audrey Rousse-Malpat, Bregtje Seton, Ellie van Setten-Huizinga, He (Sabra) Sun (external), Corinne Tilma (external), Eabele Tjepkema (external), Margreet Vogelzang, Nienke Woltluis, Jinxing Yue*

*PhD candidates IDEALAB (http://em-idealab.com/)

In Memoriam

In memoriam- Laurie Stowe
Laurie Stowe passed away on August 6, 2015, just two weeks after her 60th birthday.

“Laurie’s career was a very international one. Born and trained in the United States she spent several years in Australia, before finally settling in the Netherlands where she was to remain for almost 25 years. The focus of her work was on the neurocognition of language and language acquisition, and on these topics she collaborated with many of the foremost scholars in the field.

In 1995, she was awarded a large PIONIER grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research to set up a research group in neurolinguistics in Groningen and carry out pioneering research on the neurological basis of language. She is probably best known for her work using the ERP technique and was among the pioneers of applying this to bilingual language processing, and she also did work using fMRI and PET.

Many of her most influential and widely cited publications are collaborations with (former) PhD students of Laurie’s, which is a testimony to the fact that she was an exceptional mentor and teacher. Several generations of young (and no longer so young) researchers fondly and gratefully remember her apparently limitless generosity, warmth, advice, support – and not least, hospitality.”

(This text is a shortened version of the Obituary written by Monika Schmid on LINGUIST list: http://www.linguistlist.org/issues/26/26-3602.html.)
Research focus areas

The Neurolinguistics and Language Development research group is a strongly interdisciplinary group that investigates the organization of language in the brain, how language is processed and how languages are learned. To investigate these questions, a wide variety of methods is employed, ranging from spontaneous speech analysis, comprehension and elicitation experiments and the development of theoretical models, to eye tracking, EEG and functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) techniques.

The organization of language in the brain and how language is processed in the brain is studied through the comprehension and production of various aspects of verbs (in developmental disorders and aphasia), phonological processing (in aphasia and dyslexia), print decoding (in dyslexia), speech disorders (in children and adults), sentence processing (in non-brain-damaged and aphasic speakers) and ambiguity resolution (in normal speakers and schizophrenic patients).

How a first, second or foreign language is acquired, maintained and sometimes lost is studied by considering the linguistic, social as well as cognitive processes involved in language development and use. Important areas of research are typical and atypical first language acquisition (such as in children with autism spectrum disorders), bilingualism, language attrition, and the development of bilingual education in the Netherlands.

Because of its focus on language across the lifespan, from childhood to elderly age, this research program is closely linked to the University of Groningen research focus area Healthy Ageing.

Highlights 2015

Grants

Jacomien van Rij received a VENI grant for her project “Learning the language of predictions”. What pronouns such as “he” or “she” refer to, changes from sentence to sentence. This project applies the learning theory of Rescorla and Wagner to the acquisition of pronouns. The central idea behind this theory is that children learn from incorrect predictions. The project will combine experiments, corpus research and computational modelling.

Royal Decoration

On Friday April 24, 2015 Roelien Bastiaanse has been made a Knight of the Order of the Netherlands Lion. Bastiaanse enjoys an outstanding reputation as an expert in neurolinguistics, and in aphasiology in particular. She is a world-famous pioneer and leading researcher in her field, who has given a significant, internationally acknowledged boost to innovations in research, education, the training of young researchers and patient care.

Together with Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Bastiaanse devised a unique Speech and Language Pathology programme, which allows university students to train as a speech therapist alongside their degree programme, and university of applied sciences students to take an academic Master’s degree programme. This combination is so unique that it was mentioned in the New York Times. In 2004, the programme was one of the first to be assigned the Erasmus Mundus Master of Excellence status, which includes European funding. A
Joint Doctorate track, IDEALAB, has now been added to the programme.

Bastiaanse was also the driving force behind the Groningen Center of Expertise for Language and Communication Disorders (GELC), where academic research and patient care go hand-in-hand.

Inaugural Lecture

Marjolijn Verspoor has been appointed Professor of English Linguistics and English as a Second Language. As a professor, she will focus mainly on research into the acquisition of English as a second language from a usage-based perspective.

Michael-Clyne-Research-Professorship

On July 15, 2015, Kees de Bot gave the opening lecture ‘10 Myths about Multilingualism’ at the Opening of the Michael-Clyne-Research-Professorship at the International Research Unit for Multilingualism (LMU) of the Institute for German as a Foreign Language at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. De Bot received the first Michael-Clyne-research-Professorship at the LMU.

Joint doctorate degree

Congratulations to our first two IDEALAB PhD candidates, Rimke Groenewold and Laura Bos who defended their thesis on January 22, 2015 and were each awarded their joint PhD for a project relating to aphasia. In addition to a degree certificate from the University of Groningen, they also received a doctorate from the University of Potsdam and Macquarie University (Sydney). Bos and Groenewold conducted their research as part of the IDEALAB programme.

Students who graduate from IDEALAB (International Doctorate for Experimental Approaches to Language And Brain) receive a joint PhD awarded by Groningen University and one of the international partners in the IDEALAB consortium: Potsdam University, Germany, Macquarie University, Australia; Newcastle University, UK; Trento University, Italy.

IDEALAB is funded by the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). It is the first time that the University of Groningen awarded a joint PhD certificate and therefore this is a prestigious undertaking.

PhD defences

2015 was a fruitful year with ten PhD theses that were successfully defended.

Laura Bos defended her thesis ‘The brain, verbs, and the past: Neurolinguistic studies on time reference’ (promotores Roelien Bastiaanse, Isabell Wartenburger). She now works as General Manager (‘Onderwijscoördinator’) at the department of European Master in Law and Economics (EML) at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Belinda Chan completed her doctoral thesis ‘A dynamic approach to the development of lexicon and syntax in a second language’ (promotor Kees de Bot, copromotor Wander Lowie).

Rimke Groenewold defended her thesis ‘Direct and indirect speech in aphasia: studies
of spoken discourse production and comprehension' (promotor Roelien Bastiaanse) and is still affiliated with the Faculty of Arts in Groningen as Student Advisor, Coordinator of the platform ‘AfasieNet’, and as University Lecturer.

Nienke Houtzager also completed her thesis ‘Bilingual advantages in middle-aged and elderly populations’ under the supervision of Kees de Bot (promotor) and Wander Lowie (copromotor).

Mufeeda Irshad defended her thesis ‘Second language development through the lens of a dynamic usage-based approach’ (promotor Marjolein Verspoor, copromotor Merel Keijzer) and is now affiliated as Senior Lecturer with the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Kirsten Kolstrup successfully defended her thesis ‘Opportunities to speak: A qualitative study of a second language in use’ (promotor Kees de Bot, copromotor Steve Thorne). She currently holds a position as Assistant Lecturer at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Cornelia Lahmann completed her thesis titled ‘Beyond barriers: Complexity, accuracy, and fluency in long-term L2 speakers’ speech’ (promotor M. Schmid, copromotor Rasmus Steinkrauss). She is Research Associate at the Mercator-Institute for Literacy and Language Education at the University of Cologne, Germany. Recently she got a position as Lecturer/Researcher at the University of Mannheim (Philosophie/Anglistisches Seminar), Germany.

Aleyda Linares Calix finished her thesis ‘Raising metacognitive genre awareness in L2 academic readers and writers’ (promotor Kees de Bot, copromotor Sake Jager). She is now Head of the Literature and Languages Department & Full time Professor of English at Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán, Tegucigalpa in Honduras.

Sabrina (He) Sun defended her thesis ‘Predictors and stages of very young child EFL learners’ English development in China’ (promotor Kees de Bot, copromotor Rasmus Steinkrauss) and works as Lecturer of Theories in Second Language Development at the University of Groningen.

Sri Wachyunni’s thesis ‘Scaffolding and co-operative learning: Effects on reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge in English as a foreign language’ (promotores Marjolein Verspoor, Bert Creemers) was also successfully defended. She works as Lecturer for the English Education Study Program at the University of Jambi, Indonesia.

**Conferences**

**Thinking, Doing, Learning: Usage-based Perspectives on Second-Language Learning**

In June, Groningen hosted the second conference on ‘Thinking, Doing, Learning: Usage-based Perspectives on Second-Language Learning (TDL2)’, after the successful conference held in Denmark in 2013. The conference was organized by the Neurolinguistics and Language Development group (Marjolein Verspoor, Rasmus Steinkrauss, Audrey Rousse-Malpat) and the Discourse & Communication group (Tom Koole).

**Bilingualism and Cognitive Ageing**

On January 28-30, 2015 the international workshop ‘Bilingualism and Cognitive Ageing’ took place in Groningen. The organizing committee, Merel Keijzer, Monika Schmid and Mike Sharwood Smith (University of Edinburgh), welcomed numerous international speakers and participants. Apart from establishing the current state-of-affairs, this meeting provided a uniform kick-off for future work in this area.
Other activities

- Roel Jonkers was member of the program committee of the Science of Aphasia conference 16 in Venice, Italy
- Angeliek van Hout was co-supervisor, with Prof. Maria José Ezeizabarrena Segurola, of Isabel García del Real. The doctoral dissertation ‘The Acquisition of Tense and Aspect in Spanish’ was defended (with honors: "Sobresaliente cum laude") on November 11, 2015, University U of the Basque Country, Spain.

Key publications - Neurolinguistics and Language Development


Featured publication - Neurolinguistics and Language Development


How has Applied Linguistics been defined and how has the field of Applied Linguistics developed over the last 30 years? Who were the leaders that pushed the agenda? What are the core publications in the field? Who are the authors that have been cited most and how is that related to leadership? What were the main themes in research? Why did formal linguistic theories lose so much ground and the interest in more socially oriented approaches grow? What has been the impact of Applied Linguistics on language teaching?

Adopting a theme-based approach, this book answers these questions and more and forms a history of Applied Linguistics from 1980. The structure of this book is largely defined by the topics covered in interviews with 40 leading international figures including Rod Ellis, Diane Larsen-Freeman, Henry Widdowson, Suresh Canagarajah and Claire Kramsch. Supplemented with questionnaires from a further 50 key applied linguists, this is essential reading for anyone studying or researching Applied Linguistics and will be of interest to those in the related area of English Language Teaching.
Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

Staff Members:
Mark de Vries (coordinator), Bob de Jonge, Dicky Gilbers, Nanna Hilton, Jack Hoeksema, Peter Houtzagers, Eva Juarros-Daussà, Wolfgang Kehrein, Remco Knooihuizen, Siemon Reker, Anja Schüppert, Willem Visser, Gerry Wakker, Jan-Wouter Zwart.

Postdocs:
Jakub Dotlacil (Veni), Marlies Kluck

PhD Candidates:
Bernat Bardagil-Mas, Charlotte Lindenbergh, Amber Nota, Sander Orriens, Leanne Schreurs (external).

Research focus areas
The research group Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics studies the syntax, semantics, morphology, phonology, and phonetics of a variety of languages with a view to enrich our empirical knowledge as well as our theoretical understanding of the nature of the human language faculty.

A core characteristic of this research is in-depth cross-linguistic comparison, both synchronically and diachronically. The group aims to contribute to the abstract formalization of the properties of language. In addition, the group is interested in sociolinguistic aspects of language variation. Working from hypothetic-deductive methods next to bottom-up strategies, the boundaries between fundamental principles, generalizations, and parametric variation and change are investigated. Specific fields of investigation include: the syntax and semantics of complex construction types (parentheses, dislocation, coordination, relative clauses), the foundations of syntactic structure and the role of the interfaces with the sound and meaning components of the grammar, ellipsis phenomena, information structure, polarity items, morphosyntactic dependencies and typological variation, Dutch corpus linguistics, phonology as human behaviour, musical aspects of phonology, tonal accents and prosody.

A strength of the research group is the combination of a theoretical orientation with the empirical study of language data from a variety of families, including West and North Germanic, Romance, Slavic, and outside of the Indo-Germanic group, Turkish, Avar and Je in particular.

Highlights 2015

PhD defenses
In 2015, three PhD theses were successfully completed: James Griffiths’ thesis ‘On appositives‘ (promotor Jan-Wouter Zwart, copromotor Mark de Vries), Güülz Günes’ thesis ‘Deriving prosodic structures’ (promotor Jan-Wouter Zwart, copromotores Mark de Vries, Dicky Gilbers), and Pavel Rudnev’s thesis ‘Dependency and discourse-configurationality: a study of Avar’ (promotores Jack Hoeksema, Jan-Wouter Zwart). Günes holds a position as postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Linguistics at Leiden University, Leiden. Rudnev works as lecturer at the Department of Frisian Language and Literature at Groningen University.

Conferences and workshops
*Dag van de Nederlandse Zinsbouw*
Mark de Vries was organizer of the ‘Dag van de Nederlandse Zinsbouw’ (or Dutch Syntax Day) on November 20, 2015 at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. Mike Huiskes from the Discourse & Communication group was one of the presenters. It is a yearly workshop that brings together researchers working in different fields and with different theories to discuss themes that are relevant to the study of Dutch syntax.

*Symposium ‘The future of the research agenda’*
On December 10, 2015, the UG/Campus Fryslân (UCF) organized the symposium ‘The future of the research agenda’ in Paleis Stadhouders in Leeuwarden.
Nanna Haug Hilton and PhD student Amber Nota gave a talk about their vision of the future for the Multilingualism research agenda.

**Other activities**

- Gerry Wakker was Member of the midterm review committee at the Free University Brussels, Brussels, April 26-27, 2015 and at the University Ghent, April 28-29, 2015.
- Jack Hoeksema hosted Venera Süleymanova, postdoc at the Quaqa University, Bakoe, Azerbaijan, for a research visit from January 1, 2015 until June 30, 2015.

**Featured publication - Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics**


A short reply to Benjamin Bruening’s 2014 Language article ‘Precede-and-command revisited’. The reply questions that Principle C-effects constitute a uniform body of facts calling for a unified explanation, and recalls observations by Bolinger (1977) showing that many Principle C-effects on which judgments vary show sensitivity to discourse demands, but not, as Bruening crucially contends, to phases.

*Abstract:*

Basing his argumentation on an analysis of condition C effects, Bruening (2014) proposes to replace the familiar notion of c-command underlying dependency relations with a precede-and-command condition, which defines dependency relations as precedence relations within a local domain (phase). In this reply I argue that condition C effects cannot be used to show the relevance of phases for the definition of syntactic dependency, and I question the conceptual necessity of the notion phase as currently defined.

**Key publications – Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics**


3 CLCG IN SOCIETY

The societal relevance of the research groups’ work is evident from commissioned research, applied research activities, and media attention for several publications. CLCG members have also effectively engaged with audiences through public lectures and debates, professional and popular publications, and non-traditional media such as blogs and websites.

Computational Linguistics

Young Academy Project grant
Martijn Wieling received The Young Academy project grant for a collaborative project with Marleen Kamperman, Johan van Leeuwaarden and Jan-Willem Veening. The goal of this project is to illustrate the diversity among scientists and scientific fields in order to counter the stereotype of a scientist as being a male scientist in a lab coat.

Tools and resources related to the automated syntactic analysis of Dutch
The group has made available a number of tools and resources related to the automated syntactic analysis of Dutch. These tools include the Dutch parser Alpino, the treebank search application Dact, and the web-based search application PaQu. Resources include the Dutch treebanks Lassy. These tools and resources are used widely both by scientists and others. A license for the Lassy treebank, for instance, has been bought by Google. The Alpino parser is the underlying machinery of the Dutch site www.redekundig.nl, which is aimed at Dutch school children. Likewise, PaQu has been used in the past in lessons for Dutch highschool students.

A further set of resources and tools developed by Johan Bos and colleagues is made available as the Groningen Meaning Bank, a free semantically annotated corpus. The tools include Wordrobe, a collection of linguistic games with a purpose: www.wordrobe.org. Those games are played by non-scientists, who produce as a side-effect useful data annotation, i.e., crowd-sourcing in an entertaining fashion with obvious links to citizen science.

Panel Discussion Risk Communication
An event with a societal impact worth mentioning was a panel discussion of master students and crisis and risk communication specialists of Veiligheidsregio’s and municipalities of the North of the Netherlands. This event took place on October 7, 2015. The discussion focused on the question to what extent technological developments have affected channel choices in risk and crisis communication. A report with the main outcomes is entitled “Forumgesprek Risico-en Crisiscommunicatie. De invloed van technologische ontwikkelingen op de keuze van een optimale mix aan communicatiekanalen” written by Leonardo Losno Velozo, Ma student, and Leonie Bosveld-de Smet.

Key activities & publications with societal impact - Computational Linguistics

[Lecture]

[Media article or presentation]
Wieling, M. ‘Why are we saying ‘uh’ less and ‘um’ more’, BBC, February 8, 2015.


Wieling, M. Het dialectverschil zit ’m in de tong, Live TV interview Noord Vandaag, RTV Noord, 18:00, May 12, 2015.
Discourse and Communication

Health Communication Platform
On September 28, 2015, the kick-off meeting of the Kennisplatform Gezondheidscommunicatie (Health Communication Platform) of the University of Groningen took place. The Health Communication Platform wants to be a bridge between health professionals of the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG) and communication researchers of the Faculty of Arts, in particular the department of Communication and Information Sciences (CIW) in the domains of health communication research and health communication training. The platform is an initiative of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Medical Sciences/UMCG and is coordinated by Debbie Jaarsma (UMCG) and Tom Koole (CLCG).

Previously, on June 26, 2015, Mike Huiskes gave a workshop on Conversation Analysis at the UMCG Opleidingsdag (Education day for General Practitioners).

Kenniscafé Groningen
Studium Generale Groningen (UG and Hanze University of Applied Science) organises innovative and multidisciplinary activities on science, culture and society. One of these activities is the Kenniscafé, where societally relevant themes are discussed from various different angles. Femke Kramer is a well-known and much appreciated host of a number of those sessions, for instance on the relation between Violence and Religion, or on the Sleeping habits of students.

Key activities & publications with societal impact - Discourse and Communication

[Professional publication]


[Lecture]


Neurolinguistics and Language Development

Diagnostic and intervention tools for aphasia

Roelien Bastiaanse and colleagues developed a series of tablet-based diagnostic and intervention tools for aphasia. Bastiaanse and colleagues developed a digital version of the analog “Token Test Perspex” (De Renzi & Vignolo, 1978), a central test used for the diagnostic of aphasia. The app “RUG Token Test” is an implementation of the shortened token test for aphasia and language impairment detection. It was developed in close collaboration with the Groningen Expert Center for Language and Communication Disorders of the University of Groningen. The app performs a task-based test, during which patients are invited to touch and move objects on the screen, following spoken audio instructions in multiple languages. After completion, a score is presented, indicating whether or not the patient suffers from aphasia or language impairment. No sensitive patient data is stored or used (S.A. Raaijmakers; https://itunes.apple.com). See also the short Unifocus movie, ‘The first aphasia tests on a tablet’, 17 June 2015. (https://youtube.be/ZtrB1hbKvNA).

Aphasia newsreader

Roelien Bastiaanse, Djaina Satoer & Mieke van de Sandt-Koenderman (Rijndam Rehabilitation Center Rotterdam) launched the website “De Afasie Nieuwslezer” (The Aphasia Newsreader) (www.afasienieuwslezer.nl). The Aphasia newsreader is an online newspaper that adjusts itself to the user’s reading capacities. The news articles are updated daily. The news articles are presented in three different versions: as short easy texts, as mediate long texts, and as long more complex texts. Additionally the newsreader offers a lot of reading help: Users can adjust the font size and line spacing, word scan be read out loud including meaning descriptions.

Language screener at elementary schools

Angeliek van Hout presented a Dutch and English language screener to kindergarten teachers at the GSV, an elementary school in Groningen. This screener uses a simple sentence and non-word repetition task, the score of which may lead to the advice to have a child's language development checked by a speech and language therapist. Van Hout shared this screener, which can be used by teachers, with group 1 and 2 teachers and the school's remedial teacher.

Accelerative Integrated Method

The PhD project of Audrey Rousse Malpat is the first research project worldwide that investigates the effectiveness of the Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM). Rousse-Malpat gave a workshop for teachers at the AIM conference in Amsterdam.
Key activities & publications with societal impact - Neurolinguistics and Language Development

[Professional publication]


[Media article or presentation]


Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

Daily Column in “Taalpost”

Siemon Reker wrote a daily ‘Dagwoord TAALCOLUMN’ for the period of one year, starting in March 2015. His columns were sent daily to the subscribers of Taalpost, a digital newsletter that informs (amateur) linguistics and language lovers about recent topics concerning Dutch language. They can also be found online on the website of the Bureau Groninger Taal en Cultuur (http://www.UG.nl/research/groningertaalen cultuur/dagwoord/dagwoord). Once the series ‘Dagwoorden’ (or Word of the Day) is completed by March next year the columns will be collected and published.

Key activities & publications with societal impact – Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

[Media article or presentation]


[Lecture]


4 Narrative

Each year one of the CLCG research groups has the opportunity to highlight research projects or activities carried out within the group in the form of a narrative, where staff members tell us about their fascination for linguistic research. This year’s narrative ‘Health Communication’ is about research themes & projects in the field of health communication, and about collaborations with the health care sector of CLCG communication scientists. The narrative is provided by Saskia Visser, project leader for the Science Shop Language, Culture and Communication and policy officer Public Engagement.

Health Communication

Health care cannot exist without communication. Diagnoses, treatments, taking medication, and healthier behavior depend largely on how doctors and patients communicate with each other. But what exactly do we know about how this works and about how we can improve this communication? This is an interesting interdisciplinary field of research with large societal relevance that communication scientists from the faculty of arts are working on, together with partners from the health care sector.

A broad field of research in collaboration with various partners

The research in health communication takes different forms. Dr. Mike Huiskes uses detailed interaction analysis to investigate the development of communication skills of orthopaedic surgeons-in-training in the UMCG. On basis of his results, teaching materials and assessment instruments will be developed together with the orthopaedics department.

Professor Tom Koole has conducted research on treatment adherence of asthma patients in collaboration with the Isala hospital in Zwolle. Why do patients treated by hospital specialists take their medication better than when they only see their GP? Video recordings of asthma consultations are examined for an answer. In both cases graduate students are closely involved in the study as part of their applied research training.

Also the role of the patient is taken very seriously. PhD student Ruth Koops van ’t Jagt is doing research in the EU-project IROHLA on ‘Health Literacy’ for older adults. This group often experiences difficulties in the interaction with doctors and in reading medical information. Koops van ’t Jagt used focus group discussions to establish the different domains in which these difficulties are experienced. For these domains she developed photo novels together with external partners, with the aim of making patients more confident during the interaction with their GP. This communication tool is spread through GP waiting rooms and via the website oefenen.nl. The photo novels will appear also in English, German, Italian and Hungarian and will be tested in different researches in the next few years.

Margot Jager has done her PhD in collaboration with C4Youth (a group of mental health institutions) on the experience and needs of adolescents in mental healthcare.

The ongoing PhD projects of Joëlle Ooms and Lennie Donné also show the breadth of health communication. They are conducting research on respectively the effects of alarming health messages on health behaviour and on the effects on health behaviour of informal conversations about health and risky behaviour like using alcohol and having unsafe sex.

A new knowledge platform with a solid base

The collaboration between the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG) and the communication scientists has been ongoing for several years, but it has been formalized in September 2015 when the Health Communication Platform was founded. In this platform is an important step to a structural collaboration in which all the activities are brought together and are made visible.
Health communication very well fits the lines of research of the senior staff. Professor Tom Koole, coordinator of the Health Communication Platform, has been active in research on emergency calls for years and has worked together with researchers from the Health Communication Research Unit in Johannesburg (South Africa) in research on oral health communication. Also Professor Carel Jansen has conducted research together with partners from South Africa on HIV Aids campaigns in this country.

From the larger perspective of the research institute CLCG, Health Communication is part of the UG focus on Healthy Aging. Also research on language disorders such as aphasia and dyslexia (within the Groningen Centre for Language and Communication disorders) and language loss belong to this area. Two videos about this subject can be found on the website of Arts & Society:
http://www.UG.nl/let/organization/letteren-en-samenleving/voorbeelden/gezondheids-communicatie
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