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?**
  - **Body-anchored verbs:**
    - (examples from NGT)
    - **Result:** only first person subject (‘I’) can be dropped due to iconic associations:

**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

**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?**