

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

2021–	Assistant professor Department of Philosophy, 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 (€ 380,000) (co-applicant)
2023	Starting grant for Ph.D. project (€ 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)
- 2009 MA thesis nominated for the *Taalunie scriptieprijs*

Publications

- accepted [fEMG as a window into conversational commitments](#)
Harriet Yates, Corien Bary, Peter de Swart, and Bob van Tiel
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29
- 2025 [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
[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)

- 2024 * Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society
Rotterdam

- 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), 2023–2025
 Introduction to language philosophy (BA Philosophy & BA Linguistics), 2022–2025
 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

Ph.D. Eline Ensink, Radboud University Nijmegen, 2024–2028
 Ph.D. Aldair Diaz Gomez (co-supervisor), University of Oslo, 2024–2028
 Ph.D. Harriet Yates (co-supervisor), Radboud University Nijmegen, 2022–2026
 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 Science / Cognitive Psychology / Collabra / Discourse Processes / First Language / Frontiers / Glossa / Glossa Psycholinguistics / Intercultural Pragmatics / Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders / 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 and Cognition / Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience / Linguistics / Neuroscience Letters / Open Linguistics / Open Mind / Philosophical Studies / PLOS ONE / Psychologica Belgica / Res Philosophica / Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders / Semantics and Pragmatics / 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 (ESSLLI) / 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

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

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

Nijmegen workshop on conversational implicatures (co-organiser), 2012

Member of doctoral examination board

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, 2024–