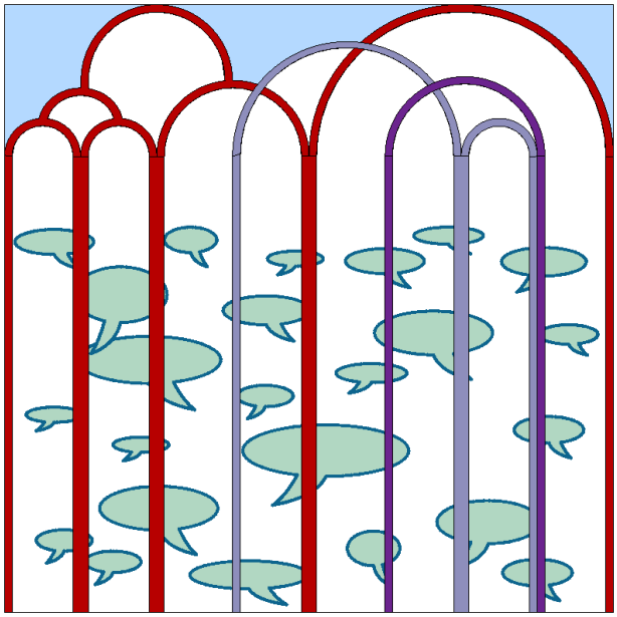
UNIVERSITÀ di VERONA | Dipartimento di LINGUE E LETTERATURE STRANIERE

Dipartimento di Eccellenza 2018/2022 MIUR

Dottorato di ricerca in Letterature Straniere, Lingue e Linguistica
Curriculum *Linguistics*

4th Winter School in Linguistics

organized by the University of Verona



19 - 28 January 2021

University of Verona

Co-working room / zoom

Register here
(link to zoom meeting upon registration)

La direttrice del Dipartimento - prof.ssa Alessandra Tomaselli
Il coordinatore del Dottorato e responsabile del Curriculum *Linguistics* - prof. Stefan Rabanus

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Seminars

Artificial Grammar Learning I – Diego Gabriel Krivochen (Università di Verona)

Artificial Grammar Learning II – Denis Delfitto, Chiara Melloni, Maria Vender (Università di Verona)

Parametric Syntax I – Andrea Padovan, Alessandra Tomaselli (Università di Verona)

Parametric Syntax II – Ian Roberts (University of Cambridge)

Invited lecture

Impossible Languages. Parameter Settings and Neurolinguistics
Andrea Moro, Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori (IUSS) di Pavia

Week 1: Artificial Grammar Learning (AGL) I and II

	Tue, 19.01	**Wed, 20.01**	**Thu, 21.01**	**Fri, 22.01**
10:00 – 10:30	Greetings from the authorities			
10:30 – 12:30	AGL I (Krivochen)	AGL I (Krivochen)	AGL II (Melloni)	AGL II (Vender)
14:00 – 16:00	AGL I (Krivochen)	AGL I (Krivochen)	AGL II (Vender)	AGL II (Delfitto)

Week 2: Parametric Syntax I and II

	Mon, 25.01	**Tue, 26.01**	**Wed, 27.01**	**Thu, 28.01**
10:30 – 12:30	Introduction to parametric syntax I (Tomaselli)	Introduction to parametric syntax II (Padovan)	Advanced topics in parametric syntax I (Roberts)	Advanced topics in parametric syntax II (Roberts)
14:00 – 16:00	Introduction to parametric syntax I (Tomaselli)	Introduction to parametric syntax II (Padovan)	Advanced topics in parametric syntax I (Roberts)	Advanced topics in parametric syntax II (Roberts)
17:00 – 18:30	Andrea Moro			

Week 1
Artificial Grammar Learning (I and II)

Learning outcomes
This integrated PhD course intends to provide participants with updated knowledge of new research strategies concerning how language is acquired, implicit learning and Artificial Grammar Learning (AGL).
At the end of the course, participants will be endowed with some specific knowledge about:
a) new trends in language acquisition research
b) the role of AGL in assessing learning strategies in language acquisition, also with reference to special populations (dyslexic children) and bilinguals
c) the role of non-canonical grammars (Lindenmayer systems: 'L-systems') in assessing the interaction between sequential and hierarchical learning
d) the experimental methods and the forms of statistical analysis that can be applied in order to study the interaction between sequential and hierarchical parsing in children and adults

Course contents
The course will consist in 16 hours of frontal teaching plus self-study by the participants.
In all its parts it will be the result of a strict cooperation among the 4 lecturers involved (Denis Delfitto, Diego Krivochen, Chiara Melloni, Maria Vender).
It will be organized in the following 4 parts:
Part 1: An introduction to the formal structure of grammars, L-systems and to some models of analysis of L-systems, including training and exercises in the formal theory of language (Lecturer: Diego Krivochen, 8 hours)
Part 2: A case-study in sequential and hierarchical learning across different populations: L-systems and Fibonacci grammar (Lecturers: Maria Vender, Chiara Melloni, Denis Delfitto, 8 hours)
Part 2 will be taught in 3 blocks:

- Block 1: Strategies of language acquisition and methods of research in language acquisition (Lecturer: Chiara Melloni)
- Block 2: Sequential and hierarchical learning across different populations: 4 experimental studies investigating implicit learning in some variants of Fibonacci grammar (Lecturer: Maria Vender)
- Block 3: Statistically-based computation and strategies of hierarchical reconstruction (Lecturer: Denis Delfitto)

Participants will be asked to read in advance some relevant literature.
During the course, some training and exercises will be proposed.

Assessment: Interested participants can write a paper on some of the research issues addressed in the course.

References: Reading instructions and proposals before the course and during the course (provided via Dropbox in due time).

Week 2
Parametric Syntax (I and II)

Learning outcomes
Students will be able to describe the basic concepts, analyses and hypotheses underlying the formal syntactic theory of the last decades, with a particular emphasis on how the concept of parameter has developed in the past 40 years of generative tradition.

Course contents
Part I, Introduction to parametric syntax – Alessandra Tomaselli, Andrea Padovan (8 hours)
In this introductory course the main tenets of comparative syntax will be discussed: in particular, the notions of parameter and parametric variation will be thoroughly dealt with.
The first 4-hour slot will be devoted to recapitulating the main features of the Government and Binding (G&B) approach of generative theorizing: concepts such as X-bar theory, c-command, dominance and binary branching will be taken into account. Particular emphasis will be placed on how the concept of parameter was conceived in the G&B era. The contrastive perspective will encompass English, Italian, German and French.
The second 4-hour slot will be devoted to a gentle introduction to minimalist syntax: the status of the Narrow Syntax as the locus of basic operations such as Merge (External Merge and Internal Merge) and Agree; the role of the external Interfaces; the relation between minimalism and the cartographic approach; the notion of parameter in minimalist theorizing.
Part II, Advanced topics in parametric syntax – Ian Roberts (8 hours)
PhD Students will become familiar with some of the most important issues at the forefront of current linguistic theory. Strong emphasis will be placed on the speaker's extensive research on parametric variation.

Assessment: Students can choose aspects of the modules as a topic of their term paper.

References
Chomsky, N. (1981). Lectures on Government and Binding. Mouton de Gruyter.
Greenberg, J. (1966). Language Universals: With Special Reference to Feature Hierarchies. The Hague: Mouton & Co. (Reprinted 1980)
Padovan, Andrea (2019). A Minimalist Introduction to the German(ic) Clause Structure. Verona: QuiEdit
Roberts, Ian G. (2019). Parameter Hierarchies and Universal Grammar. Oxford: Oxford University Press
NB: literature will be provided via Dropbox in due time.

Invited lecture
Impossible Languages. Parameter Settings and Neurolinguistics
Andrea Moro

One of the major discoveries of modern linguistics is that languages cannot vary unboundedly: every language is a set of specific values for parameters in an invariant system of principles. Are the "boundaries of Babel" cultural, conventional, accidental or neurobiological? By testing the brain's network activation to the acquisition of artificial "impossible languages" it has been possible to provide strong evidence in favor of a neurobiological explanation for the adherence to the principles. Interestingly, the technological tools adopted so far do not seem to be able to capture activities related to parameter settings. In this talk, I will discuss this twofold aspect of the research of neurolinguistics and explore the possibility that the analysis of the electrophysiological code underlying syntax may offer new perspectives.