

Call for papers

- Full title: **Adverbial clauses in argument positions**
- Date: 5–6 April 2024
- Location: Berlin, Germany
- Organizers: Andreas Pankau (FU Berlin) &
Łukasz Jędrzejowski (University of Cologne)
- Contact person: Łukasz Jędrzejowski (adverbial-clauses@uni-koeln.de)
- Web site: <http://www.lukasz-jedrzejowski.eu/adverbial-clauses-2/>
- Call deadline: 10 March 2024

Meeting description:

Adverbial clauses are usually employed as sentential adjuncts that restrict the truth value of the matrix clause or that provide a motivation for why a speech act is uttered. Derivationally, they involve a Pair-Merge operation. Complement clauses, in turn, occupy an argument position of a clause-embedding expression, satisfy its theta-grid, and involve a Set-Merge operation. Interestingly enough, cross-linguistic studies have shown that adverbial clauses, in particular conditional clauses, can also occur in argument positions and be embedded under selected classes of clause-embedding predicates, cf. Williams (1974), Pullum (1987), Pesetsky (1991), Rocchi (2010), Thompson (2012), Sode (2021) for English, Fabricius-Hansen (1980), Schmid (1987), Onea (2015), Schwabe (2015, 2016) for German, Quer (2002) for Romance, and Steriopo (2016) for Russian, cf. (1) for ‘if’ in English:

- (1) John would like it if Mary knew French. [if]
(Pesetsky 1991: 59, ex. 227a)

However, apart from few case studies (cf. e.g. Jędrzejowski 2020 on hypothetical-comparative clauses in Polish or Berlet 2021 on temporal clauses in German), less is known about other adverbial clause types and their licensing in argument positions.

Furthermore, complement clauses often compete with other types of subordinate clauses introduced by the adjuncts *wh*-phrases ‘when’, ‘how’, and occasionally by ‘why’, giving rise to a temporal, conditional, manner, or reason interpretation (cf. Caponigro & Pearl 2009 and Hinterwimmer 2010 for ‘when’, Corver 2023, Legate 2010, Liefke 2023, Umbach et al. 2022, 2023, among many others, for ‘how’, and Caponigro & Fălăuls 2023 for ‘why’), as (2) for ‘when’ and (3) for ‘how’ show:

- (2) Paul hates it when his colleague snores. [when]
(Hinterwimmer 2010: 176, ex. 1a)
- (3) They told me how the tooth fairy doesn't really exist. [how]
(Legate 2010: 121, ex. 1)

However, the question how the subordinate wh-clauses are related to and differ from argument adverbial clauses has, to our knowledge, not been addressed so far. Nor is it clear how to account for the cross-linguistic differences pointed out in the literature.

The main aim of the conference is, therefore, to bring together recent theoretical and experimental investigations on adverbial clauses and subordinate clauses introduced by adjunct wh-phrases occurring in argument positions. Due to a rich inventory of adverbial conjunctions and various classes of clause-embedding predicates, we hope to gain novel theoretical insights into how lexical properties of embedding expressions affect their selection.

The international conference on "Adverbial clauses in argument positions" is the fourth meeting of the scientific network "Adverbial clauses and subordinate dependency relationships" funded by German Science Foundation granted to Łukasz Jędrzejowski (grant number 455700544). The conference will be hosted by the 'Institut für Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie' at the Free University of Berlin, on April 5–6, 2024, and is organized by Andreas Pankau and Łukasz Jędrzejowski.

Invited speakers (all confirmed):

- Keir Moulton (University of Toronto)
- David Pesetsky (MIT)
- Susanne Wurmbrand (University of Vienna & Harvard University)

Call for papers:

Topics for the conference include, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- Which types of adverbial clauses can be used in argument positions? What classes of clause-embedding expressions are they compatible with?
- To what extent can the subordinate dependency relationship between the clause-embedding expression and the adverbial clause/subordinate wh-clause be defined as a compatibility relation (cf. Safir 2021)? How do they match? How to model the relation between meaning and combinatorial restrictions?
- How do adverbial clauses attach to the matrix clause when they occupy an argument position? Do they involve a single structure building operation (e.g. Set-Merge) or are additional operations needed (cf. e.g. Pesetsky's 1991 'If Copying Rule' for conditional clauses)?
- What do argument adverbial clauses/subordinate wh-clauses teach us about c-selection and s-selection (cf. Grimshaw 1979)? Do adverbial clauses occurring in argument positions trigger a semantic change of the clause-embedding expression?
- What are the differences between argument adverbial clauses and canonical complement clauses headed by the complementizer 'that'? Where do these differences come from?
- How did the semantics of clause-embedding expressions change over time and how did it affect their selectional restrictions?

At this conference we would like to address syntactic and semantic issues relating to the use of adverbial clauses/subordinate *wh*-clauses in argument positions including cross-linguistic patterns and case studies from less known languages.

The conference will be preceded by a one-day international workshop on mood alternation in adverbial clauses.

We invite submission of abstracts for 40-minute oral presentations (with additional 20 minutes for questions) on topics that address the use of adverbial clauses in argument positions. These may include case studies as well as formal theories of particular adverbial clause types. We also welcome research at the interfaces with semantics and other areas, as long as the research makes a contribution to the area of adverbial clauses in argument positions.

Abstracts should be submitted in PDF format to adverbial-clauses@uni-koeln.de, with all non-standard fonts embedded. Abstracts should not exceed 2 pages, which includes the data. An additional third page may be used for references. Abstracts must be submitted in letter or A4 format with 1 inch or 2.5cm margins on all sides, single-spaced, and in a font no smaller than 11pt. Abstracts should be anonymous. Please make sure that PDF files do not have any identifying metadata. Submissions are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author (or two joint abstracts per author).

Please submit abstracts to adverbial-clauses@uni-koeln.de no later than March 10, 2024.

Notification: March 13, 2024

For inquiries, please send an e-mail to adverbial-clauses@uni-koeln.de

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