

CONTACT INFORMATION	Georg-August Universität Göttingen RTG 2636 – “Form-meaning mismatches” Nikolausberger Weg 23 37073 Göttingen, Germany	Work: +1 (646) 820-6554 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gautam@ottur.info">gautam@ottur.info</a> Website: <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, coordinate structures, conventionalization, idiomaticity, illocutionary force marking, successive-cyclic movement, hyperraising, left-branch extraction, iconicity.	
THEORETICAL INTERESTS	Merge, Agree, Minimal Search, categoriality, cyclicity, locality, opacity, syntactic features, transformations, multidominance, linearization, projection, coordination, Transfer, lexicalization, Mirror Theory, dependency grammars.	
EMPLOYMENT	<p><b>Research Associate</b>, <a href="#">University of Kassel</a> April 2025 to present  <a href="#">Institute of English and American Studies</a></p> <p><b>Start-up grant recipient</b>, <a href="#">Georg August University of Göttingen</a> January 2025 to May 2025  <a href="#">Research Training Group (Graduiertenkolleg) 2636</a> — “Form–Meaning Mismatches”</p> <p><b>Grant writing assistant</b>, <a href="#">Georg August University of Göttingen</a> July to August 2023  <a href="#">ERC Advanced Grant</a> — “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps”</p> <p><b>Doctoral Researcher</b>, <a href="#">Georg August University of Göttingen</a> October 2021 to December 2024  <a href="#">Research Training Group (Graduiertenkolleg) 2636</a> — “Form–Meaning Mismatches”</p>	
EDUCATION	<p><b>Georg August University of Göttingen</b>, Göttingen, Germany</p> <p>Ph.D., <a href="#">Linguistics</a> October 2021 to present</p> <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>Submitted:</b> May 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>University of Amsterdam</b>, Amsterdam, Netherlands</p> <p>Master of Arts, <a href="#">Linguistics</a> September 2019 to August 2021</p> <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> <p><b>McGill University</b>, Montréal, Canada</p> <p>Bachelor of Arts, <a href="#">Linguistics</a> September 2014 to May 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major concentration: <a href="#">General Linguistics</a> (emphasis on theoretical linguistics, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics)</li> </ul>	

- Minor concentration: [German Language](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

- Gautam Ottur. to appear. Malayalam doesn't need adpositions: the case of vP-adjunction. In *Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project
- Gautam Ottur. 2024. Linear asymmetries and the syntax of serialization: against an antisymmetric approach. In *Proceedings of the 32nd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe*, 234–247. Leiden, The Netherlands: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics [\[link\]](#)
- Marianthi Koraka, Thomas Finkbeiner, Nina-Kristin Meister, Markus Steinbach & Gautam Ottur. 2024. The grammaticalization of a motion verb into an imperative marker in two sign languages. In *Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory 6*, vol. 6, 35–47. Ann Arbor, MI [\[link\]](#)
- Gautam Ottur. 2023. Form and function in serial verb constructions – insights from German Sign Language. In *Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory 5*, vol. 5, 169–180. Bergen, Norway [\[link\]](#)
- Gautam Ottur. 2021. Future tense and habitual aspect in Malayalam. *Linguistics in Amsterdam* 14(1). 145–159 [\[link\]](#)

## CONFERENCE TALKS

- The grammaticalization of a motion verb into an imperative marker in two sign languages. Presented at *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory 6* at the University of Michigan, 6–8 August 2024 (with Marianthi Koraka, Thomas Finkbeiner, Nina-Kristin Meister, and Markus Steinbach).
- C-selection, feature-checking, and anti-locality in coordinate structures. Presented at the conference *Form and Meaning of Coordination* at the University of Göttingen, 4–6 July 2024.
- A reassessment of Mandarin universal quantificational expressions *mei* vs. *suoyou*. Presented at the *44th TABU Dag* at the University of Groningen, 13–14 June 2024 (with Zeqi Zhao).
- Argument introducers and adjunct verbs in Malayalam. Presented online at *Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages 14* at Stony Brook University, 4–6 April, 2024.
- Light verbs in Malayalam are not adpositions. Presented at the *Grote Taal dag 2024* at Utrecht University, 2 February 2024.
- Form and function in serial verb constructions — insights from German Sign Language. Presented online at *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory 5* at the University of Bergen, 27–29 June 2023.
- Serial verbs in head-final languages needn't be Kaynian — a rebuttal from Malayalam. Presented at the *43rd TABU Dag* at the University of Groningen, 15–16 June 2023.

## CONFERENCE POSTERS

- Escape hatches are phase edges, but not all phase edges are escape hatches. To be presented at the *56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 56)* at New York University, 17–19 October, 2025 (with Lieke Hendriks).

	<p>Light-‘give’ constructions in Malayalam and Tamil. To be presented at the <i>56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society</i> (NELS 56) at New York University, 17–19 October, 2025 (with Rishabh Suresh).</p> <p>A timing approach to escape hatch dependencies. 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, Berkley, 12–14 April 2024.</p> <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.</p>
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>
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>

- Introduction to Linguistic Theory: Syntax
  - Graduate introductory course on generative syntax and minimalism.
  - Other instructors: Marco Coniglio, Prudence de Pontbriand

ACADEMIC SERVICE **Student service**

- Student representative to the board of the DFG-funded [Research Training Group \(Graduiertenkolleg\) 2636](#) — “Form–Meaning Mismatches” from May 2023 to October 2024.

**Conferences**

- Reviewer for [ConSOLE 33](#), January 29–31, 2025.
- Organizer, webmaster, graphic designer, and chair for [NELS 53](#), January 12–14, 2023.

**Other reviewing**

- Reviewer for *Linguistic Variation*, 2025.
- Reviewer for edited volume *Serial Predicates Across Modalities* (together with Hedde Zeijlstra), 2025.
- Internal reviewer for the proceedings of [ConSOLE 32](#), 2024.
- Internal reviewer for *Linguistics in Amsterdam* vol. 13 nr. 1 (special issue on *habituals*), 2021.

**Public outreach**

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

THIRD PARTY  
FUNDING  
EXPERIENCE**ERC Advanced Grant Application — “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps”***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 [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).