

Adverbial Clauses: New Horizons

Adverbial clauses and
subordinate dependency relationships

Andreas Pankau & Łukasz Jędrzejowski

March 2026

Roadmap

- [1] Organizational matters
- [2] DFG-Network: *Adverbial clauses and subordinate dependency relationships*
- [3] Conference *Adverbial Clauses: New Horizons*
- [4] Concluding remarks and future plans

Roadmap

- [1] **Organizational matters**
- [2] DFG-Network: *Adverbial clauses and subordinate dependency relationships*
- [3] Conference *Adverbial Clauses: New Horizons*
- [4] Concluding remarks and future plans

Roadmap

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- [2] **DFG-Network: *Adverbial clauses and subordinate dependency relationships***
- [3] Conference *Adverbial Clauses: New Horizons*
- [4] Concluding remarks and future plans

DFG-Network: overview

- funding institution: German Science Foundation (DFG)
- project format: scientific network
- funding period: 11/2011 – 10/2024 (extension: 04/2026)
- number of conferences: 6

Cologne x1 (May 2022), Tübingen x1 (January 2023), Göttingen x1 (October 2023), Berlin x2 (April 2024 & March 2026), Hamburg x1 (October 2025)

DFG-Network: overview

- meeting #1: *Adverbial clauses between subordination and coordination* (Cologne)
- meeting #2: *Diachrony and development of adverbial clauses* (Tübingen)
- meeting #3: *Variation of adverbial clauses* (Göttingen)
- meeting #4: *Adverbial clauses as argument clauses* (Berlin)
- meeting #5: *Adverbial clauses as relative clauses* (Hamburg)
- meeting #6: *Tell me something new about adverbial clauses* (Berlin)

DFG-Network: overview

➤ meeting #1: *Adverbial clauses between subordination and coordination* (Cologne)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ADVERBIAL CLAUSES
BETWEEN SUBORDINATION AND COORDINATION

MAY 20 - 21 2022

UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE | HOUSE OF PROMINENCE
LUXEMBURGER STRASSE 299 | SPITZBODEN (5FTH FLOOR)

INVITED SPEAKERS:

REGINE ECKARDT
(University of Konstanz, Germany)

LILIANE HAEGEMAN
(Ghent University, Belgium)

RICHARD LARSON
(Stony Brook University, USA)

KEN SAFIR
(Rutgers University, USA)

The conference is organized by Lukasz Jedrzyński
(University of Cologne) and funded by German Science
Foundation grant number 415709544.
Department of German and Literature I – Linguistics
Contact: adverbial-clauses@uni-koeln.de

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German Research Foundation



May 2022

DFG-Network: overview

➤ meeting #1: *Adverbial clauses between subordination and coordination* (Cologne)

Liliane Haegeman (Ghent University, Belgium):

The typology of adverbial clauses and the role of discourse syntax

Ken Safir (Rutgers University, USA):

All Merge is Pair-merge: Against the operational definition of 'Adjunct'

Regine Eckardt (University of Konstanz, Germany):

Parataxis to Hypotaxis – (How) does it ever happen?

Richard Larson (Stony Brook University, USA):

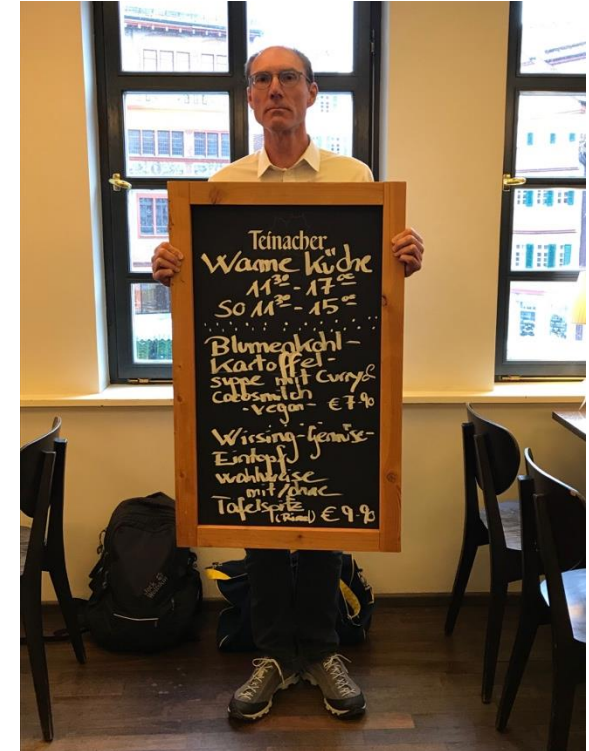
What adverbials and adverbial clauses may teach us about quantification

(online talk via Zoom)

General conclusion: Adverbial clauses do not form a uniform class, either semantically or syntactically, nor from a synchronic or a diachronic perspective. In general, they constitute a set of clauses that lie on a continuum between subordination and coordination.

DFG-Network: overview

➤ meeting #2: *Diachrony and development of adverbial clauses* (Tübingen)



January 2023

DFG-Network: overview

- meeting #2: *Diachrony and development of adverbial clauses* (Tübingen)



Stichpimpulibockforcelorum



- meeting #2: *Diachrony and development of adverbial clauses* (Tübingen)

Reinforcing edges: Adverbial developments in Afrikaans

Theresa Biberauer

(University of Cambridge/Stellenbosch
University/University of the Western Cape/CRiSSP KU
Leuven)

General conclusion: Adverbial clauses often emerge through a grammaticalization and/or reanalysis process. Regardless of the diachronic scenario, they appear to have the need to signal a subordinate dependency relationship syntactically, either through a declarative complementizer (cf. e.g. German *zumal dass*) or through a relativizer (cf. e.g. Guinea-Bissau Kriol *embora ke*). It is not clear under what circumstances a declarative complementizer and under what circumstances a relativizer is recruited.

DFG-Network: overview

➤ meeting #3: *Variation of adverbial clauses* (Göttingen)



October 2023

➤ meeting #3: *Variation of adverbial clauses* (Göttingen)

Fatima Hamlaoui (University of Toronto) – invited speaker

The syntax-phonology mapping of adverbial clauses. A flexible approach

Werner Frey (formerly Leibniz-ZAS, Berlin) – invited speaker

Adverbial clauses and the dazzling term ‘pre-prefield’

General conclusion: The interaction of multiple interfaces gives rise to increasing variation:

[a]: level of embedding:	central vs. peripheral vs. non-integrated
[b]: linear order:	in front of the matrix clause vs. after the matrix clause
[c]: level of interpretation:	content vs. epistemic vs. speech act
[d]: lexical restrictions:	at-issue vs. non-at-issue content
[e]: prosody:	prosodic break vs. no prosodic break

DFG-Network: overview

➤ meeting #4: *Adverbial clauses as argument clauses* (Berlin)



April 2024

➤ meeting #4: *Adverbial clauses as argument clauses* (Berlin)

The limits of argument-fulfilling adverbial clauses and mood marking
Josep Quer (ICREA-Pompeu Fabra University) – invited speaker

*A double life for complement 'if'-clauses revisited:
Preliminary remarks for a 21st century version*
David Pesetsky (MIT) – invited speaker

Williams (1974)

I would be happy if Bill were here.

"on one reading, the 'logical' reading, my happiness is not necessarily related to my knowledge that Bill is here; it is simply a consequence of his presence. The other sense of this sentence is, I would be happy that Bill was here, if he were."

General conclusion: A restricted class of adverbial clauses can occupy the argument position of a clause-embedding predicate (e.g., conditionals, temporals, and hypothetical comparatives). However, the licensing conditions for these clauses remain unclear, raising the question of whether they truly occupy an argument position or instead modify a (silent) DP within the matrix clause.

DFG-Network: overview

- meeting #5: *Adverbial clauses as relative clauses. Old questions, new answers* (Hamburg)



October 2025

- meeting #5: *Adverbial clauses as relative clauses. Old questions, new answers*
(Hamburg)

Emanuela Sanfelici (University of Padova)

Causal clauses as relative clauses: challenges and a possible solution

Marta Massaia (Utrecht University)

Adverbial clauses as relative clauses? The view from similarity constructions

David Willis (University of Oxford)

Some thoughts on the diachrony of wh-structures and complementation in English and Celtic

General conclusion: There is no empirical evidence that all types of adverbial clauses should be analyzed as relative clauses. However, some adverbial clauses are diachronically derived from relative clauses.

- meeting #6: *Tell me something new about adverbial clauses* (Berlin)

General conclusion:



DFG-Network: overview

➤ number of workshops: 5

- a) Cologne, April 2022: *On the Syntax of Adverbial Clauses in Insular Scandinavian and Övdalian* (together with Ásgrímur Angantýsson)
- b) Göttingen, October 2023: *Adverbial Clauses in Creole and Pidgin Languages*
- c) Berlin, April 2024: *Mood Alternation in Adverbial Clauses*
(together with Andreas Pankau)
- d) Hamburg 2024: *Verb-first Adverbial Clauses. A Cross-linguistic Perspective*
(together with Werner Frey)
- e) Potsdam 2026: *Adverbial Clauses and Prosody* (together with Jan Fließbach)

DFG-Network: overview

➤ the project consists of 19 regular network members, 27 associate network members, and 12 invited speakers/guests:

– Caponigro: Mesoamerican

– Larson: Austronesian

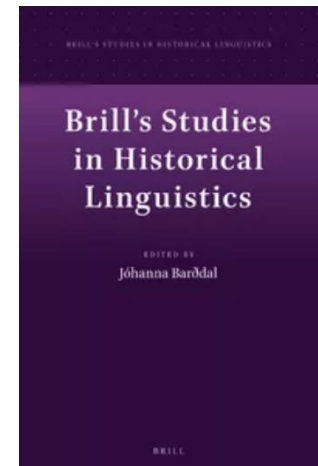
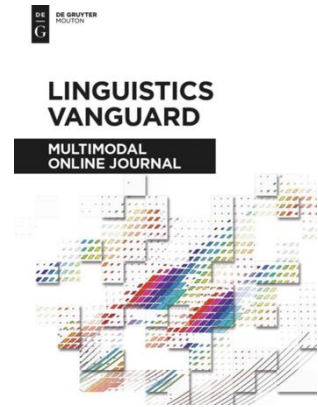
– Polinsky: Caucasian

– Safir: African

- Katrin Axel-Tober (University of Tübingen)
- Ivano Caponigro (University of California San Diego)
- Regine Eckardt (University of Konstanz)
- Liliane Haegeman (Ghent University)
- Roland Hinterhölzl (University of Venice)
- Angelika Kratzer (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
- Richard K. Larson (Stony Brook University)
- Roland Meyer (Humboldt University of Berlin)
- David Pesetsky (MIT)
- Maria Polinsky (University of Maryland)
- Marga Reis (University of Tübingen)
- Ken Safir (Rutgers University)

DFG-Network: output

- special issue in *Linguistics Vanguard*: ‘Causal clauses and their diachronic suitability for processes of language change’ ed. by Łukasz Jędrzejowski & Constanze Fleczonek, open access (5 papers are published, 3 papers are currently in typesetting)
- collection ‘On the syntax of adverbial clauses in Scandinavian. A comparative perspective’ ed. by Łukasz Jędrzejowski & Ásgrímur Angantýsson, book series: *Open Germanic Linguistics*, Berlin: LSP (expected to appear in June/July 2026)
- collection ‘On the diachrony of adverbial clauses’ ed. by Łukasz Jędrzejowski, book series: *Brill’s Studies in Historical Linguistics*, Leiden/Berlin: Brill (expected to appear in October 2026)



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- [3] **Conference *Adverbial Clauses: New Horizons***
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Conference schedule

March 9 (Monday)

09:00–10:00: Łukasz Jędrzejowski (University of Agder) & Andreas Pankau (FU Berlin)
Welcome, opening remarks, and a brief introduction

Chair: Andreas Pankau

10:00–11:00: Joachim Jacobs (University of Wuppertal)
On the assertion of adverbial clauses

11:00–11:30: Refreshment break

11:30–12:10: Łukasz Jędrzejowski (University of Agder) &
Wojciech Guz (University of Lublin)
On adverbial tyle-że-clauses in Polish

12:10–13:30: Lunch at the Mensa

Conference schedule

Chair: Marta Massaia

13:30–14:10: Wellington Souza de Paula (State University of Campinas,
LaCaSa: Laboratory of Syntactic Cartography)
Mapping central adverbial clauses: A cartographic view

14:10–15:00: Maria Lobo (University of Lisbon)
Adverbial clauses in Portuguese dialects

15:00–15:30: Xindan Xu (University of Iceland)
Exploring the internal syntax of finite svo-að-clauses in Icelandic

15:30–16:00: Refreshment break

Chair: Łukasz Jędrzejowski

16:00–17:00: Werner Frey (formerly Leibniz-ZAS)
Adverbial clauses at the syntax-illocution interface

19:00: Conference dinner at
Ristoranto Piaggio
Königin-Luise Str. 44
14195 Berlin
+49 30 832 022 66

Conference schedule

March 10 (Tuesday)

Chair: Łukasz Jędrzejowski

09:00–10:00: Richard Larson (Stony Brook University)
Adverbial clauses, INFL, and switch reference

10:00–10:40: Zhuo Chen (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) &
Victor Junnan Pan (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
Mandarin unconditionals and the typology of adverbial clauses

10:40–11:10: Refreshment break

Chair: Jakob Maché

11:10–11:40: Jen Ting (National Taiwan Normal University)
Deriving dang-temporal adverbial clauses in Mandarin Chinese

11:40–12:10: Ting-Shiu Lin (Lumière University Lyon 2)
Yībiān clause in Mandarin Chinese: conjunct or adjunct?

12:10–13:30: Lunch at the Mensa

Conference schedule

Chair: Wojciech Guz

13:30–14:00: Marika Lekakou (University of Ioannina) &
Josep Quer (ICREA Pompeu Fabra University)
Disregard your alternatives: V-doubling unconditionals in Greek

14:00–14:40: Marta Massaia (Utrecht University)
*Fronting similar manners in different ways: Accounting for a topicalization
asymmetry in simulative and simulative clauses*

14:40–15:00: Refreshment break

Chair: Andreas Pankau

Conference schedule

- 15:00–15:40: Jesús Olguín Martínez (University of Hong Kong) & Stefan Th. Gries (UC Santa Barbara)
Syntax, conversation, discourse-pragmatics, lexicon, and mode in if you ask me constructions: A corpus-based analysis
- 15:40–16:20: Thomas Stolz (University of Bremen)
The curious case of the purposive that supposedly went missing but can be shown to having been there all the time. Chamorro para – subordinator or TMA-marker?
- 16:20–16:35: Łukasz Jędrzejowski (University of Agder) & Andreas Pankau (FU Berlin)
Concluding remarks
- 19:00: Conference dinner at
Alter Krug Dahlem
Königin-Luise-Straße 44
14195 Berlin
+49 30 832 70 00

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