

Bob van Tiel

Curriculum vitae

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Personal information

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Research

Specialisation: semantics and pragmatics of natural language

Interests: implicature; presupposition; quantification; autism

Employment

since 2021	Assistant professor Faculty of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen
2020–2021	Postdoctoral researcher Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Nijmegen
2019	Paternity leave for birth of daughter Hannah from January to June
2017–2020	Senior researcher Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin
2015–2017	Postdoctoral researcher Department of Linguistics, Université Libre de Bruxelles
2015	Postdoctoral researcher Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin
2014–2015	Postdoctoral researcher Department of Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen
2013–2014	Research associate Department of Linguistics, University of Bielefeld

Education

2010–2014	Ph.D. in Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen <i>Thesis:</i> Quantity matters: Implicatures, typicality, and truth <i>Supervisors:</i> Bart Geurts and Rob van der Sandt
2006–2010	MA in Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen
2004–2009	MA in Dutch Language and Literature, Radboud University Nijmegen

Awards

- 2025 NWO-M grant (E 380,000) (co-applicant)
- 2023 Starting grant for Ph.D. project (E 240,000)
- 2017 XPRAG.de project “Modelling the use of quantifiers in typical and atypical speakers probabilistically” (E 289,400)
- 2014 Ph.D. award (E 1,000)
- 2012 EURO-XPRAG travel grant with Ye Tian and Richard Breheny (E 1,880)
- 2011 EURO-XPRAG travel grant with Jacques Jayez (E 2,984)

Publications

- in prep Polarity and incremental processing of scalar inferences.
Chao Sun, Elizabeth Pankratz, and Bob van Tiel
- accepted [The semantics-pragmatics interface \(I\): Approaches to scalar inferences.](#)
Bob van Tiel
The Cambridge handbook of linguistic interfaces (eds. Antonio Fábregas, Laia Mayol, Clàudia Pons-Mol, and Yanina Prystauka). Cambridge University Press
- The effect of hearsay on speaker commitment: An fEMG study.
Harriet Yates, Bob van Tiel, Peter de Swart, and Corien Bary
Open Mind
- The (in)felicity of a dog or a reindeer: On the interpretation and processing of ignorance and scalar inferences triggered by disjunction
Federica Longo, Daniele Panizza, Greta Mazzaggio, and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 30
- 2026 [Scalar diversity and second-language processing of scalar inferences: A cross-linguistic analysis](#)
Greta Mazzaggio, Federica Longo, Penka Stateva, and Bob van Tiel
Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, 29, 309–321
- [Bespoke probabilistic modelling reveals subtle effects of autism on pragmatic optimisation in the expression of quantification.](#)
Bob van Tiel, Michael Franke, Uli Sauerland, and Philippine Geelhand
Computational Brain & Behavior
- 2025 [fEMG as a window into conversational commitments](#)
Harriet Yates, Corien Bary, Peter de Swart, and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29 (pp. 619-637)
- [Conventions, coordination, and arbitrariness](#)
Bob van Tiel and Bart Geurts
Evolutionary pragmatics (eds. Bart Geurts and Richard Moore) (pp. 179–195). Oxford University Press
- 2024 [Word order and the learnability of artificial languages](#)
Bob van Tiel, Fausto Carcassi, and Xiaochen Zheng
Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

- Why second-language speakers sometimes, but not always, derive scalar inferences like first-language speakers: Effects of task demands
Ahmed Khorsheed and Bob van Tiel
Language Acquisition
- Scalar inferencing, polarity and cognitive load
Paul Marty, Jacopo Romoli, Yasutada Sudo, Bob van Tiel, and Richard Breheny
Glossa Psycholinguistics, 3, 1
- 2023 The role of relevance, competence, and priors for scalar inferences
Polina Tsvilodub, Bob van Tiel, and Michael Franke
Proceedings of Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) 2 (pp. 288–298)
- Commitments de lingua & assertoric commitments: The case of expressives
Leopold Hess, Corien Bary, and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory, 33, 379–398
- 2022 Expressives do shift, but not on their own
Corien Bary, Leopold Hess, and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium (pp. 31–37)
- Meaning and use in the expression of estimative probability
Bob van Tiel, Uli Sauerland, and Michael Franke
Open Mind, 6, 250–263
- Sources of cognitive cost in scalar implicature processing: A review
Ahmed Khorsheed, Jessica Price, and Bob van Tiel
Frontiers in Communication, 7, 990044
- 2021 Representing polar questions
Ye Tian, Bob van Tiel, Élise Clin, and Richard Breheny
Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, 5, 1535–1555
- The role of relevance for scalar diversity: A usage-based approach
Elizabeth Pankratz and Bob van Tiel
Language and Cognition, 13, 562–594
- Adjectival polarity and the processing of scalar inferences
Bob van Tiel and Elizabeth Pankratz
Glossa, 6, 32
- Probabilistic pragmatics explains gradience and focality in natural language quantification
Bob van Tiel, Michael Franke, and Uli Sauerland
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 118, e2005453118
- Strategic deception in adults with autism spectrum disorder
Bob van Tiel, Gaétane Deliens, Philippine Geelhand, Anke Murillo Oosterwijk, and Mikhail Kissine
Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 51, 255–266
- Every ambiguity isn't syntactic in nature: Testing the rational speech act model of scope ambiguity
Sherry Yong Chen and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics, 4, 24

- 2019 [‘The case against fuzzy logic revisited’ revisited](#)
 Bob van Tiel
Snippets, 37, 100–102
- [Pragmatic reasoning in autism](#)
 Bart Geurts, Mikhail Kissine, and Bob van Tiel
Thinking, reasoning and decision-making in autism (eds. Kinga Morsanyi and Ruth Byrne) (pp. 113–134). Psychology Press
- [Scalar inferences under cognitive load](#)
 Bob van Tiel, Elizabeth Pankratz, Paul Marty, and Chao Sun
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23 (pp. 427–441)
- [Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences](#)
 Bob van Tiel, Elizabeth Pankratz, and Chao Sun
Journal of Memory and Language, 105, 93–107
- [The role of gender in the perception of autism symptom severity and future behavioral development](#)
 Philippine Geelhand, Philippe Bernard, Olivier Klein, Bob van Tiel, and Mikhail Kissine
Molecular Autism, 10, 1–16
- 2018 [Quantity-based reasoning in the broader autism phenotype: A web-based study](#)
 Bob van Tiel and Mikhail Kissine
Applied Psycholinguistics, 39, 1373–1403
- [Reasoning with ‘some’](#)
 Bob van Tiel, Ira Noveck, and Mikhail Kissine
Journal of Semantics, 35, 757–797
- 2017 [Processing conversational implicatures: Alternatives and counterfactual reasoning](#)
 Bob van Tiel and Walter Schaeken
Cognitive Science, 41, 1119–1154
- 2016 [When “all the five circles” are four: New exercises in domain restriction](#)
 Bart Geurts and Bob van Tiel
Topoi, 35, 109–122
- [Scalar diversity](#)
 Bob van Tiel, Emiel van Miltenburg, Natalia Zevakhina, and Bart Geurts
Journal of Semantics, 33, 107–135
- 2014 [Embedded scalars and typicality](#)
 Bob van Tiel
Journal of Semantics, 31, 147–177
- [Truth and typicality in the interpretation of quantifiers](#)
 Bob van Tiel and Bart Geurts
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18 (pp. 433–450)
- 2013 [Embedded scalars](#)
 Bart Geurts and Bob van Tiel
Semantics and Pragmatics, 6, 1–37

- 2012 [Universal free choice](#)
 Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 16 (pp. 627–638)
[Only only: An experimental window on exclusiveness](#)
 Jacques Jayez and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of the 18th Amsterdam Colloquium (pp. 391–400)
- 2011 [De historische ontwikkeling van de tussenklank in Nederlandse nominale samenstellingen](#)
 Bob van Tiel, Margit Rem, and Anneke Neijt
Nederlandse Taalkunde, 16, 120–140
- 2009 [Zorg voor een leerbare spelling](#)
 Bob van Tiel and Anneke Neijt
Levende Talen, 7, 7–11
- 2007 [Animacy in verschillende teksttypes](#)
 Bob van Tiel and Monique Lamers
Tabu: Bulletin voor Taalwetenschap, 36, 19–38

Selected presentations

(* = poster, † = invited, § = keynote/plenary)

- 2026 † EXREAN Workshop on Individual Differences in Pragmatic Processing
 Freie Universität Berlin
- 2023 § Experimental pragmatics conference
 Université Paris Cité
- § ESSLLI workshop on procedural and computational models of semantic and pragmatic processes
 University of Ljubljana
- § Theory of language seminar
 Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen
- * Semantics and linguistic theory
 Yale University
- 2022 Experimental pragmatics conference
 University of Pavia
- * Amsterdam colloquium
 University of Amsterdam
- † Quantity in language and thought workshop
 University of Amsterdam
- * NVP brain and cognition winter conference
 Egmond aan Zee
- 2021 † Grammar and cognition colloquium
 Radboud University Nijmegen

- * Society for computation in linguistics
online
- † Linguistics colloquium
University of Chicago
- † Workshop on scales, degrees and implicature
Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin
- 2020 * UK cognitive linguistics conference
online
Sinn und Bedeutung
online
- 2019 * Experimental pragmatics conference
University of Edinburgh
- 2018 * Sinn und Bedeutung
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- 2017 Experimental pragmatics conference
University of Cologne
- † Linguistics colloquium
University of Tübingen
- 2016 † Experimental linguistics seminar
Utrecht University
- † Linguistics colloquium
Ruhr University Bochum
- 2015 Experimental pragmatics conference
University of Chicago
- 2013 * Sinn und Bedeutung
University of the Basque Country
Experimental pragmatics conference
Utrecht University
- 2012 † Discourse and philosophy workshop
University of Amsterdam
- 2011 Experimental pragmatics conference
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
Sinn und Bedeutung
Utrecht University
Amsterdam colloquium
University of Amsterdam

Selected teaching and supervision

Teaching at Radboud University Nijmegen

Argumentation theory (BA Philosophy), 2021–2024
From small talk to big media (BA Politics, Philosophy, and Society, co-instructor), 2023–2025
Great texts in language philosophy (BA Philosophy), 2023–2026
Introduction to language philosophy (BA Philosophy & BA Linguistics), 2022–2026
Introduction to logic (BA Philosophy), 2024–2025
Power of words (BA Politics, Philosophy, and Society), 2021

Other teaching

Creativity in semantics and pragmatics (CRC summer school), 2025
Bielefeld University
Implicatures (DGfS summer school), 2019
Humboldt University of Berlin
Topics in experimental pragmatics: Adjectives (MA Linguistics, co-instructor), 2018
Humboldt University of Berlin
Communication and cognition (MA Linguistics), 2016–2017
Université Libre de Bruxelles

Supervision

Research stay Yixiong Chen, Radboud University Nijmegen, since 2026
Ph.D. Thomas van der Leer (co-supervisor), Radboud University Nijmegen, since 2026
Ph.D. Eline Ensink, Radboud University Nijmegen, since 2024
Ph.D. Aldair Diaz Gomez (co-supervisor), University of Oslo, since 2024
Ph.D. Harriet Yates (co-supervisor), Radboud University Nijmegen, since 2022
Internship Sherry Yong Chen, Leibniz-ZAS Berlin, 2019
Internship Chao Sun, Leibniz-ZAS Berlin, 2018
Research assistant Elizabeth Pankratz, Leibniz-ZAS Berlin, 2018–2019
Internship Emiel van Miltenburg, Radboud University Nijmegen, 2012

Academic service (selection)

Ad-hoc reviewing

Acta Psychologica / Applied Psycholinguistics / Artificial Intelligence Review / Autism / Cognition / Cognitive Processing / Cognitive Science / Cognitive Psychology / Collabra / Current Psychology / Discourse Processes / Erkenntnis / First Language / Frontiers / Glossa / Glossa Psycholinguistics / Intercultural Pragmatics / Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders / Journal of Child Language / Journal of Cognitive Psychology / Journal of Communication Disorders / Journal of Experimental Psychology: General / Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition / Journal of Linguistics / Journal of Memory and Language / Journal of Pragmatics / Journal of Psycholinguistic Research / Journal of Semantics / Language / Language and Cognition / Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience / Language Sciences / Linguistics / Neuroscience Letters / Open Linguistics / Open Mind / Philosophical Studies / PLOS ONE / Psychologica Belgica / Res Philosophica / Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders / Semantics and Pragmatics / Scientific Reports / Spanish Journal of Psychology / Sprache und Datenverarbeitung / Synthese / Thought: A Journal of Philosophy / Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics

Amsterdam colloquium / Annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) / Annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS) / European summer school in logic, language, and information (ESSLI) / Experimental pragmatics conference (XPRAG) / Experiments in linguistic meaning (ELM) / Semantics and linguistic theory (SALT) / Sinn und Bedeutung

Agence Nationale de la Recherche / De Gruyter Mouton / Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft (DFG) / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions / NWO Talentprogramma Veni / Palgrave Macmillan / U.S.–Israel Binational Science Foundation

Workshop organisation

[Working on epistemic injustice and AI](#), 2027

[Workshop on measuring commitments in communication](#), 2026

[DGfS workshop on diversity in pragmatic inferences](#), 2020

[Workshop on the pragmatics of quantifiers: Implicature and presupposition](#), 2018

Nijmegen workshop on conversational implicatures, 2012

Member of doctoral examination board

Irene Mognon, University of Groningen, 2026

Margot Mangnus, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, 2025

Alexandra Lorson, University of Edinburgh, 2022

Sammie Tarenskeen, Radboud University Nijmegen, 2016

Member of editorial board

Glossa Psycholinguistics, since 2024