

HANNAH BOOTH

(October 2019)

RESEARCH STATEMENT

My research focuses on morphosyntactic change in Germanic, combining perspectives from syntactic theory with quantitative approaches (historical treebanks and corpus methods). I am particularly interested in the interaction between syntax and information structure, and how diachronic language change can be modelled using the architecture of Lexical-Functional Grammar.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- University of Konstanz** *October 2019 – present*
Akademische Mitarbeiterin, Department of Linguistics
- Ghent University** *March 2019 – present*
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Corpus of Historical Low German project
<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/projects/chlg>
- University of Manchester** *Sept 2018 – Jan 2019*
Lecturer, Department of Linguistics and English Language
- University of Manchester** *Sept 2016 – Jan 2018*
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics

EDUCATION

- University of Manchester** *Oct 2015 – Sept 2018*
PhD in Linguistics, awarded Aii (pass with minor corrections)
Thesis title: Expletives and Clause Structure: Syntactic Change in Icelandic
Supervisors: Prof. Kersti Börjars; Dr. Tine Breban
Key words: Generative syntax; Icelandic; language change; corpora; Lexical-Functional Grammar
Courses attended: Introduction to LFG; Minimalist Syntax; Quantitative Methods using R
- University of Aberdeen** *Sept 2014 – Aug 2015*
MLitt Scandinavian Studies, awarded distinction
Thesis title: Creating Coherence: A Study of Old Norse Connectives
Select modules: Advanced Old Norse Language & Literature; Runic; Medieval Latin; Paleography
- Magdalene College, University of Cambridge** *Oct 2010 – June 2014*
BA (Hons) in Modern & Medieval Languages, awarded class I
Dissertation 1 title: The Fate of the Instrumental Case in the History of German
Dissertation 2 title: Low German in Scandinavia: A Study of Language Contact in Hanseatic Bergen
Select modules: Germanic philology (including Old Norse, Old High German, Gothic, Old English); Old Norse Language & Literature; Structures & Varieties of German; History of the German Language

This section gives an overview of my main research interests and projects.

See page 3–4 for a list of publications and page 4–5 for a list of presentations.

Word order and information structure in the history of Icelandic

- Overview: in my PhD thesis, I presented a diachronic account for the emergence of expletives in Icelandic. As I showed, this development is intimately connected with other changes in clause structure and my work has fed into a wider collaboration with Christin Schätzle (Konstanz). Together we have developed a theoretical analysis using LFG for how the syntactic encoding of information structure changed over time in Icelandic, prompting a series of changes wrt. e.g. verb position, subject position, dative subjects and expletives.
- Outcomes: this work has been presented at peer-reviewed conferences for theoretical syntacticians (DiGS, LFG), historical linguistics (ICHL) and Scandinavianists (GRAMINO). The work has appeared in various guises in proceedings of the LFG and ICHL conferences, and in a recent special issue of the *Nordic Journal of Linguistics*.
- Future work: we plan to present the latest developments of this work at further theoretical conferences beyond the LFG community, whilst also developing a comparative account looking at similar changes which took place in the history of English.

Visual and quantitative methods for investigating syntactic change

- Overview: I am interested in state-of-the-art methodologies for investigating syntactic change. In my postdoctoral position at Ghent I am annotating Middle Low German (MLG) texts to be included in a Penn-style treebank. As a guest researcher at Konstanz I also explored how computational and visualisation methodologies can make the workflow of the historical linguist more efficient and yield deeper insights of the data.
- Outcomes: Christin Schätzle and I have developed a novel data-driven methodology for the periodization of diachronic corpus data, ‘DiaHClust’. A paper on DiaHClust was presented at a workshop on computational approaches to language change at the ACL conference 2019.
- Future work: With Ghent, a paper detailing the decisions we made for the annotation of Middle Low German has been submitted to the LREC conference 2020. Furthermore, we are in the beginning phase of a wider Ghent-Konstanz collaboration to explore how visual analytics can be useful in the annotation of uncertainty in linguistic data, using the MLG corpus as a test case.

Linguistics approaches to orality and narrative devices in the medieval Icelandic sagas

- Overview: I am also interested in applying insights from linguistics and corpus methodologies to broader problems in medieval Scandinavian studies. I have shown that the Old Icelandic sagas have a different linguistic profile to other text genres from the period, exhibiting a higher frequency of features typically associated with orality.

- Outcomes: versions of this research have been presented at conferences for corpus linguists (Diachronic Corpora, Genre and Language Change 2016) as well as for broader audiences interested in medieval Scandinavia (NRN; invited talk, Centre for Scandinavian Studies, Aberdeen).
- Future work: I intend to pursue this broader application of my research in more details, specifically looking at the syntactic devices for the management of discourse participants in the sagas from the perspective of information structure.

AWARDS & GRANTS

DFG postdoctoral funding for a research stay at the University of Konstanz	<i>March – Sept 2019</i>
Doctoral Training Award, Arts & Humanities Research Council UK	<i>2015 – 2018</i>
President’s Doctoral Scholar Award, University of Manchester	<i>2015 – 2018</i>
ILFGA Student Stipend for conference presentation	<i>July 2017</i>
AHRC Northwest Consortium Overseas Conference Grant	<i>July 2017</i>
AHRC Northwest Consortium Student Development Grant	<i>July 2016</i>
Student Bursary to attend the Rethinking V2 conference, University of Cambridge	<i>March 2016</i>
International Summer School full scholarship, University of Oslo	<i>July 2014</i>
Scandinavian Studies Fund Grant, ASNC, University of Cambridge	<i>July 2014</i>
D.H. Green Prize, University of Cambridge	<i>June 2014</i>
Peskett Prize for Modern & Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge	<i>June 2014</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. Walkden, George & Hannah Booth. Reassessing the historical evidence for embedded V2. In Theresa Biberauer, Sam Wolfe & Rebecca Woods (Eds.), *Rethinking Verb Second*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Forthcoming. Booth, Hannah. Expletives in Icelandic: a corpus study. In Bridget Drinka (Ed.), *Historical Linguistics 2017: Selected papers from the 23rd International Conference on Historical Linguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2019. Booth, Hannah. Cataphora, expletives and impersonal constructions in the history of Icelandic. *Nordic Journal of Linguistics. Special Issue: New Perspectives on Diachronic Syntax in North Germanic* 42(2), 139–164.

2019. Schätzle, Christin & Hannah Booth. DiaHClust: an iterative hierarchical clustering approach for identifying stages in language change. In *Proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on Computational Approaches to Historical Language Change* (pp.126-135). Florence, Italy: Association for Computational Linguistics. <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W19-4716>

2018. Booth, Hannah *Expletives and Clause Structure: Syntactic Change in Icelandic*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Manchester. [https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/expletives-and-clause-structure-syntactic-change-in-icelandic\(7907d61b-4404-4964-bf8d-ce304c0fa\).html](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/expletives-and-clause-structure-syntactic-change-in-icelandic(7907d61b-4404-4964-bf8d-ce304c0fa).html)

2017. Booth, Hannah, Christin Schätzle, Kersti Börjars & Miriam Butt. Dative Subjects and the Rise of Positional Licensing in Icelandic. In Butt, Miriam, & King, Tracy Holloway (Eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG'17 Conference, University of Konstanz* (pp. 104–124). Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. <http://web.stanford.edu/group/cslipublications/cslipublications/LFG/LFG-2017/lfg2017-bsbb.pdf>

CONFERENCES & TALKS

2019

- Breitbarth, Anne, Melissa Farasyn & Hannah Booth. ‘Parsing the Corpus of Historical Low German (CHLG)’, Poster presented at the *LW Research Day*, Ghent University, September 2019.
- Schätzle, Christin & Hannah Booth. DiaHClust: an Iterative Hierarchical Clustering Approach for Identifying Stages in Language Change’. Poster presented at the *1st International Workshop on Computational Approaches to Historical Language Change, Florence, Italy (ACL'19)*, August 2019.
- Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. ‘Verb-first and verb-second in the history of Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *24th International LFG Conference (LFG2019)*, Australian National University, July 2019.
- Booth, Hannah & Tine Breban. ‘Expletives in competition: diverging pathways of change in English and Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *24th International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, Australian National University, July 2019.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘How to fill the prefield in Icelandic: the diachrony of expletives and Stylistic Fronting’. Invited talk at the University of Konstanz, June 2019.

2018

- Booth, Hannah. ‘Expletives and clause structure in the history of Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *Workshop on Word Order in Scandinavian Languages*, University of Konstanz, December 2018.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Subjectless constructions and expletives: syntactic change in Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *25th South of England Lexical Functional Grammar Meeting*, SOAS, University of London, May 2018.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Structural ambiguity and the history of impersonal constructions in Icelandic’. Paper presented at *Grammatikk i Norden 2 (GRAMINO)*, University of Oslo, May 2018.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Corpus linguistics and medieval studies: old problems, new methods’. Invited talk at the Centre for Scandinavian Studies, University of Aberdeen, May 2018.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Structural ambiguity, expletives and impersonal constructions in the history of Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *Manchester Forum in Linguistics*, University of Manchester, April 2018.

2017

- Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. ‘Word order change, case and expletives in the history of Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *19th Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS 19)*, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape, September 2017.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Just how oral are the sagas? New insights from corpus linguistics’. Paper presented at the *Nordic Research Network 2017 (NRN 2017)*, University of Aberdeen, August 2017.
- Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. ‘Subjects, case and word order change in Icelandic: a corpus study’. Paper presented at the *23rd International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, University of Texas at San Antonio, July 2017.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Expletives in Icelandic: a diachronic study’. Paper presented at the *23rd International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, University of Texas at San Antonio, July 2017.
- Booth, Hannah, Kersti Börjars, Miriam Butt & Christin Schätzle. ‘Dative subjects and the rise of positional licensing in Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *22nd International Lexical Functional Grammar Conference*, Universität Konstanz, July 2017.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Tracking language change through historical corpora: the rise of expletive subjects in Icelandic’. iPoster presented at the *Postgraduate Summer Research Showcase*, University of Manchester, June 2017.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Expletives in Icelandic: a diachronic study’. Paper presented at the *Manchester Forum in Linguistics*, University of Manchester, April 2017.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘The development of overt expletives in Icelandic’. Paper presented at the *22nd South of England Lexical Functional Grammar Meeting*, SOAS, University of London, February 2017.

2016

- Bech, Kristin, Hannah Booth, Kersti Börjars, Tine Breban, Svetlana Petrova, George Walkden & Sheila Watts. ‘Modifiers in early Germanic: a comparative corpus study’. Paper presented at *Grammar & Corpora 2016*, Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim, November 2016.
- Booth, Hannah, Kersti Börjars & John Payne. ‘Non-recursive modification in Old Icelandic’. Paper presented at *Nätverket för nordisk syntaxhistoria 8*, Uppsala Universitet, October 2016.
- Börjars, Kersti & Hannah Booth. ‘Modifier order in Old Norse’. Paper presented at a workshop as part of the project *Structure and Variation in the Early Germanic Noun Phrase*, University of Manchester, April 2016.
- Booth, Hannah. ‘Connectives and the spoken/written dimension: connective profiling Old Norse texts’. Paper presented at *Diachronic Corpora, Genre and Language Change*, University of Nottingham, April 2016.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Konstanz

March – September 2019

Collaboration on project D02 of SFB-TRR 161 ‘Evaluation Metrics for Visual Analytics in Linguistics’, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

http://www.sfbtrr161.de/research/project_d02/

Constraints on Syntactic Variation: Noun Phrases in Early Germanic *Sept 2017 – present*

Participant in the project, funded by the Norwegian Research Council (grant no. 261847).

<https://www.hf.uio.no/ilos/english/research/projects/noun-phrases-in-early-germanic/index.html>

Corpus of Historical Low German

Jan – April 2004

Research support worker on the project.

<http://www.chlg.ac.uk>

TEACHING

I am an Associate Fellow of The Higher Education Academy UK (awarded February 2018).

https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/system/files/downloads/ukpsf_2011_english.pdf

Analysing Syntactic change, University of Konstanz

Winter 2019/20

Lecturer & Coordinator

An MA-level course which examines how various syntactic change phenomena can be analysed within a theoretical framework of syntax, in particular that of Lexical-Functional Grammar.

Also features a practical component introducing students to historical treebanks.

Sociolinguistics, University of Konstanz

Winter 2019/20

Lecturer & Coordinator

A BA-level course which introduces key topics in sociolinguistics with respect to the core linguistic areas: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

LELA30961/60961 Historical Syntax, University of Manchester

Autumn 2018

Lecturer & Coordinator

A third-year course (30 students) on grammatical change, with theoretical and practical components.

Enhanced version for MA students, for which I developed a mini-course on syntactic change in Icelandic.

LELA20091 Old & Middle English, University of Manchester

Autumn 2018

Lecturer & Coordinator

A second-year course (60 students) introducing Old and Middle English language and exploring points of linguistic interest.

LELA10301 English Word & Sentence Structure, University of Manchester *Autumn 2017*

Graduate Teaching Assistant

A first-year course introducing core concepts in morphosyntax as applied to the study of English.

10 seminars for 4 groups of approx. 25 students; marking of coursework.

LELA20091 Introduction to Old English, University of Manchester *Autumn 2016*

Graduate Teaching Assistant

A second-year course introducing the Old English language and exploring points of linguistic interest.

6 seminars for 1 group of approx. 25 students; marking of coursework and exams.

LELA10301 English Grammar & Morphology, University of Manchester *Autumn 2016*

Graduate Teaching Assistant

A first-year course introducing core concepts in morphosyntax as applied to the study of English.

10 seminars for 3 groups of approx. 20 students; marking of coursework.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB)

International Lexical-Functional Grammar Association (ILFGA)

The Philological Society

Viking Society for Northern Research

Forum for Germanic Language Studies (FGLS)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OUTREACH

International Lexical-Functional Grammar Association

August 2019 – present

Executive Committee Member

<http://ling.uni-konstanz.de/pages/home/lfg/ilfga/index.html>

Public engagement talks at the Manchester Museum

November 2018

I gave talks to the general public about my research on language change as part of the Being Human Festival of the Humanities. <https://beinghumanfestival.org>

Aparjón Journal for Scandinavian Studies

2017 – present

External editor for a journal for Early Career Researchers in Scandinavian Studies.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/apardjn-journal-for-scandinavian-studies--1802.php>

Reviewing

2017 – present

I have acted as reviewer for a chapter in an Oxford University Press edited volume, and have reviewed conference abstracts for the *Manchester Forum in Linguistics*.

Manchester Forum in Linguistics

2016 – 2018

Co-organiser of the annual conference for Early Career Researchers in linguistics.

<https://mfilconf.co.uk>

Department of Linguistics & English Language, University of Manchester *2016 – 2017*
Representative for Graduate Teaching Assistants.

SkillsSwap project, University of Manchester *2016 – 2018*
Founding member of the project ‘SkillsSwap’ to develop an online platform to facilitate skill-sharing between postgraduate researchers at the University of Manchester, which secured competitive funding from the Manchester Doctoral College.

University of Cambridge Language Centre *2013 – 2014*
Language Ambassador: ran events in conjunction with local schools to promote language learning amongst secondary school pupils as part of the nationwide Routes into Languages scheme.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES

University of Iceland & the Árni Magnússon Institute *July 2016*
Summer School in Modern Icelandic
Intensive language course in Advanced Icelandic
Class awarded: I with distinction (9.5)

University of Oslo *June – July 2015*
International Summer School
Intensive language course in Advanced Norwegian
Grade awarded: A

Berlin Humboldt University *Oct 2012 – July 2013*
2 semesters as an Erasmus exchange student
Taught modules: Modern Icelandic language; Modern Norwegian language; Historical linguistics; Middle High German language