

The Van Riemsdijk Foundation (VRF) Annual Report 2025

Contents:

1. <i>Foundation</i>	<i>p. 1</i>
2. <i>Vision, mission, and goals</i>	<i>p. 1</i>
3. <i>Governance</i>	<i>p. 2</i>
4. <i>Activities and Plans in 2025</i>	<i>p. 2</i>
5. <i>Finances</i>	<i>p. 4</i>
6. <i>Further information and contact</i>	<i>p. 4</i>

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 aim 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. Each member of this board 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 2025

On November 22nd 2025, the VRF board gathered in Loc. Stoppe d'Arca, Arezzo, Italy, and made decisions on the funding of submitted proposals. The board was happy to see the number of submissions had increased year-over-year. It was also clear from several grant proposals that the field is suffering from budget cuts, and so that the type of support that VRF can provide is very welcome. The board discussed the submissions for workshop grants and the reviews provided by the advisory board members.

The VRF board accepted 15 applications for workshop funding and 6 applications for summer school funding. The following conferences/workshops and summerschools received funding:

Conferences/Workshops:

1. SalCoS (Salzburg Comparative Syntax)
2. Government Phonology Round Table 2026

3. DM meets Nano II
4. Triangulating Human Diversity: bringing together linguistic, biological and socio-cultural differences
5. Going Romance 40
6. Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory (FEAST) 12
7. VPL III - From Redundancy to Deficiency: Mapping Pronouns across the Lusophone World.
8. Theoretical linguistics at school
9. Language qua Variety, Minority, and Heritage (LVMH): Theoretical and Empirical Approaches to Non-Standard Grammatical Systems
10. GLOW syntax workshop - Less documented languages in formal linguistics: empirical problems and theoretical perspectives
11. NanoDays III
12. Tracing Mismatches: Deviations from One to One Patterns
13. Sinn und Bedeutung 31
14. GLOW 48 Colloquium
15. Gallo-Romance Advances in Morphology & Syntax (GRAMS)

Summer schools:

1. International School on Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics & Clinical Linguistics
2. Edinburgh Theoretical Historical Linguistics Summer School
3. CauLaGe research program in linguistic fieldwork (CauLaGe=Caucasian Languages in Georgia)
4. 7th Crete Summer School of Linguistics—CreteLing2026
5. Basque Summer Tutorial in Language Documentation II
6. 11th Naxos Summer School on Diachronic Linguistics

The universities/research institutes that received funding included the following countries: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom.

Grant for Open Access journal

In 2024, VRF has provided funding for the Open Access journal STAR (Syntactic Theory And Research, <https://star-linguistics.org>). One of the main editors of STAR has provided the VRF board with a detailed report on how the money was spent. VRF received a new request for financial support, and the board decided to continue funding STAR, as planned.

Evaluation application round 2025 & plans for application round 2026

The board further evaluated the second round of applications and made plans for the application procedure in 2026. The plan is to proceed in 2026 as we did in 2025: a call for workshops and a call for summer schools, both with a deadline on 1 October and a notification deadline in December.

It was further decided that the (grant) payment procedure remains unchanged: 50% of the money upfront (1st installment) and the second half (2nd installment) only upon receipt of a full financial report.

5. Finances

VRF's finances come from a private gift (2021) based on trust in the mission of our foundation. In 2025, there were no incomes. The total expenses in 2025 amounted to 100.961 euros (including both 1st installments and 2nd installments).

The financial expenses concern the following costs:

- Workshop grants, summer school grants, grant for Open Access journal STAR;
- Travel costs of board members for attending the 2025 VRF board meeting in Loc. Stoppe d'Arca, Arezzo, Italy;
- Costs for (i) drawing up the annual accounts, (ii) website maintenance; (iii) banking.

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: April 22, 2026

Signature :



Prof. dr. Norbert Corver
Chairman

VRF | The Van
Riemsdijk
Foundation