

# Curriculum Vitae

## BENEDIKT SZMRECSANYI

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### Junior Fellow

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS)  
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### Research Interests

- ◇ variationist linguistics
- ◇ dialectology and dialectometry
- ◇ varieties of English world-wide
- ◇ historical linguistics, in particular: syntactic change
- ◇ language/dialect typology
- ◇ discourse and conversation analysis
- ◇ psycholinguistics

### Education

- ◇ 2002–2005  
**University of Freiburg**, Freiburg, Germany  
PhD (*summa cum laude*) in English Linguistics  
Dissertation title: *Persistence Phenomena in the Grammar of Spoken English*
- ◇ 1996–2002  
**University of Freiburg**, Freiburg, Germany  
*Magister Artium* (M.A.) in English Philology (minors: Political Science and Economic Policy)  
Master's thesis: *The Expression of Future Time Reference in Present Day English*
- ◇ 1999–2000  
**Georgetown University**, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Washington, D.C.  
Visiting student; studied Linguistics, American Literature, Public Policy, Government.

### Summer Schools

- ◇ September 2003  
**Università degli Studi di Cagliari**, Sardinia.  
*Association for Linguistic Typology* Summer School
- ◇ July 2002  
**University of Düsseldorf**, Germany.  
*Formal and Functional Linguistics* (3-week joint summer school of the LSA and DGfS)

### Professional Experience

- ◇ 2008–present  
**Junior Fellow**, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg
- ◇ 2005–2008  
**Assistant Professor**, English Department, University of Freiburg
- ◇ 2002–2005  
**Research Assistant**, English Department, University of Freiburg  
Research project “English dialect syntax from a typological perspective”, funded by the *German Research Foundation (DFG)* (grant No. Ko 1181/1–1,2)

- Honors & Awards**
- ◇ 1999: German Academic Exchange Service fellowship for an academic year at Georgetown University
  - ◇ 2008: Nominee, Heinz Maier-Leibnitz-Preis

**Publications** *Single-authored books*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2006). *Morphosyntactic Persistence in Spoken English. A Corpus Study at the Intersection of Variationist Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, and Discourse Analysis*. (Trends in Linguistics. Studies and Monographs [TiLSM] 177). Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. {reviewed by Ingo Plag in *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft* 27, 293–296} [peer-reviewed]

*Regular journal papers*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2009). “Typological parameters of intralingual variability: grammatical analyticity versus syntheticity in varieties of English”. *Language Variation and Change* 21(3): 319–353. [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Lars Hinrichs & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2007). “Recent changes in the function and frequency of standard English genitive constructions: a multivariate analysis of tagged corpora”. *English Language and Linguistics* 11(3): 437–474. [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Nils Goldschmidt & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2007). “What do economists talk about? A linguistic analysis of published writing in economic journals”. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 66(2): 335–378.
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2005). “Language users as creatures of habit: a corpus-linguistic analysis of persistence in spoken English”. *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* 1(1): 113–150. [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2003). “BE GOING TO vs. WILL/SHALL: does syntax matter?” *Journal of English Linguistics* 31(4): 295–323. [peer-reviewed]

*Contributions to special issues*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Bernd Kortmann (2009). “The morphosyntax of varieties of English worldwide: a quantitative perspective”. *Lingua* 119(11): 1643–1663 (special issue “The Forests behind the Trees”, ed. by John Nerbonne & Franz Manni). [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2008). “Corpus-based dialectometry: aggregate morphosyntactic variability in British English dialects”. *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 2(1-2): 279–296 (special issue on “Language Variation”, ed. by John Nerbonne, Charlotte Gooskens, Sebastian Kurschner & Renée van Bezooijen). [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2005). “Never change a winning chunk”. *Recherches Anglaises et Nord-Américaines* 38: 21–34 (special issue “Language chunks and linguistic units”, ed. by Albert Hamm).

*Handbook articles*

- ◇ Lieselotte Anderwald & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2009). “Corpus linguistics and dialectology”. In: Lüdeling, Anke & Merja Kytö (eds.), *Corpus Linguistics. An International Handbook* (Series: Handbücher zur Sprache und Kommunikationswissenschaft / Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science). Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1126–1139. [peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Nils Goldschmidt & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2008). “Dimension reduction of word-frequency data as a substitute for intersubjective content analysis”. In: Vogt, W. Paul (ed.), *Selecting Research Methods*, Vol. 4: Methods for analysing and reporting results. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. (reprint of Goldschmidt & Szmrecsanyi 2007)

- ◇ Bernd Kortmann & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2004). “Global Synopsis – Morphological and Syntactic Variation in English”. In: Kortmann, Bernd, Kate Burridge, Raj Mesthrie & Edgar Schneider (eds.), *A Handbook of Varieties of English*, Vol. 2: Morphology and Syntax. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1142–1202.

*Papers in edited volumes*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (to appear). “The English genitive alternation in a cognitive sociolinguistics perspective”. In: Kristiansen, Gitte, Yves Peirsman & Dirk Geeraerts (eds), *Advances in Cognitive Sociolinguistics*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.  
[peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Bernd Kortmann & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (to appear). “Parameters of morphosyntactic variation in World Englishes: prospects and limitations of searching for universals”. In: Siemund, Peter (eds), *Linguistic Universals and Language Variation*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter.  
[peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Bernd Kortmann (2009). “Between simplification and complexification: non-standard varieties of English around the world”. In: Sampson, Geoffrey, David Gil & Peter Trudgill (eds.), *Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 64–79.  
[peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Bernd Kortmann (2009). “Vernacular universals and angloversals in a typological perspective”. In: Filppula, Markku & Juhani Klemola (eds.), *Vernacular Universals and Language Contacts: Evidence from Varieties of English and Beyond*. London/New York: Routledge, 33–53.
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Nils Goldschmidt (2008). “The Cameelious Hump and ‘Just So Stories’ in economic literature – a linguistic analysis”. In: Clift, Edward (ed.), *How Language is Used to Do Business: Essays on the Rhetoric of Economics*. New York City: Edwin Mellen Press.
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Lars Hinrichs (2008). “Probabilistic determinants of genitive variation in spoken and written English: a multivariate comparison across time, space, and genres”. In: Nevalainen, Terttu, Irma Taavitsainen, Päivi Pahta & Minna Korhonen (eds.), *The Dynamics of Linguistic Variation: Corpus Evidence on English Past and Present*. Amsterdam: Benjamins, 291–309.  
[peer-reviewed]

*Conference proceedings*

- ◇ Lieselotte Anderwald & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2009). “Why grammar is real: a usage-based perspective on patterns”. In: Eckstein, Lars & Christoph Reinfandt (eds.), *Anglistentag 2008 – Tübingen – Proceedings*. Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 403-414.
- ◇ Bernd Kortmann & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2009). “World Englishes between simplification and complexification”. In: Siebers, Lucia & Thomas Hoffmann (eds.), *World Englishes – Problems, Properties and Prospects: selected papers from the 13th IAWE conference*. Amsterdam: Benjamins, 265–285.  
[peer-reviewed]
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2004). “On operationalizing syntactic complexity”. In: Purnelle, Gérard, Cédric Fairon & Anne Dister (eds.), *Le poids des mots. Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Textual Data Statistical Analysis. Louvain-la-Neuve, March 10–12, 2004*, Vol. 2. Louvain-la-Neuve, Presses universitaires de Louvain, 1032–1039.  
[peer-reviewed]

*Miscellaneous*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi & Nuria Hernández (2007). "Manual of Information to accompany the Freiburg Corpus of English Dialects Sampler ("FRED-S")". URN: urn:nbn:de:bsz:25-opus-28598, URL: <http://www.freidok.uni-freiburg.de/volltexte/2859/>. Freiburg. (32pp.)

*Book reviews*

- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2007). Review of Joybrato Mukherjee. 2005. *English Ditransitive Verbs: Aspects of Theory, Description and a Usage-based Model*. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi. *English Language and Linguistics* 11(1): 240–246.
- ◇ Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2006). Review of Rens Bod, Jennifer Hay & Stefanie Jannedy (Eds.). 2003. *Probabilistic Linguistics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* 2(1): 79–94.

**Presentations** *Invitational papers*

- ◇ 2009. "Changing habitats versus changing grammars: the case of genitive variability in Late Modern English news texts". Workshop on "Corpus-based advances in historical linguistics" (sponsored by the Philological Society and organized by Susan Pintzuk, Ann Taylor, *et al.*), The University of York, November 14.
- ◇ 2009. "Diachronic genitive variability and grammaticalization theory". Workshop on "Form-meaning co-variation in grammaticalization" (convenor: Joan Bybee), NWAV38, Ottawa, October 22–25.
- ◇ 2009. "What happened to the s-genitive? Genitive variation after Early Modern English". Workshop on "Morpho-syntactic categories and the expression of possession" (organizers: Kersti Börjars, David Denison & Alan Scott), The University of Manchester, April 3–4.
- ◇ 2008 (with Lieselotte Anderwald). "Why grammar is real – a usage-based perspective on patterns". Theme session on "Patterns in language" (convenors: Rainer Schulze & Ute Römer), Anglistentag 2008, Tübingen, October 5–8.
- ◇ 2008. "The joys of analyzing aggregate linguistic data". Symposium on "Approaches to variation and change in English" (organizers: Manfred Krug & Julia Schlüter), University of Bamberg, July 21–23.
- ◇ 2007. "Probing probabilistic grammars in time, space, and across genres". Theme session on "Cognitive sociolinguistics" (convenors: Gitte Kristiansen, Yves Peirsman & Dirk Geeraerts), ICLC10, Krakow, July 15–20.
- ◇ 2006 (with Bernd Kortmann). "Vernacular universals and angloversals in a typological perspective". Symposium on "World Englishes: Vernacular universals vs. contact-induced change" (organizers: Markku Filppula, Juhani Klemola & Heli Paulasto). Mekrijärvi (Finland), September 1–3.
- ◇ 2006 (with Bernd Kortmann). "Morphosyntactic Doubling Phenomena in Non-Standard Varieties of English". Workshop on "Syntactic doubling in European dialects" (organizer: Sjeff Barbiers), Meertens Institute, Amsterdam, March 16–18.

*Guest lectures*

- ◇ 2010. "Aggregative Dialektologie". Guest lecture, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, January 28.
- ◇ 2009. "Varieties of English by numbers". Guest lecture, University of Zurich, December 11.
- ◇ 2008. "Varieties of English world-wide in a typological perspective". Guest lecture, University of Paderborn, December 11.
- ◇ 2008. "Typological parameters of intralingual variation: grammatical analyticity and syntheticity in varieties of English". Job talk, University of Hamburg, December 3.
- ◇ 2008. "Dialectology by numbers: World Englishes in the aggregate view". Guest lecture, Department of Linguistics, UT Austin, November 10.

- ◇ 2008. “Probabilistic grammars in time, space, and across genres: the case of the English genitive alternation”. Guest lecture, Institut für Maschinelle Sprachverarbeitung (University of Stuttgart), July 3.
- ◇ 2008. “Typological parameters of intralingual variation: grammatical analyticity and syntheticity in varieties of English”. Job talk, University of Jena, April 26.
- ◇ 2007. “Persistence as a probabilistic determinant of word order variation”. Guest lecture, University of Paderborn, May 31.
- ◇ 2007. “Language users as creatures of habit: probing the psycholinguistic underpinnings of linguistic variation”. Guest lecture, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, March 28.
- ◇ 2007. “Psycholinguistics meets variationist sociolinguistics: the case of morphosyntactic persistence”. Guest lecture, Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto, March 11.
- ◇ 2006. “Persistence, Repetitiveness, and Priming: A Corpus-Linguistic Perspective”. Guest lecture, School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, November 17.
- ◇ 2005. “Creatures of habit: persistence, performance, and linguistic theory”. Job talk, University of California, Santa Barbara, February 7.

*Refereed conference & workshop presentations*

- ◇ 2009. “Variationist sociolinguistics meets morphological typology: grammatical analyticity vs. syntheticity in varieties of English”. NWAV38, Ottawa, October 22–25.
- ◇ 2009. “Corpus-based dialectometry: The grammar of traditional British English dialects”. Third International Conference Grammar & Corpora, Mannheim, September 22–24.
- ◇ 2008. “Corpus-based dialectometry: English dialects in the British Isles”. MethodsXIII, Leeds, August 4–8.
- ◇ 2008 (with Bernd Kortmann). “Syntheticity, analyticity, and grammaticity in World Englishes”. MethodsXIII, Leeds, UK, August 4–8.
- ◇ 2008 (with Daniela Kolbe). “The influence of persistence factors on the choice of complementizer”. MethodsXIII, Leeds, UK, August 4–8.
- ◇ 2007 (with Bernd Kortmann). “World Englishes between simplification and complexification”. IAWEL13, Regensburg, Germany, October 4–6.
- ◇ 2007 (with Bernd Kortmann). “Between simplification and complexification: Non-standard varieties of English around the world”. Workshop “Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable”, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, April 12–14.
- ◇ 2006 (with Lars Hinrichs). “A multivariate analysis of genitive marking in standard English corpora”. NWAV35, Ohio State University, Columbus, November 9–12.
- ◇ 2006. “Trigger happy lexis: the case of lexical persistence”. “Exploring the Lexis-Grammar Interface” (ELeGI). University of Hanover, October 5–7.
- ◇ 2006 (with Lars Hinrichs). “Genitive marking in standard English using *-s* and *of*: A multivariate analysis of the POS-tagged Brown family of corpora”. ICAME27, University of Helsinki, Finland, May 24–28.
- ◇ 2006 (with Bernd Kortmann). “Varieties of English: a global perspective”. Seventh Creolistics Workshop “Simplicity and complexity in pidgins and creoles”, University of Giessen, Germany, April 6–8.
- ◇ 2005 (with Bernd Kortmann). “The quest for angloversals and vernacular universals in varieties of English world-wide”. NWAV34, New York University, NYC, October 20–23.
- ◇ 2005 (with Hubert Cuyckens). “The role of register in the shift from *to*-infinitive to gerundive complement”. ICLC9, Seoul, July 17–22.
- ◇ 2005. “Persistence in Spoken English: A Variationist Approach”. ICLAVE3, Amsterdam, June 23–25.
- ◇ 2005 (with Nils Goldschmidt). “What do economists talk about? A linguistic analysis of published writing in economic journals”. “Rhetoric and Economics: An Interdisciplinary Conference”, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, June 6–9.

- ◇ 2005 (with Bernd Kortmann). “The quest for angloversals and vernacular universals in English-based Pidgins and Creoles”. Workshop “Creole language structure between substrates and superstrates”, Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, June 3–5.
- ◇ 2004. “Never change a winning team: A corpus-based analysis of persistence in spoken English”. NWA33, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, September 30–October 3.
- ◇ 2004. “On operationalizing syntactic complexity”. JADT2004, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, March 10–12.

**Teaching***Undergraduate*

- ◇ Seminar *Phonetics & phonology* (winter 2009/10)
- ◇ Seminar *Semantics* (summer 2007)
- ◇ Seminar *Syntax* (winter 2006/07)
- ◇ Tutorial *LEO – Linguistic Exercises Online* (summer 2006 – summer 2009)
- ◇ Seminar *Interactional sociolinguistics* (summer 2006)
- ◇ Seminar *Introduction to Old and Middle English* (winter 2006/07, winter 2007/08)
- ◇ Seminar *From Old English to Standard English* (winter 2005/06)
- ◇ Seminar *Language variation and change* (winter 2005/06)
- ◇ Seminar *Discourse analysis: conversation* (winter 2003/04)
- ◇ Tutorial *Corpus-linguistic analysis* (2004–2005)
- ◇ Tutorial *Linguistic analysis* (2003–2005)
- ◇ Tutorial *Microeconomics* (winter 2000, summer 2001)

*Graduate*

- ◇ Seminar *Modern approaches to historical linguistics* (summer 2009)
- ◇ Seminar *Recent trends in corpus linguistics* (winter 2007/08)
- ◇ Tutorial *Research design I/II* (winter 2005/06, summer 2007)
- ◇ Tutorial *Modern historical linguistics* (summer 2003)
- ◇ Seminar *Formal and functional linguistics* (summer 2004)

**Professional service**

- ◇ grant reviewer:
  - National Science Foundation, Linguistics section (2006)
  - Academy of Finland (2009)
- ◇ manuscript reviewer for academic journals:
  - *Lingua*
  - *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*
  - *Language Variation and Change*
  - *Journal of English Linguistics*
  - *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing*
  - *TESOL Quarterly*
  - *Studies in Language*
- ◇ manuscript reviewer for several edited volumes
- ◇ abstract referee for academic conferences: ISLE1, NWA33, LSA Annual Meeting 2010
- ◇ conference & workshop organization:
  - organizing committee: *First Triennial Conference of the International Society for the Linguistics of English* (ISLE1), University of Freiburg, October 8–11, 2008

- co-organizer: Workshop on *Linguistic complexity in interlanguage varieties, L2 varieties, and contact languages*, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, May 21–22, 2009 (with Bernd Kortmann)
- co-organizer: Workshop on *Language, geography, and space*, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, November 26–28, 2009 (with Peter Auer)

- Memberships**
- ◇ Linguistic Society of America
  - ◇ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachforschung
  - ◇ The Philological Society