

The Van Riemsdijk Foundation (VRF) Annual Report 2021, 2022

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1. Foundation

The Van Riemsdijk Foundation (VRF) —Dutch: De Van Riemsdijk Stichting— was founded on May 25th, 2021. As of that same date, VRF has been accredited the status of ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instelling), which means VRF’s efforts are entirely committed to the public benefit.

2. Vision, mission, and goals.

2.1 Vision

Language is a fundamental property of human beings. It is part of our cognition: we have *knowledge* of language, or to put it differently: we have a mental *grammar*. In the past decades, major steps have been made towards answering the question as to what this knowledge consists of. Fundamental research on both the structure of specific natural languages and human language more generally has led to numerous observations, analyses, and theoretical insights.

VRF considers continuation of fundamental research on language to be of the utmost importance. There are still big gaps in our knowledge of this unique capacity of human beings. The foundation aims at stimulating and advancing fundamental research on our knowledge of language (grammar), including language description, linguistic analysis, and linguistic theorizing. It considers the promotion of research activity to be a crucial requirement for reaching a thorough understanding of human language.

2.2 Mission

VRF aims to promote and advance the activity of research on language as a knowledge system (i.e. grammar). The foundation would like to realize this by giving theoretical linguists

and other experts —individually or by means of teamwork; both of junior rank and senior rank— the opportunity (i) to develop ideas, analyses, and theories, (ii) to exchange these with others, and (iii) to disseminate them through relevant channels. The foundation underlines the importance of the education and development of young researchers. One of its goals is to promote the interaction between, and collaboration of, junior researchers and senior researchers.

2.3 Goals – what VRF aims at

VRF aims to contribute to a dynamic research environment for the study of human language (grammar) by focusing on the following core domains:

- 1) Research stimulation through innovation: activities that aim to promote new lines of linguistic inquiry.
- 2) Research stimulation through interaction: activities that aims to promote research exchange between researchers/research teams.
- 3) Research stimulation through education: activities that support and advance exchange of knowledge.

3. Governance

The VRF board consists of the following members:

- Chairperson: Norbert Corver
- Secretary: Jeroen van Craenenbroeck
- Treasurer: Norbert Corver
- Regular member: One of the members of the board is the chairperson of the Association of Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW).
- Regular member: Elisabeth Kriechbaum

From May 25th 2021 – April 30th 2022, Gillian Ramchand (former chairperson of GLOW) was one of VRF’s regular members. As of May 1st 2022, Susanne Wurmbrand (current chairperson of GLOW) is a member of the VRF board.

VRF has a Scientific Advisory Board consisting of 15 members. Each member is affiliated to a university or research institute in Europe. The advisory board is involved in the reviewing and evaluation of proposals that are submitted to the various VRF funding schemes.

4. Activities and Plans in 2021

In the period June-December 2021, VRF’s activities focused on developing a policy plan and infrastructure for its future activities. Specifically, the following activities were undertaken:

- In June-September 2021, the board members discussed the following topics: (i) VRF’s vision and mission statement, (ii) the specific tasks of each of the board members, (iii) the types of funding applications in 2022, and their time schedule, (iv) the public launch of VRF. In October 2021, the VRF board gathered in ’s-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, and made decisions on each of these topics.

- In November-December 2021, The VRF board contacted professionals for (i) the creation of VRF's website, (ii) the creation of its logo, (iii) a certified English translation of its statutes.

VRF formulated the plan to meet its goals (section 2.3) by means of the following funding schemes:

- 1) Summer & winter schools: funding for short, intensive courses and other forms of training and education that are not part of a regular university curriculum.
- 2) Workshops: funding for scientific meetings, both on foundational and new/revolutionary ideas, and on specific topics or phenomena.

VRF decided on the following time schedule for the application and assessment procedure: Deadline for submission: September 1st 2022; reviewing of applications: Fall-period 2022; Decisions on funding: December 22nd (at the latest).

5. Activities and plans in 2022

In the period January-December 2022, VRF's activities concerned the implementation of the application and assessment procedures, and the public launch of VRF: mailing, flyers, website. In November 2022, the VRF board gathered in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, and made decisions on the funding of submitted proposals. VRF accepted six applications for workshop funding and three applications for summer school funding. The following organizations received funding:

Workshops/Conferences:

- GLOW workshop on pronouns, University of Graz, Austria (Domain: Syntax-Semantics)
- Workshop on homogeneity and non-maximality, University of Göttingen, Germany (Domain: Semantics)
- GLOW-workshop on non-automatic alternations in phonology, University of Vienna, Austria (Domain: Phonology)
- Workshop on Compositionality and the Crosslinguistic Variation of Complement Coercion, NTNU, Norway (Domain: Semantics, Syntax, Neurolinguistics)
- CONSOLE conference, University of Bielefeld, Germany (Domain: Syntax, Semantics, Phonology)
- Workshop on Verbal domains, University Newcastle upon Tyne, UK (Domain: Syntax)

Summer schools:

- Summer school Generative Linguistics in Eastern Europe
- Summer school on Uralic Formal Linguistics, Budapest, Hungary
- Summer school on linguistics, Crete, Greece.

The board further evaluated the first round of applications and made plans for the application procedure in 2023.

6. Finances

VRF's finances comes from a private gift based on trust in the mission of our foundation. In 2021, the foundation received a gift of 500.000 euro, which will form the basis for its funding activities in the coming years. In 2021, there weren't any expenses.

In 2022, the total expenses amounted to 19.396 euros, of which 1.501 euros financial expenses, 58 euros communication costs, and 17.837 euros other expenses. The financial expenses concern the costs for banking and interest expenses. The communication costs are the costs for registering the domain name. The other expenses consist of the contributions for workshops and summer schools, the costs of setting up the foundation and the general costs.

In line with its ANBI-status, VRF's aims are entirely committed to the public benefit. The foundation aims at annual fundings of specific activities such as workshops and summer schools.

7. Further information & contact

Further information about our foundation can be found on the following website:

<https://vanriemsdijkfoundation.org>

VRF's e-mail contact address is the following:

info@vanriemsdijkfoundation.org

Date: June 23, 2023

Signature :



Prof. dr. Norbert Corver
Chairman

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Riemsdijk
Foundation