

HANNAH BOOTH

(October 2020)

RESEARCH STATEMENT

My research focuses on morphosyntactic change in Germanic, combining perspectives from syntactic theory with quantitative approaches. 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 *September 2020 – present*

Acting Professor (Vertretungsprofessorin) for Prof. Miriam Butt (50%)

Department of Linguistics

University of Konstanz *October 2020 – present*

Lecturer (akademische Mitarbeiterin) (50%)

Department of Linguistics

Ghent University *October 2019 – present*

Postdoctoral Research Associate (20%)

Corpus of Historical Low German project

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/projects/chlg>

University of Konstanz *October 2019 – September 2020*

Lecturer (akademische Mitarbeiterin) (100%)

Department of Linguistics

Ghent University *March 2019 – September 2019*

Postdoctoral Research Associate (50%)

Corpus of Historical Low German project

<https://research.flw.ugent.be/en/projects/chlg>

University of Manchester *September 2018 – January 2019*

Lecturer (100%)

Department of Linguistics and English Language

University of Manchester *September 2016 – January 2018*

Graduate Teaching Assistant (20%)

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

AWARDS & GRANTS

Guest fellowship on SFB-TRR 161, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

March – Sept 2019

Doctoral Training Award, Arts & Humanities Research Council UK

2015 – 2018

President's Doctoral Scholar Award, University of Manchester

2015 – 2018

ILFGA Student Stipend for conference presentation

July 2017

AHRC Northwest Consortium Overseas Conference Grant

July 2017

AHRC Northwest Consortium Student Development Grant

July 2016

Student Bursary to attend the Rethinking V2 conference, University of Cambridge

March 2016

International Summer School full scholarship, University of Oslo

July 2014

Scandinavian Studies Fund Grant, ASNC, University of Cambridge

July 2014

D.H. Green Prize, University of Cambridge

June 2014

Peskett Prize for Modern & Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge

June 2014

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGFS)

Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB)

International Lexical-Functional Grammar Association (ILFGA)

The Philological Society (PhilSoc)

Viking Society for Northern Research (VSNR)

Forum for Germanic Language Studies (FGLS)

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

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 connected with other syntactic changes and my work has fed into a collaboration with Christin Schätzle (Konstanz). We have developed a theoretical LFG analysis for how the syntactic encoding of information structure changed 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, and to develop a comparative account looking at similar changes which took place in Early 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. Together with colleagues at Konstanz I am also exploring 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. We have also presented work which yields novel insights on syntactic change in Middle English using the HistoBankVis system at the ICAME conference in 2020
- **Future work:** 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 historical linguistic data, using the MLG corpus as a test case. A conceptual paper outlining various representational problems for annotation has been accepted to the Linguistic Annotation Workshop at COLING 2020.

Middle Low German syntax

- **Overview:** I am interested in the syntax of Middle Low German, a relatively underexplored language stage. My current work for Ghent University involves developing a Penn-style treebank of Middle Low German, which will facilitate future corpus-based syntactic studies.
- **Outcomes:** A paper detailing the decisions we made in annotating Middle Low German was accepted to the LREC conference 2020 and published in the proceedings. Presentations of these decisions have been made at a Research Day on Digital Humanities at Ghent University 2019 and also in a research colloquium at Konstanz (2019). The corpus will be available and searchable via a web interface by the end of 2020.

- **Future work:** As part of a collaboration with Alexander Reyn (Konstanz), I have begun leveraging data from the corpus in order to conduct a comparative study on the history of possessor doubling in High and Low German. We have had a paper on this topic accepted to the Saarbrücken Roundtable of Dialect Syntax 2020.

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 project to develop a parsed corpus of Old Saxon and Middle Low German.

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

PUBLICATIONS

To appear. Beck, Christin, Hannah Booth, Mennatallah El-Assady & Miriam Butt. Representation Problems in Linguistic Annotations: Ambiguity, Variation, Uncertainty, Error and Bias. In Dipper, Stephanie, Amir Zeldes, Luke Gessler & Adam Roussel (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 14th Linguistic Annotation Workshop* (to appear). Barcelona, Spain (online): Association for Computational Linguistics.

2020. Booth, Hannah, Anne Breitbarth, Aaron Ecay & Melissa Farasyn. A Penn-style Treebank of Middle Low German. In *Proceedings of the Twelfth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2020)*, 766-775. Marseille, France: European Language Resources Association. <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.lrec-1.96/>

2020. 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*, 364–384. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2020. Walkden, George & Hannah Booth. Reassessing the historical evidence for embedded V2. In Rebecca Woods & Sam Wolfe (Eds.), *Rethinking Verb Second*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2019. Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. The syntactic encoding of information structure in the history of Icelandic. In Butt, Miriam, King, Tracy Holloway, & Toivonen, Ida (Eds.), *Proceedings of the LFG’19 Conference, Australian National University*, 69–89. Stanford, CA: CSLI Publications. <http://web.stanford.edu/group/cslipublications/cslipublications/LFG/LFG-2019/lfg2019-booth-schaetzle.pdf>

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/files/83388383/FULL_TEXT.PDF

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

2020 Those marked with a * were accepted but postponed/cancelled due to Covid-19.

- Booth, Hannah. ‘Argument configurationality and discourse configurationality in Old Icelandic’. Presented digitally at the e-version of the *25th International Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference*, University of Oslo, June 2020.
- * Hannah Booth, Tina Bögel, Christin Beck & Nicole Dehé. ‘Stylistic Fronting and information structure in Icelandic: insights from prosody and diachrony’. Accepted as a talk at a workshop on *Word order, Prosody and Information Structure in the Scandinavian Languages*, scheduled to be co-located with the *25th International Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference*, University of Oslo, June 2020.
- * Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. ‘V1, V2 and information structure in the history of Icelandic.’ Accepted as a talk at *the 12th International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics*, University of Oslo, June 2020.
- * Booth, Hannah. Modelling different types of expletive: an LFG perspective. Invited talk at a workshop on the *Theory and Historical Development of Expletives*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, June 2020
- Schätzle, Christin & Hannah Booth. ‘Investigation interactional syntactic change in Middle English: insights from visual analytics’. Presented digitally at the e-version of *ICAME 41*, Heidelberg University, May 2020.
- * Booth, Hannah & Christin Schätzle. ‘Information structure and word order change: verb-first and verb-second in Icelandic.’ Accepted as a talk at the *22nd Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS) conference*, University of Konstanz, May 2020.

- * Booth, Hannah, Anne Breitbarth, Aaron Ecaý & Melissa Farasyn. ‘A Penn-style Treebank of Middle Low German.’ Accepted as a poster at the *Twelfth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2020)*, Marseille, May 2020.

2019

- Booth, Hannah. *A Penn-style Treebank of Middle Low German*. Talk at Colloquium, University of Konstanz, December 2019. (Joint work with Anne Breitbarth, Aaron Easy & Melissa Farasyn).
- 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.

Einführung in die Linguistik (Introduction to Linguistics)

Winter 2020/21

Taught online in German

A first-year BA-level course introducing students to the core concepts and basic principles of linguistics, covering phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics pragmatics.

Format: 11 lectures plus 10 tutorials led by student teaching assistants

Assessment: 2 online exams

Analysing Syntactic change, University of Konstanz

Winter 2020/21

Taught online in English

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.

Format: 8 lectures plus 4 practical sessions on working with corpora

Assessment: presentation plus corpus-based research study

Sociolinguistics, University of Konstanz

Winter 2020/21

Taught online in English

A BA-level course which introduces key topics in sociolinguistics with respect to the core linguistic areas: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Also features a practical component on data collection, analysis and presentation.

Format: 8 lectures plus 4 practical session on data collection, analysis and presentation

Assessment: sociolinguistic research study

Introduction to Lexical Functional Grammar, University of Konstanz

Summer 2020

Taught online in English

An MA-level course (20 students) which introduces the basic principles underlying LFG, as well as the formalism and notation. Students practice working with the formalism in a step-by-step approach and explores how LFG can be used to analyse various phenomena from a wide range of word languages.

Format: 9 lectures plus 3 practical sessions based on set exercises

Assessment: 6 take home exercises and a presentation

Middle English, University of Konstanz

Summer 2020

Taught online in English

An MA-level course (15 students) which explores points of linguistic interest in Middle English and discusses processes of language change underway during the period. Also features a practical component where students develop skills in reading, translating and commenting on Middle English texts.

Format: 9 lectures plus 3 practical sessions based on set exercises

Assessment: take home essay and a presentation

Analysing Syntactic change, University of Konstanz

Winter 2019/20

Taught in person in English

An MA-level course (12 students) 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.

Format: 10 lectures plus 3 practical sessions on working with corpora

Assessment: presentation plus corpus-based research study

Sociolinguistics, University of Konstanz

Winter 2019/20

Taught in person in English

A BA-level course (50 students) which introduces key topics in sociolinguistics with respect to the core linguistic areas: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

Format: 13 lectures

Assessment: sociolinguistic research study

LELA30961/60961 Historical Syntax, University of Manchester

Autumn 2018

Taught in person in English

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

Also included an enhanced version for MA students, for which I developed a mini-course on syntactic change in Icelandic.

Format: 11 lectures plus 9 practical tutorials; additional 4 tutorials for MA students

Assessment: corpus-based study and exam (BA); corpus-based study and presentation (MA)

LELA20091 Old & Middle English, University of Manchester

Autumn 2018

Taught in person in English

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

Format: 22 lectures plus 9 lectures

Assessment: take home essay plus January exam

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

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Taught in person in English

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

Responsibilities: 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

Taught in person in English

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

Responsibilities: 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

Taught in person in English

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

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

Supervision of MA dissertations, University of Konstanz *October 2020 – present*

- Lingzhi Li, *Particles in Chinese: an LFG approach* (first supervisor)

Supervision of BA dissertations, University of Konstanz *October 2020 – present*

- Tina Steiner, *Gender and language: a sociolinguistic study* (first supervisor)
- Lena Bitzer, *Gender fair language: different strategies and effects* (second supervisor)

Supervision of student research assistants, University of Konstanz *March 2019 – present*

- Tianyi Zhao, corpus study on case and possession in Middle Low German
- Lena Bleher, corpus study on interactional syntactic change in Middle English
- Zsofia Lelner, corpus study on the history of the genitive in English
- Shanelle Glanville, corpus study on verb position in Middle English

Associate Fellowship of The Higher Education Academy UK

- Awarded February 2018 for showing an understanding of specific aspects of effective teaching, learning support methods and student learning
- <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/fellowship/associate-fellowship>

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>

Reviewing *2017 – present*

I have been invited to review a new volume, a book proposal and a book chapter for Oxford University Press, as well as a paper for the proceedings of the the *Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference (LFG)*. I have also reviewed abstracts for the *Diachronic Generative Syntax Conference (DiGS)*, the *Lexical-Functional Grammar Conference (LFG)* and 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>

Apardjón Journal for Scandinavian Studies*2017 – present*

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

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

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