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:
  - **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.

**BIMODAL BILINGUALISM**

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

**Results:** utterances can consist of following combinations:

- Fully signed and fully spoken
  - **signs:** YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^\text{FIRE}\) (NGT or NL word order)
  - **words:** you walk to campfire

- Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
  - **signs:** YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^\text{FIRE}\) (usually NGT word order)
  - **words:** fire

- Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously
  - **signs:** WALK CAMP \(^\text{FIRE}\) (usually NL word order)
  - **words:** you walk to campfire

**Mixed signs and words are produced simultaneously, but content differs, e.g.**

- **signs:** HUGGING...........
  - **words:** you sweet rabbit

Both signs and words are necessary for complete message.

**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?