

## Gautam Vasudevan Ottur

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Georg-August Universität Göttingen RTG 2636 – “Form-meaning mismatches” Nikolausberger Weg 23 37075 Göttingen, Germany	<i>Work:</i> +1 (646) 820-6554 <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:gautam@ottur.info">gautam@ottur.info</a> <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://ottur.info">ottur.info</a>
RESEARCH AREAS	Syntax and its interfaces with semantics, pragmatics, and phonology/prosody; sign languages and gesture; language typology.	
EMPIRICAL INTERESTS	Serial verb constructions, successive-cyclic movement, hyperraising, left-branch extraction, co-ordinate structures, conventionalization, idiomaticity, illocutionary force marking.	
THEORETICAL INTERESTS	Merge, Agree, Minimal Search, categoriality, order of operations, locality, opacity, (formal) features, transformations, multidominance, linearization, phases, projection, coordination, Transfer, Spell-Out, lexicalization, Mirror Theory, dependency grammars.	
EMPLOYMENT	<b>Start-up grant recipient</b> , Georg August University of Göttingen    January 2025 to May 2025 Research Training Group ( <i>Graduiertenkolleg</i> ) 2636 — “Form–Meaning Mismatches”  <b>Grant writing assistant</b> , Georg August University of Göttingen    July to August 2023 ERC Advanced Grant — “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps”  <b>Doctoral Researcher</b> , Georg August University of Göttingen    October 2021 to December 2024 Research Training Group ( <i>Graduiertenkolleg</i> ) 2636 — “Form–Meaning Mismatches”	
EDUCATION	<b>Georg August University of Göttingen</b> , Göttingen, Germany  Ph.D., Linguistics    October 2021 to present <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thesis Topic: <i>Dependency and Order in Syntax</i></li><li>• Advisors: Hedde Zeijlstra and Markus Steinbach</li><li>• Areas of study: syntax, language typology</li><li>• <b>Anticipated submission:</b> April 2025</li></ul> <b>University of Amsterdam</b> , Amsterdam, Netherlands  Master of Arts — Research, Linguistics    September 2019 to August 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thesis Topic: <i>The Semantics of Malayalam Serial Verb Constructions</i></li><li>• Advisor: Enoch Oladé Aboh</li><li>• Areas of study: language typology, phonology, syntax, semantics</li></ul> <b>McGill University</b> , Montréal, Canada  Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics    September 2014 to May 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major concentration: <b>General Linguistics</b> (emphasis on theoretical linguistics, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics)</li><li>• Minor concentration: <b>German Language</b></li></ul>	

PUBLICATIONS	<p>Gautam Ottur. to appear. Malayalam doesn't need adpositions: the case of vP-adjunction. In <i>Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics</i>. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.</p> <p>Gautam Ottur. 2024. Linear asymmetries and the syntax of serialization: against an antisymmetric approach. In <i>Proceedings of the 32nd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe</i>, 234–247. Leiden, The Netherlands: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics .</p> <p>Marianthi Koraka, Thomas Finkbeiner, Nina-Kristin Meister, Markus Steinbach &amp; Gautam Ottur. 2024. The grammaticalization of a motion verb into an imperative marker in two sign languages. In <i>Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory 6</i>, vol. 6, 35–47. Ann Arbor, MI .</p> <p>Gautam Ottur. 2023. Form and function in serial verb constructions – insights from German Sign Language. In <i>Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory 5</i>, vol. 5, 169–180. Bergen, Norway .</p> <p>Gautam Ottur. 2021. Future tense and habitual aspect in Malayalam. <i>Linguistics in Amsterdam</i> 14(1). 145–159.</p>
CONFERENCE TALKS	<p>The grammaticalization of a motion verb into an imperative marker in two sign languages. Presented at <i>Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory 6</i> at the University of Michigan, 6–8 August 2024 (with Marianthi Koraka, Thomas Finkbeiner, Nina-Kristin Meister, and Markus Steinbach).</p> <p>C-selection, feature-checking, and anti-locality in coordinate structures. Presented at the conference <i>Form and Meaning of Coordination</i> at the University of Göttingen, 4–6 July 2024.</p> <p>A reassessment of Mandarin universal quantificational expressions <i>mei</i> vs. <i>suoyou</i>. Presented at the <i>44th TABU Dag</i> at the University of Groningen, 13–14 June 2024 (with Zeqi Zhao).</p> <p>Argument introducers and adjunct verbs in Malayalam. Presented online at <i>Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages 14</i> at Stony Brook University, 4–6 April, 2024.</p> <p>Light verbs in Malayalam are not adpositions. Presented at the <i>Grote Taal dag 2024</i> at Utrecht University, 2 February 2024.</p> <p>Form and function in serial verb constructions — insights from German Sign Language. Presented online at <i>Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory 5</i> at the University of Bergen, 27–29 June 2023.</p> <p>Serial verbs in head-final languages needn't be Kaynian — a rebuttal from Malayalam. Presented at the <i>43rd TABU Dag</i> at the University of Groningen, 15–16 June 2023.</p>
CONFERENCE POSTERS	<p>A timing approach to escape hatch dependencies. To be presented at the <i>47th Meeting of Generative Linguistics in the Old World</i> (GLOW 47) at the Goethe University Frankfurt, 24–28 March, 2025.</p> <p>Malayalam doesn't need adpositions: the case of vP-adjunction. Presented at the <i>42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics</i> (WCCFL 42) at the University of California, Berkeley, 12–14 April 2024.</p>

	Linear asymmetries and the syntax of serialization. Presented at the <i>32nd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe</i> (ConSOLE 32) at Queen Mary University in London, 17–19 January 2024, and at the first Konstanz Linguistics Conference (KLC) at the University of Konstanz, 22–24 March 2024.
INVITED TALKS	<p>A small <i>dōu</i>-sage of syntax <i>měi</i> be necessary: quantification in Mandarin. Presented at the University of Cambridge SyntaxLab, 14 May 2024 (with Zeqi Zhao).</p> <p>Arguments and events in serial verb constructions — insights from German Sign Language. Presented at CNRS/Paris 8 University, 26 September 2022.</p>
OTHER PRESENTATIONS	<p>Serialization across modalities. Presented at the collaborative meeting between RTG 2016 “Nominal modification” (Frankfurt) and RTG 2636 “Form-meaning mismatches” (Göttingen) at the University of Göttingen, 8–9 February 2024.</p> <p>Categoriality and selection in multi-verb constructions. Presented at the Oberseminar English Linguistics at the University of Göttingen, 19 December 2023.</p> <p>Insights on serialization from head-final languages. Presented at the Workshop on Serial Verb Constructions at CNRS/Paris 8 University, 11 September 2023.</p> <p>Grammaticalization of a verb as a directive marker. Presented at the workshop <i>Interrogatives and Imperatives in the Visual Modality</i>, at the University of Amsterdam, 16–17 May 2023.</p> <p>Arguments and events in verb series — insights across modalities. Presented at the workshop of the <i>Corpus Annotation and Data Analysis Summer School</i> (CAnDA) at the University of Göttingen, 23 September 2022.</p> <p>Insights from serialization across modalities. Poster presented at CreteLing 2022 at the University of Crete, 2022.</p>
BOOK CHAPTERS	<i>νP</i> -serialization in Malayalam. Submitted. In <i>Serial Predicates across Modalities</i> . Berlin: Language Science Press.
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p><b>Georg August University of Göttingen</b>, Göttingen, Germany</p> <p><i>Lecturer</i> Winter Semester 2023–2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to English Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate introductory course on linguistics with a focus on English, covering phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Co-lecturer</i> Winter Semester 2023–2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Linguistic Theory: Syntax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate introductory course on generative syntax and minimalism.</li> <li>• Other instructors: Marco Conliglio, Prudence de Pontbriand</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
ACADEMIC SERVICE	<p><b>Student service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student representative to the board of the DFG-funded <a href="#">Research Training Group (Graduiertenkolleg) 2636</a> — “Form–Meaning Mismatches” from May 2023 to October 2024.</li> </ul>

### Conferences

- Reviewer for 33rd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE 33), January 29–31, 2025.
- Organizer, webmaster, graphic designer, and chair for 53rd Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 53), January 12–14, 2023.

### Other reviewing

- Reviewer for edited volume *Serial Predicates Across Modalities* (together with Hedde Zeijlstra), 2025.
- Internal reviewer for the proceedings of 32nd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE 32), 2024.
- Internal reviewer for *Linguistics in Amsterdam* vol. 13 nr. 1 (special issue on habituais), 2021.

### Public outreach

- Contributor to the Göttingen *Nacht des Wissens* ('night of science') on behalf of the linguistics community in Göttingen, 2022.

### THIRD PARTY

### ERC Advanced Grant Application — “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps”

### FUNDING EXPERIENCE

#### *Grant writing assistant*

- Main applicant: Hedde Zeijlstra
- Editorial responsibilities:
  - Revise and edit text of grant application.
  - Revise main applicant’s CV.
- Other responsibilities:
  - Produce expository graphics.
  - Write sections about host institution.
- Outcome: grant awarded, approx. 2,500,000 EUR.

### OTHER SKILLS

#### **LaTeX**

- Extensive expertise in drawing standard generative syntax trees, as well as complex and non-standard diagrams, including but not limited to graph-theoretic diagrams, pushdown automata, and dependency grammar trees.
- Experience typesetting theses, papers, book chapters, posters, and slides.
- Experience collaborating with co-authors via Overleaf and editing their code.
- Experience producing and managing large bibliographies for BibTeX and BibLaTeX.

#### **Website management**

- Experience designing and maintaining conference websites using WordPress and Github Pages.
- HTML, CSS, and Markdown skills.

#### **Graphic design**

- Experience in graphic design for academic purposes.
  - Logo for the 53rd Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 53).
  - Logo for the ERC Advanced Grant Project “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps.”

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (native)  
Malayalam (native)

French (working knowledge)  
German (basic knowledge)

REFERENCES      References can be provided upon request.

AVAILABLE TO

CONTACT

MORE INFORMATION      For further information, please see [ottur.info](http://ottur.info).