

Call for papers

Full title: **Adverbial clauses and prosody**

Date: March 12-13, 2026

Location: Potsdam (Griebnitzsee), Germany

Organizers: Jan Fliessbach (University of Potsdam) &
Łukasz Jędrzejowski (University of Agder)

Contact person: Jan Fliessbach (jan.fliessbach@uni-potsdam.de)

Web site: <http://www.lukasz-jedrzejowski.eu/adverbial-clauses-2/>

Call deadline: October 30th, 2025

Meeting description:

Since Downing's (1970) seminal work on English intonational phrases (IPs), a growing body of literature has shown that selected types of subordinate clauses can clearly form their own IPs. As for English, it has been generally observed that adverbial clauses are prosodically integrated into the matrix clause when they appear in their base position or attach to a position that is in the scope of the main verb. For example, Downing (1970: 82) observes that temporal *while*-clauses do not form a separate IP, whereas adversative *while*-clauses do. This is in accordance with Haegeman's (2003) typology of adverbial clauses, according to which temporal *while*-clauses are analyzed as syntactically embedded clauses, whereas their adversative counterparts are taken to be base-generated within the CP domain of the matrix clause and to be more independent. Selkirk (2005: 22–28) makes a similar observation about *because*-clauses occurring to the right of the matrix clause. When they are VP modifiers, there is no IP break required at the adjunction point. But when, on the other hand, *because*-clauses are used as higher adjuncts, they usually require their own IPs. However, it is everything but obvious that when adverbial clauses attach higher in the clause structure – either to the right or to the left – they form an IP of their own (cf. Hamlaoui 2023 and Hamlaoui & Szendrői 2025 for a recent overview of typological data). Furthermore, Frey (2011: 49–51) points out that peripheral adverbial clauses can have the same options of prosodic realization as central adverbial clauses. The current state of affairs on adverbial clauses and their prosody calls therefore for new studies and novel insights.

The main aim of the workshop is to fill this gap by bringing together recent theoretical and experimental investigations on prosody of adverbial clauses. Furthermore, we hope to gain novel theoretical insights into how adverbial subordinate dependency relationships work and, through synergy effects, to provide a deeper understanding of how prosody is used in subordinate contexts.

The international workshop on "Adverbial clauses and prosody" is organized as part of the scientific network "Adverbial clauses and subordinate dependency relationships" funded by German Science Foundation granted to Łukasz Jędrzejowski (grant number 455700544) and led by Andreas Pankau. The workshop will be hosted by the Institute for Romance Studies at the University of Potsdam, on March 12-13, 2026, and is organized by Jan Fliessbach and Łukasz Jędrzejowski.

Invited speakers (all confirmed):

Timo Buchholz (University of Cologne)
Emily Elfner (York University)
Fatima Hamlaoui (University of Toronto)
Michael Wagner (McGill University)

Call for papers:

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

- What is the relation between adverbial clauses and phonological structure? How to best account for the relationship between adverbial subordination and phonological structure within and across languages? Do adverbial clauses map onto their own intonational phrase? What are cross-linguistic valid generalizations regarding the prosodic phrasing of different types of adverbial clauses?
- How does the Match Theory (Selkirk 2009, 2011) or the Flexible Approach (Hamlaoui & Szendrői 2017) capture the precise correspondence between syntactic and prosodic structure of adverbial clauses?
- What role do prosodic well-formedness constraints (e.g. size constraints), information-structural constraints (e.g. STRESSFOCUS) or processing play in determining the integration status of an adverbial clause?
- Adverbial clauses have been analyzed as central, peripheral or non-integrated adjuncts, depending on how deeply they are integrated into the host clause (cf. Takami 1988, Haegeman 2003, Frey 2020, among many others). Do their integration status correlate with their prosodic properties? What patterns and correlations are to be observed?
- Different types of syntactically non-integrated adverbial clauses have been postulated in the literature (cf. Schönenberger & Haegeman 2023 and Frey 2023). Do they also exhibit different prosodic properties? If not, how do they differ? Do all types of non-integrated adverbial clauses introduce their own intonational phrase boundaries?
- Adverbial clauses can also attach as dislocated adjuncts and involve a resumptive or an expletive-like element in front of the matrix clause (cf. e.g. "If Pete runs for President, then the Republicans will lose" taken from Iatridou 1994). What are prosodic properties of such dislocated adverbial clauses? How does prosodic (dis)integration correlate with syntactic (dis)integration (cf. Myrberg 2013)?
- Ebert et al. (2014) developed a unified analysis of conditional clauses as topics. How is it linked to Feldhausen's (2010) ALIGN-TOPIC, R, according to which constituents that are topical form their own IPs? Does it encompass all types of conditional clauses, regardless of their syntactic integration status and of their position?

The workshop seeks to offer an interdisciplinary perspective on prosody of adverbial clauses and will be preceded by an international closing conference on adverbial clauses at the Free University of Berlin (9-10 March, 2026).

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

Abstracts should be submitted in PDF format to jan.fliessbach@uni-potsdam.de and to lukasz.jedrzejowski@uia.no, 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 jan.fliessbach@uni-potsdam.de and to lukasz.jedrzejowski@uia.no no later than October 30, 2025.

Notification: 14 November 2025

For inquiries, please send an e-mail to jan.fliessbach@uni-potsdam.de and to lukasz.jedrzejowski@uia.no

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