



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

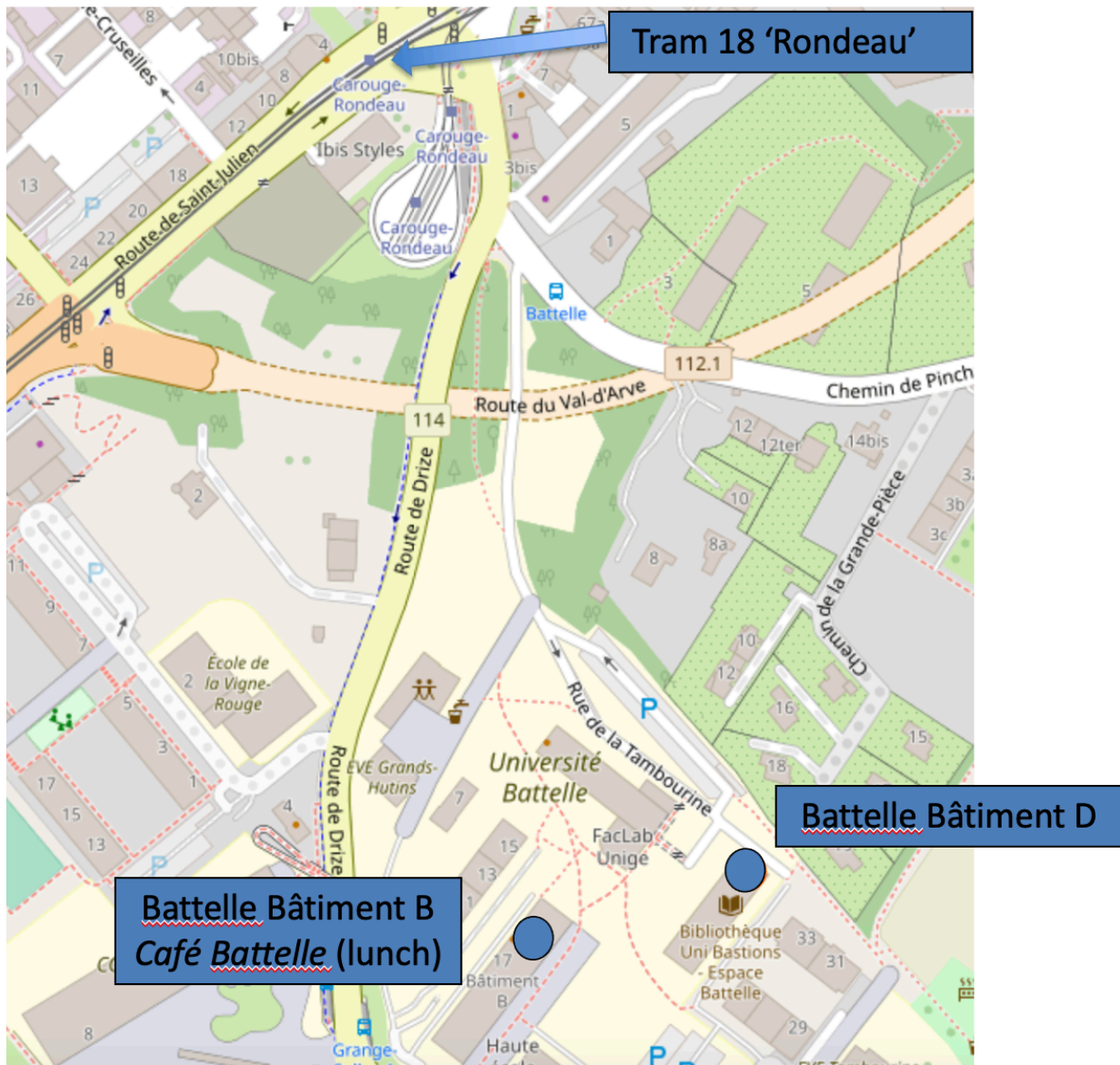
## **SWELL 2023**

**Friday, 10 March 2023**

10.30 - 11.00	<b>Welcome and coffee</b> (Battelle, Building D, Amphithéâtre 012A)
11.00 - 11.30	Eva Zehentner (University of Zurich) <i>Alternations (at) that time</i> : NP vs PP time adjuncts in the history of English
11.30 - 12.00	Anne-Elisabeth Donzé (University of Geneva) On the development of subject-auxiliary inversion in Middle English prose and verse texts
12.00 - 12.30	Olena Marina (University of Teacher Education Lucerne) Identity construction in the Stuart Restoration discourse: a cognitive-pragmatic perspective
12.30 - 14.00	<b>Lunch</b> ( <i>Café Battelle</i> , Building B)
14.00 - 14.30	Julia Landmann (University of Basel) Lexical borrowing from French, Spanish, German and Yiddish since the nineteenth century: A socio-cognitive approach
14.30 - 15.00	Thomas Messerli (University of Basel) Cringe and ambivalence in streamed comedy specials
15.00 - 15.30	Carolin Debray (University of Basel) Co-constructing sociability in live chats during gaming spectatorship
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16.00	Business meeting

## Directions from the train station

Outside the train station (Gare Cornavin), take **tram 18 (direction: Palettes, every 10 minutes)** to the stop **Rondeau** (18 minutes). From Rondeau, walk up to Université Battelle, Building D (ca. 5 minutes). The meeting will be held in **Building D, Amphithéâtre 012A (ground floor)**.



# Abstracts

## ***Alternations (at) that time: NP vs PP time adjuncts in the history of English***

*Eva Zehentner (University of Zurich)*

The present paper investigates variation between nominal and prepositional adjuncts of time as in e.g. [on] *that day, they left*. The main goals are (i) to assess potential changes in the distribution of these variants in the history of English, specifically from Middle English to Late Modern English (1150-1914), and (ii) to test which factors most strongly impact the choice between the two variants, with a focus on the impact of different complexity measures (e.g. Pijpops et al. 2018; Levshina 2018), interacting with positional preferences (cf. e.g. Haeberli 2017; Los 2018; among many others).

To address these questions, the paper makes use of data from the *Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpora of Historical English* (PPCME2; PPCEME; PPCMBE), explored by means of logistic regression modelling. The results suggest that there is no dramatic, sweeping change in this abstract alternation over time, but that this variation may mainly play out on lower, noun-specific levels.

### References

- Haeberli, Eric. 2017. Medial NP-adjuncts in English: A diachronic perspective. In Enoch Aboh, Eric Haeberli, Genoveva Puskás & Manuela Schönenberger (eds.), *Elements of comparative syntax: Theory and description*, 447–475. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- PPCME2=Kroch, Anthony, Ann Taylor & Beatrice Santorini. 2000. Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English, second edition. [www.ling.upenn.edu/hist-corpora/PPCME2-RELEASE-3/index.html](http://www.ling.upenn.edu/hist-corpora/PPCME2-RELEASE-3/index.html).
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- PPCMBE=Kroch, Anthony, Beatrice Santorini & Ariel Diertani. 2016. The Penn Parsed Corpus of Modern British English. <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/ppche/ppche-release-2016/PPCMBE2-RELEASE-1>
- Levshina 2018. Anybody (at) home? Communicative efficiency knocking on the Construction Grammar door. *Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics Association* 6. 71–90. <https://doi.org/10.1515/gcla-2018-0004>.
- Los, Bettelou. 2018. 'Permissive subjects' and the decline of adverbial linking in the history of English. In Hubert Cuyckens, Hendrik De Smet, Liesbet Heyvaert and Charlotte Maekelberghe (eds.), *Explorations in English Historical Syntax*, 23–50. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Pijpops, Dirk, Dirk Speelman, Stefan Grondelaers & Freek Van de Velde. 2018. Comparing explanations for the Complexity Principle: evidence from argument realization. *Language and Cognition* 10. 514–543.

## **On the Development of Subject-Auxiliary Inversion in Middle English Prose and Verse Texts**

*Anne-Elisabeth Donzé (University of Geneva)*

Although the “loss of Verb Second” (V2) has been regularly discussed in the literature, several aspects of this change have yet to be thoroughly examined. This work aims to contribute to the existing studies on V2 by focusing on inversion with auxiliaries (*be, have, do, modal verbs*) in the history of English. The development of auxiliaries is of particular interest as inversion has been lost in English except in some very specific contexts, for instance, interrogative clauses. In this talk, I shall explore the diachronic trajectory of these inverted word orders in declarative main clauses during the Middle English (ME) period based on data collected from the PPCME2 (Kroch et al. 2000) and the PCMEP (Zimmermann 2021). Three main aspects shall be investigated in my overview of ME inverted word orders: First, a distinction will be made between inversion with pronominal and nominal subjects, as these subjects have been observed to behave differently with respect to inversion. Secondly, a comparison of the use of inversion with specific adverbs with a higher rate of inversion in Old English (primarily *then*) and other fronted constituents will be made. Finally, a genre comparison between data from ME prose texts and ME verse texts will be presented.

### References

- Kroch, Anthony, Taylor, Ann, and Beatrice Santorini (2000). *The Penn-Helsinki Parsed Corpus of Middle English (PPCME2)*. Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania. CD-ROM, second edition, release 4.
- Zimmermann, Richard (2021). *The Parsed Corpus of Middle English Poetry (PCMEP)*. Department of Linguistics and English Language, University of Manchester.

### **Identity construction in the Stuart Restoration discourse: a cognitive-pragmatic perspective**

*Olena Marina (University of Teacher Education Lucerne)*

In my talk, I look into the period of the Stuart Restoration as the time of radical changes in politics, society, and culture. Therefore, cultural identities conceptualized in Restoration drama are viewed as a product of the period of transition. The Stuart Restoration witnessed the renewal of theatre activity in England, the advent of a female player on the stage, changes in authorship and viewership. It was the period of experimentation with social roles and models of behavior.

This research is underpinned by methods of discourse analysis, cognitive pragmatics, and cultural linguistics and is illustrated with discourse excerpts from early Restoration plays. The case study allows to single out male and female LIBERTINE cultural schemas which are verbalized through the strategy of self-presentation at the macro-discursive level and strategies of self-promotion and ridicule of the other – at the micro-discursive level.

### **Lexical borrowing from French, Spanish, German and Yiddish since the nineteenth century: A socio-cognitive approach**

*Julia Landmann (University of Basel)*

This study provides a new approach to lexical borrowing by combining a socio-linguistic and a cognitive perspective to analyse loanword processes and their linguistic effects. The focus is on French, Spanish, German and Yiddish borrowings which have been adopted into English since the nineteenth century. This study will determine what is felt to be 'French', 'Spanish', 'German' or 'Yiddish' when carrying out contrastive analyses of language use in specific English semantic areas. To identify connections between linguistic features and social or socio-cognitive attitudes, descriptions of culturally embedded attitudes are necessary. For example, Yiddish borrowings may be used as cultural clues by (American) Jews, to indicate their ethnic identity. There are many more contexts that are important for the analysis of the vocabulary under scrutiny. This paper will offer some detailed case studies of borrowings reflecting connections of linguistic features and sociocultural attitudes which have been identified in the overall analysis.

### **Cringe and ambivalence in streamed comedy specials**

*Thomas Messerli (University of Basel)*

Cringe is arguably in the twilight zone between the humorous and the serious. Humour does not only rest on incongruity and resolution, but also of the discursive creation – e.g., paratextually and through genre norms – of a space in which it is permissible to look at the incongruous favourably and to respond with humour support to its resolution. Famous examples of cringe humour stand out as being notably ambivalent in their positioning. *The Office* (UK, 2001–2003), for instance, oscillates between the genres of sitcom and documentary, and between humour and embarrassment.

This paper explores the trend that Bennett (2022) calls refractive comedy and its connection to cringe. Moving from observational comedy to comedic observation, refractive comedians like Hannah Gadsby and Bo Burnham are no longer simply performers, but between humour separable from or as part of serious sociocultural discourses about shared experiences and the role of themselves and the comedian.

#### **References**

Bennett, Kiah E. (2022). The Refractive Comic: Nanette and Comedy From Inside Identity. *Television & New Media*, 00(0), 1–17.

## Co-constructing sociability in live chats during gaming spectatorship

Carolin Debray (University of Basel)

Live gaming spectatorship is an increasingly popular pastime, most famously facilitated by the platform *Twitch*. Unlike in analogue television where synchronous viewership is abstract and distant, *Twitch* facilitates joint viewer engagement with the content via a synchronous text based chat (IRC). This is a crucial component of the viewing experience and is designed to foster *sociability* (Hamilton et al., 2014) – the pleasure of being associated with others (Simmel & Highes, 1949).

Constructing sociability in the context of a large anonymous online space is however a complex endeavor and requires considerable interactional work. In this talk I examine the different linguistic resources that gamers and spectators mobilise to construct sociability in streams of three popular streamers. Through a corpus-assisted interaction analysis, I focus on three interrelated aspects: 1) the practices through which streamers foster engagement in the IRC, 2) the role of interjections to foster joint attention among viewers in the IRC, and 3) the role of repetition in “synchronising” the community. I thereby illustrate how viewers and streamers construct community in a large anonymous online space and productively deal with the challenge of incoherence often claimed to be a feature of such chats (e.g. Nematzadeh et al., 2019).

### References

- Hamilton, W. A., Garretson, O., & Kerne, A. (2014). Streaming on twitch: Fostering participatory communities of play within live mixed media. *Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - Proceedings*, 1315–1324. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2556288.2557048>
- Nematzadeh, A., Ciampaglia, G. L., Ahn, Y. Y., & Flammini, A. (2019). Information overload in group communication: From conversation to cacophony in the Twitch chat. *Royal Society Open Science*, 6(10). <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.191412>
- Simmel, G., & Highes, E. (1949). The Sociology of Sociability. *American Journal of Sociology*, 55(3), 254–261.