

Henrik Discher *Curriculum vitae*

📍 Freie Universität Berlin
Institute of German and Dutch languages and literatures
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Research interests

Variational pragmatics, variational linguistics and dialectology, semantics and pragmatics, sociolinguistics, experimental pragmatics and psycholinguistics, experimental methods and (geo-)statistical modelling

Current position

since 01/2023 Research fellow (Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) at Freie Universität Berlin, “Variational pragmatics of German: Comparing communicative patterns”, principal investigators: Tanja Ackermann, Christa Dürscheid, Stephan Elspaß, Horst Simon

Previous positions

01/2021 – 09/2022 Research assistant (Wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft) at the University of Potsdam, “Scales in language processing and acquisition (SPA)”, principal investigator: Nicole Gotzner

06/2020 – 02/2021 Student assistant (Studentische Hilfskraft) at Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), Berlin, “Experimental game theory and scalar implicatures: Investigating variation in context and scale type (SIGames)”, principal investigator: Anton Benz

Scholarly visits

06/2024 Research stay at the University of Marburg, Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas, hosts: Matthias Hahn and Alfred Lameli

Education

since 01/2023 Dr. phil. in Linguistics, Freie Universität Berlin

04/2020 – 09/2022 M.A. in Linguistics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, final grade: 1.1

10/2016 – 02/2020 B.A. in German studies and Mathematics, Freie Universität Berlin, final grade: 1.2

Summer schools

07/2024 – 08/2024 Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School (EGG), 25 July-05 August 2022, Masaryk University Brno

Theses

Pragmatic variation of requests, complaints, and assertions in German: (Geo-)statistical modeling of politeness-sensitive speech acts

PhD thesis (in preparation) supervised by Horst Simon

Pragmatic inferences of gradable adjectives in German: The effect of scale structure, polarity, and negation on the interpretation of absolute and relative adjectives

M.A. thesis supervised by Berit Gehrke and Nicole Gotzner

Das Berlinische und seine Verbreitung: Eine Merkmalanalyse des Berliner Sprachgebrauchs um 1880 am Beispiel historischer Wenkerbogen

B.A. thesis supervised by Klaas-Hinrich Ehlers and Horst Simon

Conference proceedings

Alexandropoulou, Stavroula, Henrik Discher, Marisha Herb, & Nicole Gotzner. 2022. Incremental pragmatic interpretation of gradable adjectives: The role of standards of comparison. *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 32. 481-497. <https://doi.org/10.3765/salt.v1i0.5399>

Other publications

Discher, Henrik & Janel Zoske. 2023. Variationspragmatik: Bericht zur Tagung der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Linguistische Pragmatik (ALP e.V.) an der Universität zu Köln am 07. März 2023. *Zeitschrift für Germanistische Linguistik* 51(3). 551-560. <https://doi.org/10.1515/zgl-2023-2026>

Conference presentations

Variational pragmatics of German: The effect of 'region' and other micro- and macro-social factors. [with Janel Zoske, Tanja Ackermann, & Horst Simon]. 12th International Conference on Language Variation in Europe (ICLaVE), Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Vienna, 08-11 July 2024.

The impact of the factors 'nation' and 'region' on pragmatic variation in pluricentric German: First results. [with Tanja Ackermann]. 18th International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA), Université Libre de Bruxelles, 09-14 July 2023.

Incremental processing of scalar inferences of adjectives: The role of comparison standards. [with Stavroula Alexandropoulou, Marisha Herb, & Nicole Gotzner]. 9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPRAG), IUSS Pavia, 22-23 September 2022.

Incremental pragmatic interpretation of gradable adjectives: The role of standards of comparison. [with Stavroula Alexandropoulou, Marisha Herb, & Nicole Gotzner]. 32th Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT), El Colegio de México, Mexico City, 08-10 June 2022.

Incremental processing of scalar implicatures of adjectives: The role of lexical semantics. [with Stavroula Alexandropoulou, Marisha Herb, & Nicole Gotzner]. 42nd Annual Meeting of the Department of Linguistics (AMGL), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 06-08 May 2022.

Measure phrases as modifiers of negative adjectives. 70th Studentische Tagung Sprachwissenschaft (StuTS), University of Vienna, 17-21 November 2021.

Other presentations

Pragmatische Variation von höflichkeitssensitiven Sprechakten: Die Faktoren 'Region' und 'Nation' in der geostatistischen Analyse. German linguistics research colloquium (FoGeL), Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, 11 June 2024.

Wen befragen wir? Auswirkungen von (sprachlicher) Mobilität für die Untersuchung von regionaler Sprachvariation. [with Janel Zoske]. Research colloquium by Ferdinand von Mengden, Freie Universität Berlin, 29 November 2023.

Wie können wir linguistische Mobilität messen? Herangehensweisen und Herausforderungen. [with Janel Zoske]. Colloquium of the linguistics research groups at TU Dortmund University, University of Münster, University of Osnabrück, & Freie Universität Berlin, Oerlinghausen, 10-12 November 2023.

Zwischen Sprachproduktion und -reflexion. Discourse Completion Tasks, Adequacy Ratings und linguistische Feldforschung als variantenpragmatische Untersuchungsmethoden. [with Janel Zoske]. Workshop “Methoden der variationellen Pragmatik und historischen Soziolinguistik”, Freie Universität Berlin, 26-27 June 2023.

Variational pragmatics and discourse completion tasks. Psychosemantics seminar by Nicole Gotzner, University of Osnabrück, 16 May 2023.

Pragmatische Inferenzen in Deutsch und Englisch: Interpretation von ab-soluten und relativen Adjektiven im Sprachvergleich. Research colloquium by Ferdinand von Mengden, Freie Universität Berlin, 14 December 2022.

Warum bedeutet nicht gut nicht schlecht? Pragmatische Inferenzen von graduierbaren Adjektiven im Deutschen. Research colloquium on German grammar by Christian Zimmer, Freie Universität Berlin, 30 November 2022.

Scale structure and negation: Inferences of gradable adjectives in German. Syntax and semantics colloquium by Stefan Müller and Elisabeth Verhoeven, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 26 April 2022.

Public outreach

Essen und Höflichkeit: Regionale Variation von kommunikativen Routinen. [with Janel Zoske]. Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, Freie Universität Berlin, 17 June 2023.

Teaching

Sprachwissenschaftliche Fragestellungen und Methoden, winter term 2023/2024, B.A. German studies & EinS@FU, Freie Universität Berlin

Workshop organization

9th Linguistik Meetup Berlin-Brandenburg, 29 September 2022, University of Potsdam

Membership

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS)

Skills

<i>Language</i>	German (native), English (C1), French (B2)
<i>Coding</i>	R, Python, HTML, JavaScript
<i>Experimental tools</i>	PClbex, ScoSci Survey
<i>Annotating tools</i>	Praat, EXMARaLDA, ANNIS

References

Horst Simon Freie Universität Berlin Habelschwerdter Allee 45 14195 Berlin	Tanja Ackermann University of Bielefeld Universitätsstraße 25 33615 Bielefeld	Nicole Gotzner University of Osnabrück Wachsbleiche 27 49090 Osnabrück
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