

CONTACT INFORMATION	Universität Kassel Department of English and American Studies Kurt-Wolters-Straße 5, Room 4034 34127 Kassel, 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, multilingualism, 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	<b>Research Associate, University of Kassel</b> April 2025 to present Institute of English and American Studies  <b>Start-up grant recipient, Georg August University of Göttingen</b> January 2025 to May 2025 Research Training Group ( <i>Graduiertenkolleg</i> ) 2636 — “Form–Meaning Mismatches”  <b>Grant writing assistant, Georg August University of Göttingen</b> July to August 2023 ERC Advanced Grant — “Unpacking Paradigmatic Gaps”  <b>Doctoral Researcher, Georg August University of Göttingen</b> 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., <a href="#">Linguistics</a> October 2021 to October 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis: <i>Dependency and Order</i></li> <li>• Advisors: Hedde Zeijlstra and Markus Steinbach</li> <li>• External advisor: Enoch Oladé Aboh</li> <li>• Areas of study: syntax, language typology</li> <li>• <b>Defended:</b> October 2025 (grade: <i>summa cum laude</i>)</li> </ul> <b>University of Amsterdam</b> , Amsterdam, Netherlands  Master of Arts, <a href="#">Linguistics</a> 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>	

McGill University, Montréal, Canada

Bachelor of Arts, [Linguistics](#)

September 2014 to May 2018

- Major concentration: [General Linguistics](#) (emphasis on theoretical linguistics, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics)
- Minor concentration: [German Language](#)

#### PUBLICATIONS

Gautam Ottur. 2025. 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 [\[link\]](#)

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. 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 Lieke Hendriks).
	Light-‘give’ constructions in Malayalam and Tamil. 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).
	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.
	Malayalam doesn’t need adpositions: the case of <i>vP</i> -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.
	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	Arguments and events in serial verb constructions — insights from German Sign Language. Presented at CNRS/Paris 8 University, 26 September 2022.
OTHER PRESENTATIONS	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).
	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.
	Categoriality and selection in multi-verb constructions. Presented at the Oberseminar English Linguistics at the University of Göttingen, 19 December 2023.
	Insights on serialization from head-final languages. Presented at the Workshop on Serial Verb Constructions at CNRS/Paris 8 University, 11 September 2023.
	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.
	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.
	Insights from serialization across modalities. Poster presented at CreteLing 2022 at the University of Crete, 2022.

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany**

*Lecturer*

Winter Semester 2025–2026

- Interfaces in Sentence Structure
  - Undergraduate advanced seminar on the interactions between syntax and linear order, morphology, semantics, and the lexicon, with a focus on comparisons between English and other languages.

*Lecturer*

Summer Semester 2025

- Areas of Core Grammar
  - Undergraduate introductory seminar on grammar theory with a focus on the syntax of English.

**Georg August University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany**

*Lecturer*

Winter Semester 2023–2024

- Introduction to English Linguistics
  - Undergraduate introductory course on linguistics with a focus on English, covering phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

*Co-lecturer*

Winter Semester 2023–2024

- 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 34](#) at the University School for Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia, January 28–30, 2026.
- Reviewer for [ConSOLE 33](#) at Georg August University of Göttingen, 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 habituels), 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

### **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X**

- 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 BibT<sub>E</sub>X and BibL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

### **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 (heritage)  
French (working knowledge)  
German (basic knowledge)

REFERENCES  
AVAILABLE TO  
CONTACT

References can be provided upon request.

MORE INFORMATION

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