Joint seminar for cross-Germanic linguistics

Coordinators: Laurent Gautier (Dijon / Université de Bourgogne), Sarah Harchaoui (Paris / Sorbonne Université), Pierre-Yves Modicom (Lyon / Université Jean Moulin)

https://framaforms.org/joint-seminar-for-cross-germanic-linguistics-seminaire-tournant-de-linguistique-intergermanique-0

In recent years, the linguistic investigation of Germanic languages has experienced a theoretical renewal, enhanced by inputs from general linguistics and diversity linguistics. Conversely, Germanic languages have played a prominent role in recent debates in general linguistics, theoretical linguistics, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and cross-linguistic discourse analysis. Among the topics where this mutual enrichment has been most productive, one could name valency, frame semantics, pragmaticalization and grammaticalization, word order (OV/VO) or phraseology. The underlying premise of the joint seminar for cross-Germanic linguistics is that the comparison Germanic languages, especially in variation-oriented frameworks, is a crucial node in this reconnection of Germanic and general linguistics.

Cross-Germanic linguistics can rely on the long-lasting tradition of comparison between Scandinavian varieties, and on the well-established contrastive habitus of Dutch linguistics. But more recently, comparisons between North and West Germanic have been blossoming, just like the comparison of contact varieties from various branches of the Germanic family, both in well-known areas of language contact and in new discourse spaces created by digital interactions, which can be considered new places of language contact.

The aim of the joint seminar on cross-Germanic linguistics is twofold. Firstly, it should provide a forum for recent and ongoing comparative research that contributes to the development of the field and to the dialogue between Germanic linguistics and general linguistics. Further, the joint seminar is intended as a place to discuss the epistemological and methodological challenges raised by the contrastive analysis of tightly related languages, in the wake of numerous works on the methods of contrastive linguistics throughout the world.

Unless otherwise stated, the seminar will take place on Friday afternoon (14:00 to 17:00, CET). Hybrid broadcasting will be organized for those unable to attend physically. Spontaneous proposals of talk are accepted. Special attention will be paid to M.A. and PhD students: we intend to include a talk by a young scholar in each seminar.


Laurent Gautier (Dijon): Du sandwich à la tartine : enjeux de la comparaison allemand-néerlandais entre système et usage.

Kiran van Bentum (Berlin): Between Politics and Science? The Role of the Language Border (“taalgrens”) in Historical Journals from Flanders and the Netherlands (1830 – 1940)

Seminar 2: North by North West: The contribution of Scandinavian languages to cross-Germanic linguistics. THURSDAY, November 10th, 2022, Université Lyon 3 Jean Moulin, Lyon. 14H00.

Sarah Harchaoui (Paris): Advances from Scandinavian variational linguistics.

Pierre-Yves Modicom (Lyon): Comparing West and North Germanic grammars: A case study from word order

Joren Sommers (Ghent), in cooperation with Jóhanna Barðdal (Ghent): The nominative / dative alternation in German and Icelandic

Seminar 3: Focus on Frisian. December 2nd, 2022, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon. 14H00.

Ruth Kircher (Fryske Akademie): New speakers and the revitalisation of West Frisian

Lourens Visser (Groningen): The diachrony of degree adverbs in West Germanic, under special consideration of Frisian and Low German


Seminar 4: March 17th, 2023, TBA.

Seminar 5: April 7th, 2023, TBA.

Seminar 6: May 26th, 2023, TBA.
Selective references


