

Mag. Remo Nitschke, PhD

CV

✉ remo.nitschke@uzh.ch
🌐 remo-help.github.io/
🐙 github.com/remo-help

Education

- 2018–2023 **Linguistics PhD Program**, *University of Arizona*
Major: Syntactic Theory, **Minor:** Computational Linguistics
Dissertation Topic: Syntax and Semantics of Degree Modification in German Adjectives,
Advisor: Heidi Harley
- 2019–2021 **Human Language Technology MS Program**, *University of Arizona*
Advisor: Mike Hammond
- 2012–2018 **Teacher Training Program, Magister**, *Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz*, *Master Equivalent (5-year program)*

Academic Experience

Jobs

- 2024– **Postdoc**, *University of Zurich*, NCCR&ISLE
- 2023–2024 **Researcher**, *University of Zurich*, NCCR@LiRi
- 2021–2023 **Research Associate**, *University of Arizona*, ToMCAT, Theory of Mind-based Cognitive Architecture for Teams (DARPA Grant: ASIST)
Within the ToMCAT project I lead a team that maintains and expands an event extraction (EE) system for finding team communication events, among other text-based NLP capabilities.
- Spring 2021 **Research Associate**, *University of Arizona*, LIVES Project
Data restoration and support
- 2019–2020 **Research Assistant**, *University of Arizona*, *Linguistics*, Prof. Noam Chomsky
Aiding in data presentations and working on an independent research project
- 2018–2020 **Teaching Assistant**, *University of Arizona*, *Linguistics*
- 2015–2016 **Research Assistant**, *University of Graz*, *Section of Theoretical English Linguistics*, *English Dep.*
Data collection for a research project on Actuality Entailments

Teaching

- Spring 2025 **Syntax**. Main Instructor
- Fall 2024 **Semantik und Pragmatik**. Main Instructor
- Fall 2020 **LING 300**. *Introduction to Syntax*. Standalone TA
- Fall 2019 **LING/PHIL 211** *Language, Mind and Brain*. TA/instructional aide
- Spring 2019 **LING/ENG 322**. *The Structure and Meaning of Words (Introduction to Morphology and Morphosyntax)*. Standalone TA
- Fall 2018 & Spring 2020 **LING 150A**. *Languages in the World (Introduction to Languages and Linguistics)*. Section instructor/GTA

Peer Reviewed Publications

- published Miyagawa, S., DeSalle, R., Nóbrega V., Nitschke, Okumura, M., R., Tattersall I. (2025). "Linguistic capacity was present in the Homo sapiens population 135 thousand years ago". *Frontiers in Psychology*. 16.
- published Nitschke, R. (2022). "On the Extended Projection of German Adjectives" In: Phoebos Panagiotidis and Moreno Mitrović (Eds.), *A⁰ – The Lexical Status of Adjectives* (LFAB 17), pages 219–256. John Benjamins. <https://benjamins.com/catalog/lfab.17.07nit>
- published Nitschke, R., Wang Y., Chen, C., Pyarelal, A. and Sharp, R. (2022). "Rule Based Event Extraction for Artificial Social Intelligence" In: *Proceedings of Pattern-based Approaches to NLP in the Age of Deep Learning*, pages 71–84. International Conference on Computational Linguistics.
- published Nitschke, R. (2021). "Restoring the sister: Reconstructing a lexicon from sister languages using neural machine translation" In: *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Indigenous Languages of the Americas*, pages 122–130, Online. Association for Computational Linguistics

Unreviewed Proceedings and Manuscripts

- published Nitschke, R. (2023). Degree Modification, Monotonicity, and Measure Function Selection: Evidence from German. *Dissertation*
- published Nitschke, R. (2020). Using Genetic Data to Make Linguistic Arguments: Are clicks evidence of late externalization?. *U. Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*, 26(1).

Manuscripts in Preparation/Review

- in preparation Nitschke, R., Bosshard, A., Cathcart, C., Bickel, B. (in prep). "Inferring Structure from Animal Communications with Unsupervised Methods" [working title]
- under review Almeida da Silva, A., Nitschke, R., Miyagawa, S., Nóbrega V., Valls Yoshida, F. (in prep). "Birth of a Language in the Backlands of Brazil" [submitted to Cognitive Science]

Conference Talks

- 2022 **Rule Based Event Extraction for Artificial Social Intelligence**, *Gyeongju, Republic of Korea*, PAN-DL at COLING 2022
- 2022 **Homesign And The Speed Of Externalization: What homesigners can tell us about the externalization of language capacity**, *Quebec, Canada*, Première Conférence Internationale sur la Biolinguistique de l'UQTR
- 2019 **Using Genetic Evidence to Make Linguistic Arguments: pitfalls and opportunities**, *UPenn, Philadelphia*, PLC 43
- 2019 **Viel Geliebt: German participial adjectives and degree words**, *University of Arizona, Tucson*, Arizona Linguistics Circle 13
- 2018 **On the Extended Projection of German Adjectives**, *Bled-Slovenia*, A0: The Adjective as a Lexical Category

Posters

- 2022 **Lessons Learned from a Secondary Analysis Using Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning from a Lifestyle Intervention**, *Baltimore, MD*, 43rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, (as non-presenting co-author)
- 2021 **"Restoring the sister: Reconstructing a lexicon from sister languages using neural machine translation"**, *Online*, AmericasNLP at NAACL-HLT

Invited Talks

- 2023 **Degree Modification, Monotonicity, and Measure Function Selection: Evidence from German**, *University of Manchester*, Semantics Lab
- 2021 **Neural Machine Translation Approaches for Vocabulary Reconstruction Tasks**, *NUI Galway, Ireland*, Cardamon Seminar Series

Publications as Editor

- Chief Editor Nitschke, Remo, Jennifer Medina, Gabriela De la Cruz-Sánchez, John W.W. Powell, Luis A. Irizarry-Figueroa, George-Michael Pescaru, Florian Hafner (eds.). (2022). *Coyote Papers 24: Proceedings of the Arizona Linguistics Circle 15*.
- Chief Editor Nitschke, Remo, Damian Y. Romero Diaz, Gabriela De La Cruz Sánchez, John W. W. Powell, Kristina Mihajlović, Luis A. Irizarry-Figueroa, George-Michael Pescaru, Florian Hafner (eds.). (2021). *Coyote Papers 23: Proceedings of the Arizona Linguistics Circle 14*
- Chief Editor Nitschke, Remo, Damian Y. Romero Diaz, Gabriela De La Cruz Sánchez, John W. W. Powell (eds.). (2020). *Coyote Papers 22: Proceedings of the Arizona Linguistics Circle 13*

Supervision

- 2023-2024 Co-supervision of a MS thesis (predicting songbird vocalizations from neural activations)
- 2022-2023 Supervision of two graduate Research Assistants within ToMCAT
- 2022 Supervision of one undergraduate Research Assistant within ToMCAT

Service

- 2025 **Organization of a workshop on Animal Communication and Linguistics at SLE 2025**
- 2022-2023 **Coyote Papers, Editorial Board**
- 2019-2022 **Abstract Reviews for Arizona Linguistics Circle (annual conference)**
- 2022 **Reviewer for GPSC travel grants**
- 2019-2022 **Coyote Papers, Editor in Chief**
- 2022 **Volunteer for ALC16**
- 2019-2021 **Mentoring for incoming graduate students**
- 2021 **Volunteer for ALC15**
- 2020 **LING Department Graduate Student Faculty Representative**
- 2020 **Volunteer for ALC14**
- 2019 **Organization committee for ALC13**
- 2019 **Volunteer for SAIL**

Industry Experience

- Summer 2022 **Research Intern**, *Educational Testing Services*, ETS AI Labs, Integrating SHAP functionality into RSMT TOOL: AI Explainability.
I integrated SHAP functionality into RSMT TOOL (RSMT). RSMT is used by ETS to evaluate machine learning models and assess them for fairness. I added components to the library that allow automatic generation of an explainability report for models generated using ETS' internal sci-kit learn wrapper, SKLL.

Programming

- Languages Python (proficient), Scala (beginner), C++ (beginner)

Libraries pytorch, transformers, beautiful soup, pony ORM, matplotlib, sklearn, shap, pandas, numpy, transformers, gsutil, openNMT-py, *among others*

Adjacent Skills

Version Control Version control with git and Github.

SQLite Experience with SQLite databases through pony-ORM (Python).

LaTeX Usage as a text editor, to compile slides, present data, and write templates

Languages

○ German, Proficient, Native

○ French, Basics

○ English, Proficient

○ Spanish, Basics