

# Sam Mersch

## Curriculum Vitae

Université du Luxembourg, MSH  
11, Porte des Sciences  
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## Education

- 2017–(2020) **PhD Studies**, *University of Luxembourg*, Belval (Luxembourg).  
Specializing in the History of the Luxembourgish Language, Place Names, Rural History, Computational Linguistics
- 2018 **Certificate**, *Fachhochschule Potsdam (Weiterbildungsprogramm der Freien Universität Berlin)*, Potsdam (Germany).  
Einführung in Grundlagen und Grundbegriffe der Archivarbeit
- 2017 **M.A. Neuere Geschichte / Modern History**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany), 1.8 - German Grading System.  
Specializing in Agrarian and Cultural History
- 2017 **M.A. Indogermanistik / Indo-European Studies**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany), 1.8 - German Grading System.  
Specializing in Linguistics and Culture, and, Semantic Reconstruction and Typology
- 2015–2017 **Graduate Studies**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany), Grade.  
Indo-European Studies, Modern History, Agrarian and Cultural History, Oriental studies and Classical studies
- 2015 **B.A. Geschichte (HF) – Indogermanistik (NF) / History (Maj.) - Indo-European Studies (Min.)**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany), 1.3 - German Grading System.  
Specializing in Ancient and Medieval History, American History and Cultural History, Indo-European, Greek, Italic and Celtic linguistics.
- 2011–2015 **Undergraduate Studies**, *Friedrich-Schiller-Universität*, Jena (Germany).  
History, Prehistoric Archaeology, Classics, Indo-European Linguistics, Gender Studies
- 2013–2014 **Undergraduate Studies**, *Concordia College*, Moorhead/MN (U.S.A.).  
Specializing in European and American History, Ancient Greek and Food History.
- 2009 **Diplôme de fins d'études secondaires**, *Lycée Classique de Diekirch*, Diekirch (Luxembourg).  
section musicale

## PhD thesis (ongoing)

title *Vum Schnuddelmier op d'Äppeltaart. Approaches to Luxembourgish Toponymy*  
supervisors Prof. Dr. Peter Gilles, Ass. Prof. Dr. Martin Uhrmacher, Dr. Kathrin Dräger

description The thesis is analyzing Luxembourgish toponymy with a view to its relevance for the linguistic history of the Luxembourgish language, while also focusing on the toponyms as a cognitive system and its regional relevance. The study uses traditional, but also computational approaches, including computational linguistics, GIS mapping and computational model building.

language Thesis written in English

### Master thesis

title *Crû et classé – Impressions de qualités sur le vin français du 19ième siècle.*

supervisors Prof. Dr. Thomas Kroll, Prof. Dr. Friedemann Schmoll

description The thesis analysis cultural impressions on French wine while also looking at the rise and development of the notion of *terroir* by studying french wine guides from 19th and 20th century.

language Thesis written in French

### Master thesis

title *Indo-European meat and flesh – semantic typology and reconstruction.*

supervisors Prof. Dr. Martin Joachim Kümmel, Dr. Sabine Ziegler

description The thesis looks into the semantic make-up of generic words for the concepts of *meat* and *flesh* within the Indo-European language family, while offering attempts of semantic reconstruction and typological distributions.

language Thesis written in English

### Bachelor thesis

title *Gottlieb Siegmund Corvinus' Frauenzimmer-Lexikon im Kontext der food history.*

supervisors Prof. Dr. Gisela Mettele, Prof. Dr. Friedemann Schmoll

description The thesis analyses the very first German woman's lexicon with a view to the knowledge that is deemed important for any German woman of a certain standing, while focusing on the indications of food preparation and their actual value as a cookbook.

language Thesis written in German

## Experience

### Vocational

2017–2020 **Doctoral Researcher**, *University of Luxembourg*, Belval, Luxembourg.  
Affiliated with the *Luxembourg Center for Contemporary and Digital History* (C<sup>2</sup>DH) and the *Institut fir Lëtzebuergesche Sprooch a Literatur*.

Tasks:

- Independent research;
  - researching historical morphological aspects of the Luxembourgish language;
  - researching cognitive aspects of the Luxembourgish toponymy;
  - researching aspects of Luxembourgish rural history;
  - assessing the value of computational and digital methods for qualitative linguistics, specifically toponymic studies;
  - development of specific tools for quantitative and qualitative studies in toponymics;
- Collaborative research:
  - questioning and advancing inter-disciplinarity in science and education;
  - developing common tools for research and education;
  - contribution to the citizen's portal of the *Institut fir Lëtzebuergesche Sprooch a Literatur* (<https://infolux.uni.lu/infodesk>)

06–09/2016 **Linguistic Collaborator**, *Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History*, Jena (Germany).

Collaboration to the linguistic database *cobl*, establishing the Luxembourgish lexemes. (ongoing consultation)

10–12/2016 **Research assistant**, *Institut für Romanistik, Lehrstuhl für Rumänistik*, Jena (Germany).

independent research and preliminary research work for the chair

09–12/2016 **Research assistant**, *Institut für Slawistik und Kaukasiologie, Lehrstuhl für Südslavistik*, Jena (Germany).

preliminary research work for the chair

10/2015–12/2016 **Research assistant**, *Institut für Orientalistik, Indogermanistik und ur- und frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Lehrstuhl für Indogermanistik*, Jena (Germany).

preliminary research work for the chair and for the project of the etymological dictionary of Old High German

### Internships

07–08/2016 **Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Aussenstelle Jena**, Jena (Germany).  
Internship at the Saxonian Academy of Sciences for the project of the etymological dictionary of Old High German (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Althochdeutschen, EWA*), authorship of main and secondary lemmata.

2014 **Centre National de Littérature, CNL**, Mersch (Luxembourg).

Internship at the library and archive.

Fall 2013 **College Archives, Concordia College**, Moorhead, Mn (USA).

Assessment and partial translation of donated collection of medieval to early modern documents in Early Modern German, Latin and Late Medieval French.

Spring 2014 **College Library, Concordia College**, Moorhead, Mn (USA).

Assessment of international collection, introduction to the Dewey classification

## Teaching

- Spring 2019 **Geeky Gothic – Gotisch für Liebhaber**, *University of Luxembourg*, BCE Additional Studies, Bachelor course, seminar.  
Introduction to the early medieval Gothic language and literature
- Fall 2018 **Linguistics**, *University of Luxembourg*, English Studies, Bachelor course, lecture.  
Introduction to general linguistics with a focus on English linguistics.
- Fall 2018 **Introduction to Digital History**, *University of Luxembourg*, History, Master course, seminar.  
Teaching of the content blocks on the history of cartography and digital cartography (GIS)
- Fall 2018 **Writing systems**, *University of Luxembourg*, English Studies, Bachelor course, workshop.  
Introduction to theory and typology of writing system of the world.
- Fall 2018 **The Indo-European Language Family**, *University of Luxembourg*, English Studies, Bachelor course, workshop.  
Introduction to Indo-European linguistics and the Indo-European language family by using original linguistic sources.
- Spring 2014 **Kaffeeklatsch – German language and culture**, *Concordia College*, German Studies, Bachelor course, tutorial exercise.  
German Conversation and Culture.
- Fall 2013 **Kaffeeklatsch – German language and culture**, *Concordia College*, German Studies, Bachelor course, tutorial exercise.  
German Conversation and Culture.

## Miscellaneous

- 2016 **Mentor**, *Institut für Orientalistik, Indogermanistik und ur- und frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Lehrstuhl für Indogermanistik*, Jena (Germany).  
Mentoring incoming and changing students

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## Languages

Luxembourgish	native
German	almost native
English	almost native
French	almost native
Italian	A2
Japanese	A2
	Latinum, Graecum

## Linguistic Training

- Indo-European Languages** Albanian (Gheg and Tosk), Hittite, Luvian (Hieroglyphic and Cuneiform), Vedic and Classical Sanskrit, Avestan, Old Persian, Classical Armenian, Mycenaean Greek, Ancient Greek (Classical and Dialects), Early and Classical Latin, Faliscan, Oskian, Umbrian, South Picene, Tocharian (A and B), Old and Middle Church Slavonic, Gaulish, Old Irish, Middle Welsh, Middle Breton, Gothic, Old English, Old High German, Old Saxon, Old Norse and Old Swedish (and Gutnish), Middle High German, Old Romanian, Old Occitan, Old Portuguese, Old Castilian.
- Other** Sumerian, Elamite, Akkadian, Korean, Chinese

## Computer skills

- OSs** Windows, Mac OS X, Unix      **Text** MS Office, Open Office, Latex
- Programming** Python, Java, Java-Script, SQL      **Mark-Up** HTML, XML, CSS
- Other** QGIS, Terragen, Blender

## Research Interests

- Linguistics** historical linguistics, Luxembourgish linguistics, semantics and pragmatics, phonology, morphology, cognitive linguistics, linguistic hermeneutics, Balkan linguistics
- History** cultural history, food history, rural and agrarian history, the history of everyday life
- Anthropology** food habits and food preferences, folklore of the Balkans, mysticism and the occult, ethnogenesis, daily culture

## Invited Talks and Workshops

- 2019 **Geschichtsfrënn Suessem**, *E wëssenschaftleche Bléck op d'Suessemer Flouernimm*, Talk.
- 2019 **Mapping Urban History**, *Linking urban spaces - Enhancing accuracy with toponymic data*, Workshop presentation.
- 2018 **Institut Grand-Ducal**, *Flouernimm an hiert Potenzial fir d'Lëtzebuerger Sproochgeschichte*, Talk.

## Scientific Memberships

- Corresponding Member of the *Institut Grand-Ducal, Section Linguistique, Ethnologie et Onomastique*
- Indogermanische Gesellschaft
- International Council for Onomastic Sciences
- Gesellschaft für Geschichte des Weines
- International Cognitive Linguistics Association
- Südosteuropa Gesellschaft
- Gesellschaft für Onomastik

## Publications

- 2017-2019 **Blog articles**, *Explanations on Etymology, Onomastics and word usage for the Infolux Infodesk*, <https://infolux.uni.lu/infodesk>.
- 2019 **Research article**, *Der Lautwandel –pt– > –cht– im Luxemburgischen - Typologie und relative Chronologie anhand von onomastischem Material*, in preparation.
- 2019 **Research article**, *Die Weiler-Namen Luxemburgs Reevaluiert - Evidenz einer regionalen Isoglosse*, in preparation.
- 2019 **Research article**, *Heilige Quellen, Heiligenverehrung und Heilquellen in Luxemburg - Eine Rekonstruktion anhand der Flurnamen*, together with Jean-Paul Stein, in preparation.
- 2019 **Research article**, *Wegenamen als Flurnamen - Versuch einer typologisch-historischen Stratigrafie von Wegenetzen*, in Kathrin Dräger, Rita Heuser, Anne Rosar, Andrea Scheller (Ed.): *Namengeographie*, accepted.
- 2019 **Research article**, *Illyrer und Dakerrezeption in Albanien und Rumänien. Mythenbildung und faktische Probleme*, in Maner, Hans-Christian/ Zalepos, Ioannis (Ed.): *Antike und Byzanz als historisches Erbe in Südosteuropa (19.-21. Jahrhundert)*, in print.
- 2018 **Research article**, *Reconstructing the historical landscape of Larochette, Luxembourg*, in Ioannides M. et al. (eds) *Digital Heritage. Progress in Cultural Heritage: Documentation, Preservation, and Protection. EuroMed 2018. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol 11197. Springer, Cham, together with Marleen de Kramer and Christopher Morse.
- 2017 **Review**, Christian Voß / Wolfgang Dahmen (Ed.): *Babel Balkan? Politische und soziokulturelle Kontexte von Sprache in Südosteuropa (= Südosteuropa-Jahrbuch Band 40)*, München: Ottos Sagner (2014), in *Zeitschrift für Balkanologie* 53/2.
- 2017 **Catalogue contribution**, *Zu Tisch beim Renert. Die monogrammierte Tischdecke der Familie Rodange-Leysen*, in Conter, Claude (Ed.): *Aufbewahrt! A conserver!*, Mersch: CNL.
- 2017 **Exposition article**, *Zu Tisch beim Renert. Die monogrammierte Tischdecke der Familie Rodange-Leysen*, Exposition *Aufbewahrt! A conserver!*, Mersch: CNL.
- 2016 **Review**, Thede Kahl / Peter Mario Kreuter / Christina Vogel (Ed.): *Culinaria balcanica*, Berlin: Frank & Timme (2015), in *Philologica Jassyensia* 23.