We study aspects of the grammar of natural sign languages, their acquisition and diachronic change, and in how far sign languages differ from each other in various grammatical domains.

**NGT GRAMMAR**

- **Project:** Descriptive grammar of Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). Implementing previous research & conducting original research, e.g. on conditional clauses:
  - What are nonmanual markers of conditionals in NGT?
  - **Results:**
    1. Raised eyebrows seem optional (unlike in other sign languages);
    2. Head movement and/or tilt seems obligatory;
    3. When a manual marker is present, nonmanual markers are used less frequently.

**BODY-ANCHORED VERBS**

- How does iconicity (form-meaning relation) affect sign language structure?

**CLASSIFIER PREDICATES**

- Classifier predicates: verbs of movement/location; the handshape classifies an argument
- Research on ASL: systematic connection between argument structure and classifier type
- **Results:** classifier predicates in Russian Sign Language & 4 other sign languages have complex event/argument structures

**SIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

- **ENOCHE ABOH, VADIM KIMMELMAN, ULRIKA KLOMP, VANJA DE LINT, MARLOES OOMEN, ROLAND PFAU**

- **EVELINE BOERS-VISKER, BEPPIE VAN DEN BOGAERDE**

**BIMODAL BILINGUALISM**

- How do deaf mothers and their deaf and hearing children combine spoken and signed language?

**SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

- How do adults who acquire a sign language as a second language learn to use the signing space to express grammatical relations?

1. **Case studies (n=2, longitudinal)**

2. **Elicitation study (n=14, longitudinal) into classifiers and agreement verbs**

3. **Intervention study (2018) - does explicit instruction help?**