

The Van Riemsdijk Foundation (VRF) Annual Report 2023

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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: Susanne Wurmbrand (Note: 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

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 2023

In November 2023, 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 four applications for summer school funding. The following conferences/workshops and summerschools received funding:

Conferences/Workshops:

- ConSOLE32 confrence (Domain: Syntax, Semantics, Phonology), Queen Mary Universty, London.
- Workshop on the Afroasiatic middle t-morpheme (Domain: morphology, syntax, phonology), Universty of Edinburgh, UK.
- Agency and intentions in AI (Domain: AI & Linguistics), University of Göttingen, Germany.

- Limburg as a linguistic laboratory (Domain: Sociolinguistics, grammar, dialectology), Meertens institute and Radboud university, The Netherlands.
- Microvariation and microchange in the Scandinavian languages (Domain: Syntax, Morphology, microvariation, diachronic linguistics), Agder University, Norway.
- Speech Prosody 2024 (Domain: phonology, phonetics), Leiden University, Radboud university, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

Summer schools:

- Summer school Generative Linguistics in Eastern Europe, Pécs, Hungary
- International school on psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics and clinical linguistics, Novi Sad, Serbia.
- Summer school on linguistics, Crete, Greece.
- Academia Grammaticorum Salensis Vigesima Prima, Vilnius, Lithuania.

The board further evaluated the second round of applications and made plans for the application procedure in 2024.

5. Finances

VRF's finances comes from a private gift (2021) based on trust in the mission of our foundation. In 2023, the total income amounted to 20.399 euros, and the total expenses amounted to 25.550,94 euros.

The income in 2023 concerns a gift from the Lincomp Foundation and refunds. The financial expenses concern the costs for banking and interest charges. The other expenses consist of the contributions for summer school, workshops, the costs for drawing up the annual accounts, the general costs for accommodation and hosting costs for the VRF board meeting in 's-Hertogenbosch.

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.

6. 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 30, 2024

Signature :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Corver', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. dr. Norbert Corver
Chairman

