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### Semantic versus lexical gender

*Synchronic and diachronic variation in Germanic gender agreement*

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## **Biography**

Margot Kraaikamp was born in Naarden, The Netherlands, on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1981. She graduated from high school St.Vituscollege in Bussum, with a focus on science and language courses, in 2000. After high school, Margot attended medical school at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), from which she graduated with a master's degree in 2004. Having a strong interest in the history of languages and a desire to explore the field of linguistics, Margot started the bachelor English Language and Culture at the UvA in 2004, which she combined with courses on language acquisition and language change from the bachelor's programme of Dutch Linguistics. Margot had found her field. An intended intermezzo during medical studies became a permanent career switch. Margot graduated cum laude in 2007 and followed up her bachelor's studies with the research master Linguistics at the UvA. She focused on topics pertaining to language change, including grammaticalization, analogy and cognitive models of language. During her master's studies, Margot held several jobs at the UvA, as a research assistant at the department of General Linguistics and as a teaching assistant at the department of Dutch Linguistics. Margot graduated cum laude with a master's degree in 2010. Later that year, Margot started a joint appointment as a lecturer and a PhD candidate at the UvA. This dissertation is the result of Margot's PhD research.