Sam Wolfe

Contact Details

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Research Interests

French Linguistics: Old and Middle French morphology and syntax; the evolution of the French Tense-Aspect Mood System; links between contemporary Gallo-Romance dialectal variation and historical change; OV orders from Old to Modern French; negation; the role of contact in French syntax and syntactic change; the French Determiner Phrase and extended nominal projection.

Comparative Romance Linguistics: Ibero-Romance and Italo-Romance dialectology; historical syntax of the Romance languages; Sardinian linguistics; Occitan linguistics; auxiliary selection; the structure of Romance nominals; late Latin; questions of classification; contemporary Romance dialect geography.

Historical Linguistics: Changes in core word order patterns; syntactic reconstruction; contact phenomena; historical sociolinguistics; sub-grouping; methodological issues arising when working with textual records; grammaticalisation theory; links between formal and variationist approaches.

Theoretical Syntax: Minimalism and its interactions with the cartographic enterprise; the syntax-pragmatics interface; phase-theory; clause structure; second-position phenomena; clitic pronouns; verb-initial languages; verb movement; (null) subjects and subject positions; the left periphery.

Employment History

Departmental Lecturer in French Linguistics, University of Oxford	October 2016-Present
Senior Member, Stipendiary Lecturer in French and Linguistics, Christ Church	October 2016-Present
Visiting Professor, Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, Università degli Studi di Padova (Academic Host: Prof. Cecilia Poletto)	June 2017-September 2017
Research Associate, Rethinking Comparative Syntax Project, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge	October 2015 - September 2016
Temporary Lecturer (Part-Time, Hourly Paid), Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge	October 2013 - April 2015
Teaching Fellow, Department of English Language and Linguistics, University of Manchester	January 2014 - June 2014

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Education

PhD in Linguistics, St John's College, University of Cambridge	2012-2015

Supervisor: Prof. Adam Ledgeway, External Examiner: Prof. Cecilia Poletto

Thesis: 'Microvariation in Old Romance Syntax: A Comparative Study' (Submitted 1/10/15, viva examination 17/12/15, awarded 01/02/2016)

MPhil in Linguistics, St John's College, University of Cambridge	2011 - 2012

Supervisor: Dr. Theresa Biberauer

Mark: 76 (Distinction)

Thesis: 'Word Order Variation in Old Sardinian: A Romance Anomaly?'

BA (Hons) in Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, St John's College, University of Cambridge	2008 - 2011

Mark: 73 (First)

Undergraduate Teaching Experience

French Paper V: Synchronic French Linguistics, University of Oxford (Lecturer, Tutor)	2016 - Present
French Paper IV: History of French, University of Oxford (Tutor)	2016 - Present
Introduction to Linguistics, University of Oxford (Tutor)	2016 - Present
French Grammar, Vocabulary and Translation from French	2016 - Present
Introduction to French Linguistics, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2015 - 2016
Advanced History of English, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2015 - 2016
Syntax, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2015 - 2016
The Romance Languages, University of Cambridge (Lecturer, Supervisor)	2012 - 2016
Historical Linguistics, University of Cambridge (Lecturer, Supervisor)	2014 - 2015
Minimalist Syntax, University of Manchester (Lecturer, Course Coordinator)	2014
History and Varieties of English, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2013 - 2015
Structures and Meanings, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2012 - 2013
Structures and Varieties of Italian, University of Cambridge (Supervisor)	2012 -2013

Research Supervision and Graduate Teaching

MPhil Tutorials, Romance Linguistics, University of Oxford	2017 - Present
Year Abroad Project Supervision, Department of Italian, University of Cambridge	2015
Extended Essay Supervision, MA in Linguistics, University of Manchester	2014

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Monographs and Edited Volumes

In Prep. Germanic and Romance and Comparative Syntax. 20 chapter edited volume with Prof. C. Salvesen to be submitted to Oxford University Press, Oxford Studies in Comparative Syntax series.

Proposal Under Review. Syntactic Change in French. Oxford Studies in Historical and Diachronic Linguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press. For intended submission October 2018.

Under Contract. Verb Second in Medieval Romance. Oxford Studies in Historical and Diachronic Linguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press. For submission May 2017.

Under Contract. Rethinking Verb Second. Forty-chapter edited volume on the state of the art in Verb Second. For submission to the *Rethinking Comparative Syntax* series, Oxford University Press. With Theresa Biberauer and Rebecca Woods. Full manuscript submission October 2017.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Under Review. "The Curious Syntax of Old French SI". 15,000 words.

In Press. "Redefining the V2 Typology: The View from Romance and Beyond". Invited submission to *Linguistic Variation*: *Special Issue 'A Micro-Perspective on V2 in Romance and Germanic'.* 9,000 words.

2016. "A New Perspective on the Evolution of Romance Clausal Structure". *Diachronica 33* (4), 461-502.

2016. "Medieval Romance Languages and the Theory of Verb Second". *Rivista di Grammatica Generativa 38: Selected Papers from the 41st Incontro di Grammatica Generativa,* 287-310.

2015. "Verb Initial Orders in Medieval Romance. A Comparative Perspective". *Revue roumaine de linguistique* LX (2-3 Special Issue on Syntactic Variation), 147-172.

2015. "The nature of Old Spanish Verb Second Reconsidered". *Lingua 164*, 132-155.

2015. "Microvariation in Old Italo-Romance Syntax: Evidence from Old Sardinian and Old Sicilian." *Archivio Glottologico Italiano* 100 (3), 3-36.

2015. "The Old Sardinian Condaghes: A Syntactic Study." *Transactions of the Philological Society* 113 (2), 137-205

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

In Press. "Verb Second, Universal Grammar and Modern Parametric Theory". In T. Biberauer, R. Woods and S. Wolfe (eds.) *Rethinking Verb Second*. Oxford: OUP. With Theresa Biberauer.

In Press. "Deriving the North/South Split in Romance Dialect Syntax: Old Sicilian and Old French word order compared." In T. Biberauer, R. Woods and S. Wolfe (eds.) *Rethinking Verb Second*. Oxford: OUP.

In Press. "On the C-System of Medieval Occitan". In J. Berns, H. Jacobs and D. Nouveau (eds.) *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 2015: Selected Papers from Going Romance Nijmegen 2015*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

In Press. "On the Clitic System of Old French". In R. Zafiu, G.P Dindelegan, A. Dragomirescu, A. Nicolae and I. N. Paraschiv (eds.) *Romance Syntax. Comparative and diachronic perspectives*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars.

2015. "Microparametric Variation in Old Italo-Romance Syntax? The View from Old Sicilian and Old Sardinian". In E. O. Aboh, J. C. Schaeffer and P. Sleeman (eds.) *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 2013: Selected Papers from Going Romance Amsterdam 2013*. Amsterdam*:* John Benjamins, 51-66.

2015. "Medieval Sardinian: New Evidence for Syntactic Change from Latin to Romance. In D. T. T. Haug (ed.) *Historical Linguistics 2013: Selected papers from the 21st International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Oslo, 5-9 August 2013, Oslo.* Amsterdam*:* John Benjamins, 303-324.

Invited Presentations and Talks

2018. The Loss of Left Peripheral Focus in Gallo-Romance as a Catastrophic Change. Invited talk to the Workshop on Information Structure and Language Change, Université de Caen Normandie, 3rd-5th April 2018.

2018. 'Bridging Philology with Formal Syntax: Some Case Studies in the History of Romance'. Invited talk to the Philological Society. 12th January 2018.

2017. 'The Cartographic Enterprise and Verb Second'. University of Geneva Linguistics Seminar Series. 7th November 2017.

2016. 'Old Gallo-Romance Word Order: The State of the Art'. University of Newcastle Invited Speaker Series. 5th October 2016.

2016. 'On the (non-)Existence of Symmetrical V2 Systems in Romance'. Traces of History Project Meeting on Matrix Embedded Asymmetries, University of Oslo. 23rd-25th June 2016.

2016. 'Towards a New Typology of Verb Second Systems'. Verb Second: Rethinking the Theory and Data, St John's College, Cambridge. 22nd-24th March 2016.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

2017. 'Evaluating Contact Explanations for the 'Germanic' Properties of Old French'. 23rd International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Workshop 'Germanic and Romance: Probing the Similarities and Differences.' San Antonio, Texas, 31st July-4th August 2017.

2017. 'Medieval Romance and its Place in the V2 Typology'. 43rd Incontro di Grammatica Generativa, Pavia, Italy, 16th-17th February 2017.

2017. 'Towards a New Account of Old Gallo-Romance Word Order'. 45th Romance Linguistics Seminar. Cambridge, 4th-5th January 2017

2016. 'Deriving Modern Romance Isoglosses from Historical Data'. 49th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea. 31 August – 3 September 2016. University of Naples Federico II, Naples.

2016. 'On the Limits of Variation in V2 Systems'. 5th Cambridge Comparative Syntax Conference, Cambridge. 5th-7th May 2016.

2016. 'Modern Germanic and Old Romance: Keys to a New Understanding of Embedded Verb Second'. Forum of Germanic Studies 2016: Workshop on Embedded V2, University of Bristol. January 2016. With Theresa Biberauer.

2015. 'The Importance of the Fin/Force Distinction for a Theory of (Medieval Romance) V2'. Going Romance, Nijmegen, 10th-12th December 2015

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2015. 'Syntactic Change from Latin to Romance and Phase-Edge Properties: A New Approach'. 15th International Conference of the Department of Linguistics, University of Bucharest. Workshop: Comparative and Diachronic Perspectives on Romanian. 27th-28th November 2015.

2015. 'On the History of V-to-C Movement in Romance'. Linguistics Association of Great Britain Annual Meeting. University College London. September 2015.

2015. 'A New Perspective on the Evolution of Old Romance Clausal Structure'. 22nd International Conference on Historical Linguistics. University of Naples. July 2015.

2015. 'The Medieval Romance Languages and V2: A New Perspective for Parameter Theory'. Traces of History Project: Workshop on Verb-Second. University of Oslo. March 2015.

2015. 'V2 and the Left Periphery in Old Romance: A New Perspective on the Evolution of Romance Clausal Structure'. 41st Incontro di Grammatica Generativa. Univerità per Stranieri di Perugia. February 2015.

2015. 'Revisiting an Old Problem: The Nature of Spanish Verb Second Reconsidered'. 43rd Romance Linguistics Seminar. Cambridge, January 2015.

2014. 'Syntactic Variation in the Medieval Romance Languages: A New Perspective on Verb-Initial Orders'. 14th International Conference of the Department of Linguistics, University of Bucharest. Workshop on Syntactic Variation. November 2014.

2013. 'Syntactic Microvariation in Old Italo Romance: The View from Old Sicilian and Old Sardinian'. Going Romance, Amsterdam, November 2013.

2013. 'Towards a Syntactic Typology of Old Italo-Romance'. Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, London, August 2013.

2013. 'Medieval Sardinian: New Evidence for Syntactic Change from Latin to Romance'. International Conference on Historical Linguistics, Oslo, August 2013.

2013. 'Microvariation in Old Italo-Romance: Data from Old Sicilian and Old Sardinian'. 7th Cambridge Italian Dialect Syntax-Morphology Meeting, Cambridge, June 2013.

2013. 'The Interaction of Word Order and Information Structure in Old Sardinian'. 8th Newcastle Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics, Newcastle, April 2013.

2013. 'Word Order and Information Structure in Old Sardinian'. Incontro di Grammatica Generativa, Modena, February 2013.

2013. 'A Study of Word Order in the Old Sardinian *Condaghes*'. Romance Linguistics Seminar XLI, Cambridge, January 2013.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Presentations and Talks

2016. 'Towards a New Account of Old Gallo-Romance Word Order'. University of Oxford Romance Linguistics Seminar. 1st December 2016.

2015. 'Does Morphosyntactic Variation Map Onto Geography? The View from (Medieval) Romance V2, Null Subjects and Clitic Pronouns.' Historical Linguistics Research Symposium, University of Cambridge, 25th September 2015.

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2015. 'Syntactic Microvariation in the Medieval Romance Languages and the Nature of V2 Reconsidered.' SyntaxLab, University of Cambridge, 9th June 2015.

2014. 'New Perspectives on Old Problems: Towards a Syntactic Atlas of Medieval Romance.' University of Cambridge Romance Linguistics Seminar, 18th November 2014.

2013. 'Microparametric Variation in Old Romance Syntax. New Data from Southern Italo-Romance.' University of Cambridge Syntax Research Cluster Event, 25th September 2013.

Selected Access and Admissions Presentations

2017. 'Language Change: Multicultural London English and Early Old French Compared'. Christ Church, Oxford, Modern Languages Access Event, 16th March 2017.

2017. 'A Crash Course on Historical Linguistics'. Christ Church, Oxford, Modern Languages Access Event, 16th March 2017.

2016. 'Deciphering Unknown Scripts'. St John's College, Cambridge, Modern Languages and Linguistics Open Day, 21st June 2016.

2016. 'Applying to Cambridge: Busting the Myths'. St John's College, Cambridge, Access Event, 10th March 2016.

2016. 'Working with Textual Records'. St John's College, Cambridge, Access Event, 14th January 2016.

2015. '10 Language Myths'. St John's College, Cambridge, Access Event, 24th September 2015.

2015. 'Deciphering Unknown Scripts', Sample Seminar for St John's College, Cambridge, Access Event, 14th July 2015.

2015. 'So What's Evidence? The View from Linguistics.' St John's College, Cambridge Access Event, 30th March 2015.

2014. 'Historical Linguistics and Time Travel.' St John's College, Cambridge, Access Summer School. 9th September 2014.

2014. 'Making a Competitive Application to Cambridge University.' St John's College, Cambridge Access Event, 14th July 2014.

2014. 'An Introduction to Higher Education and Cambridge University.' St John's College, Cambridge Access Event, 9th July 2014.

2014. 'What Do We Know and What We Don't about Languages Spoken in the Past.' St John's College, Cambridge Access Event, 3rd July 2014.

Examining

2017. Assessor. MPhil and MSt theses in Romance Philology.

2017. Assessor. French Paper V (Contemporary French Linguistics), Final Honour School paper at the University of Oxford.

2017. Assessor. French Paper IV (History of French), Final Honour School paper at the University of Oxford.

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2014. First examiner. Minimalist Syntax, final-year undergraduate paper at the University of Manchester.

2014. Masters Examiner. First examiner for extended essays written within a Minimalist framework at the University of Manchester.

2014. Second examiner. The Romance Languages, final-year undergraduate paper at the University of Cambridge.

Admissions, Access and Outreach

March 2016 - Present. Coordinator of the *New Beginnings* project, seeking to improve the number of looked after children from a care background reaching Higher Education. In collaboration with St John's College, University of Cambridge, the Freeman Trust, Brent Local Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Department for Education.

2017. Organiser with Jennifer Yee of an outreach day of events at Christ Church to increase high quality state school applications for Medieval and Modern Languages and Linguistics.

2016. Admissions interviewer and assessor for French, Linguistics and Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics at Christ Church, Oxford.

2014 - 2015. Admissions interviewer and assessor for Linguistics at St John's College, Magdalene College and Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge.

June 2014 - August 2014. Temporary Access Officer, St John's College, Cambridge. Responsible for coordination of all school and college visits to St John's, alongside presentations on applying to higher education, choosing a degree course and university myth-busting.

Conference Organisation

August 2017. Co-organiser (with Prof. Christine Salvesen): Germanic and Romance - Probing the Similarities and Differences. International Conference on Historical Linguistics, San Antonio, Texas.

May 2016. Co-organiser (with ReCoS Project Group) Cambridge Comparative Syntax Conference, with £8,000 budget and five invited speakers.

March 2016. Co-organiser (with Dr. Theresa Biberauer) Rethinking Verb Second Workshop, with £6000 budget and seven invited speakers.

June 2014. Co-organiser (with Prof. Adam Ledgeway and Dr. Norma Schifano) Cambridge Italian Dialect Syntax Morphology Meeting (£1000 budget).

Reviewing

2017 - Present. *Folia Linguistica Historica.*

2016 - Present. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics.*

2015 - Present. *Linguistic Variation.*

2015 - Present. *Iberia.*

2014 - Present. *Language (Journal of Historical Syntax).*

2014 - Present. *Revue roumaine de linguistique.*

Additional Academic Service

March 2016 - September 2016. Recipient of a £5,000 research grant from the Freeman Family Trust to investigate the factors preventing care-leavers from accessing Higher Education.

2011 - 2016. Vice-Chair of Governors, Chair of the Audit Committee, Chair of the Search, HR and Remuneration Committee. Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge.

2012 - 2016. Charity Trustee. Red Balloon Centre, Cambridge, an educational charity working with severely bullied children. Specific responsibility for health and safety, progression and fundraising.

2013 - 2014. Graduate Representative. Board of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge.

Languages

Fluent (C2 CEFR): French, Spanish, Italian

High Intermediate (C1 CEFR): German

Basic (B1 CEFR): Portuguese

Membership of Professional Bodies

Linguistics Association of Great Britain

The Research Centre for Romance Linguistics, University of Oxford.

The Philological Society,

Cambridge University Linguistic Society,

Cambridge Endangered Languages Society,