

Roberta D'Alessandro

linguist

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June 2025

Current positions

Chair of the Linguistics section, Utrecht University

Professor of Linguistics / Syntax and Language Variation, Utrecht University

Editor-in-chief of *Isogloss. Open Journal of Romance Linguistics*

Editor in chief of the BRILL series *Sketches and Grammars of the Romance languages*

Co-editor of the Language Science Press series *Open Generative Syntax*

President of *Going Romance*

Education

2023	Senior Academic Leadership (UU, 1-year course)
2021	Academic Leadership for Full Professors (UU, 1-year course)
2014	Habilitation to full professorship in Italy
2014	Diploma in Management/Personal Effectiveness (Aletta Wubben/Leiden University, 1 semester)
2017	Senior Kwalificatie Onderzoek en Onderwijs (SKO/SKO)
2011	Basis Kwalificatie Onderwijs (BKO)
2009	Diploma in Management and Administration (De Galan en Voigt/Leiden University, 1-year course)
2004	PhD in Linguistics <i>summa cum laude</i> , University of Stuttgart, Germany

Memberships and Awards (selected)

June 2025 -	Member of the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science of the International Science Council
February 2021-	Member of KHMW, Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities
2014-2019	Global Young Academy member
2014	Knight of the Italian Republic, Order of the Star
2011-2015	Member of the Young Academy/ de Jonge Akademie of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Member of the board (1 April 2013-1 April 2015)

	Member of AcademiaNet, a network of excellent women researchers (Robert Bosch Stiftung, Spektrum, Nature)
2005-	Darwin college, University of Cambridge, associate fellow

Fellowships and Grants (selected)

2017-2022	ERC Consolidator Grant on Microcontact. Language variation and change from the Italian heritage perspective (PI, 2M EUR)
2022-	IRN Heritage Languages in Europe, CNRS France. PI: Elena Soare. Advisory member.
2015-2017/2017-2021	MINECO Project, Spain: Redes de variación microparamétricas en las lenguas románicas (REVAMICRO, FFI2017-87140-C4-1-P). Project team member. PIs: Ángel Gallego and Jaume Mateu.
2014	ICREA Research Professorship, Government of Catalunya – opted out
2010-2015	NWO (Netherlands Research Organisation) VIDI research grant Splitting and clustering grammatical information (PI, 800K EUR)
2005-2007	Marie Curie Intra-European Post-Doctoral Fellowship on Abruzzese Syntax, University of Cambridge

Publications (since 2018, selected)

Edited Volumes/Special Issues

2025	D'Alessandro, Roberta, Silvia Terenghi and Michael T. Putnam (eds). <i>Heritage Languages and Syntactic Theory</i> . Oxford University Press.
2024	Armstrong, Grant, D'Alessandro, Roberta and Parafita Couto, MariCarmen (eds). <i>Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 21: Selected papers from LSRL 52, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> . <i>Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory</i> 10 (2).
2018	D'Alessandro Roberta and Diego Pescarini (eds). <i>Advances in Italian dialectology</i> . Leiden: Brill.

Journal Articles

2025	Chandra, Pritha, D'Alessandro, Roberta & Michael T. Putnam. Ethical concerns for theoretical research in linguistics: Issues and best practices. <i>Linguistics</i> 63(2), 349-375.
2024	Andriani, Luigi & Roberta D'Alessandro. Perfective auxiliary selection in heritage Italo-Romance. <i>Romance Heritage Languages</i> , special issue of <i>Romanica Cracoviensia</i> , edited by Alexandru Mardale.
2023	D'Alessandro, Roberta & Alberto Frasson. Simplification or complexification: auxiliary selection and anti-agreement effect in Brazilian Venetan. <i>Catalan Journal of Linguistics</i> 22, 9-27.
2023	D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2023. A complex solution to an unsolvable problem? <i>Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism</i> ,

- 2023 D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2023. Doing Romance Linguistics. Keynote article, in Corr, A. et al., *Romance Grammars: context and contact*. Special Issue of *Isogloss*, 9(2)/, 1-12.
- 2022 Andriani, Luigi, D'Alessandro, Roberta, Frasson, Alberto, Van Osch, Brechje, Sorgini, Luana & Silvia Terenghi. Adding the microdimension to the study of language change in contact. Three case studies. *Glossa* 7(1).
- 2021 D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2021. Not everything is a theory. *Theoretical Linguistics*, 47(1-2), 53-60.
- 2021 D'Alessandro, Roberta, Natvig, David & Michael Putnam. Addressing challenges in formal research on moribund heritage languages: A path forward. *Front. Psychol.* 12, 700126.
- 2021 Frasson, Alberto, D'Alessandro, Roberta & Brechje van Osch. Subject clitics in microcontact. A case study from heritage Friulian in Argentina and Brazil. *Heritage Language Journal* 18(1): 1-36.
- 2021 D'Alessandro, Roberta. Syntactic change in contact: Romance. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 2021(7), 309-328.
- 2020 D'Alessandro, Roberta & Marc van Oostendorp. Language variation and functional heads. Magnetic Grammar. *Linguistic Analysis* 42 (3-4), 405-439.
- 2019 Leivada, Evelina, D'Alessandro Roberta & K. K. Grohmann. 2019. Eliciting Big Data From Small, Young, or Non-standard Languages: 10 Experimental Challenges. *Front. Psychol.* 10:313.
- 2019 D'Alessandro, Roberta. The achievements of Generative Grammar: a time chart and some reflections. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics* Special Issue, 7-26.

Book Chapters, Peer-reviewed articles

- 2025 D'Alessandro, Roberta, Andriani, Luigi, Frasson, Alberto, Pinto, Manuela, Sorgini, Luana & Silvia Terenghi. Microcontact and syntactic theory. In D'Alessandro, Putnam & Terenghi (eds), *Heritage Languages and Syntactic Theory*. OUP.
- 2025 D'Alessandro, Roberta, Putnam, Michael T. & Silvia Terenghi. Heritage Languages and Syntactic Theory. An Introduction. In D'Alessandro, Putnam & Terenghi (eds), *Heritage Languages and Syntactic Theory*. OUP.
- 2024 D'Alessandro, Roberta & Silvia Terenghi. In press. Non-monotonic functional sequences: A new metric for complexity in heritage languages. In: Polinsky, Putman & Salmons (eds), *Formal approaches to complexity in heritage language grammars*. Language Science Press.
- 2024 D'Alessandro, Roberta. Un atlante interattivo per le lingue degli emigrati. In V. Bernardi, & C. Di Felice (Eds.), *You will shine. Studi in onore di Chiara Magni* (pp. 159-174). (Ungarettiana; Vol. 24). Società Editrice Fiorentina.
- 2023 D'Alessandro, Roberta. Raccogliere dati di varietà romanze in via di estinzione: il caso delle lingue ereditarie in America. In: Castro & Tomasin (eds), *Dialettologia ed etimologia. Studi, metodi e cantieri*. Bologna: ETS. 83-105.
- 2022 Andriani, Luigi & Roberta D'Alessandro. D, T, C drop in heritage Italo-Romance in NYC. In: Alboiu, Isac, Nicolae, Tănase-Dogaru &

- Tigău (eds), *A LIFE IN LINGUISTICS. A Festschrift for Alexandra Cornilescu on her 75th birthday*, Bucharest University Press.
- 2022 D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2022. Crossing domains: topic marking and doubling in Romance. In: Boneh, Harbour, Matushansky & Roy (eds), *Building on Babel's Rubble*. PUV.
- 2022 D'Alessandro, Roberta. الميسر التركيب أساسيات, *Syntax made easy (Arabic version)*, translated by Mhamed Wahid. Centre de Recherches Sémiotiques et Etudes Culturelles, Maroc.
<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006558>
- 2022 Andriani, Luigi, Casalicchio, Jan, Ciconte, Francesco Maria, D'Alessandro, Roberta, Frasson, Alberto, Van Osch, Brechje, Sorgini, Luana & Silvia Terenghi. Documenting Italo-Romance minority languages in the Americas. Problems and tentative solutions. In: Nevins, A. & M. Cole (eds), *Contemporary research in minority and diaspora languages of Europe*, Language Science Press.
- 2022 D'Alessandro, Roberta. Agreement. In Ledgeway, A. & M. Maiden, *Handbook of Romance Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2021 D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2021. *Sintassi semplice*. Utrecht University.
- 2020 D'Alessandro, Roberta. Agreement across the board. Topic agreement in Ripano. In Katharina Hartmann, Johannes Mursell and Peter W. Smith (eds), *Agree to Agree: Agreement in the Minimalist Programme*. Open Generative Syntax 4. Language Science Press.
- 2019 D'Alessandro, Roberta. *Syntax made easy. How to read and draw syntactic trees*. Utrecht University. (10921 downloads on 28/12/2023)
- 2019 D'Alessandro, Roberta & Luana Sorgini. *Mə tɛ magnatə*. Perifrasi modali in abruzzese orientale. In: Chilà, A. and A. De Angelis (eds), *Capitoli di morfosintassi delle varietà romanze d'Italia: teoria e dati empirici*. Bollettino del Centro di studi filologici e linguistici siciliani, 21.
- 2019 Marc van Oostendorp & Roberta D'Alessandro. Metaphony as magnetism. In Mirko Grimaldi, Rosangela Lai, Ludovico Franco, Benedetta Baldi (eds), *Structuring Variation in Romance Linguistics and Beyond*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Keynote talks, invited lectures, conference presentations

- Keynote talks
- Linguistics Symposium, U Bucharest/Romanian Academy of Science (2024); GLOW in Asia, Chinese U of Hong Kong (2024); CHAMP1, UCL London (2023); ICTLL 2022, University of Lahore (2022); SinFonJa, University of Udine (2022); 31st Colloquium on Generative Grammar, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma de Mallorca (2022); Language and Migration workshop, University of Catania (2022); LINGUAE Lecture, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris (2021); II Encuentro de Lingüística Formal, University of Puebla, Mexico (2021); Diversity and Inclusion. Overcoming fragmentation, University of Bologna (2019); Nuovi aspetti linguistici e letterari dell'italianità, Leiden University (2018); Transdisciplinary Approaches to Language Variation, Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø (2018); Geographic Information Systems and Social Networks. Consequences for the Study of Linguistic Variation. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2017); CRISSP 10, Brussels (2016); LSRL 46 (Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages), University of New York at Stony Brook (2016); Going Romance 2014, University of

	Lisbon (2014); Current Issues in Syntactic Variation conference, University of Bucharest (2014); Workshop on the syntactic variation of Catalan and Spanish dialects. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2013); 1st Cambridge Comparative Syntax Workshop, Cambridge University (2012)
Invited lectures	>70; some recent highlights: LILA Lectures on Iranian Linguistics, U Arizona (2024); Romance Linguistic Seminar, Zürich (2023); AcqVA Guest Lecture, UiT Tromsø (2023); Morpho-Syn Circle, Penn State U. (2022), LKR, University of Cologne (2022), Workshop on Migration, University of Catania (2022), Linguistics Colloquium, University of Jerusalem (2022).
Conference presentations	> 50 (peer review selection)

Teching

2017-	Research MA and BA courses in Syntax, Language Variation and Interfaces (Utrecht University)
2007-2016	Research MA, MA, and BA courses on Italian linguistics, Romance linguistics, Syntax
2003-2015	various courses at BA and MA level, Stuttgart University, University of Cambridge, Autònoma University of Barcelona, University of Bucharest, summer and winter schools

PhD supervisions

In progress	Madhusmitha Venkatesan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.
In progress	Steven Zetao Xu, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
In progress	Luana Sorgini, Utrecht University
2024	Maria Tenizi, University of Cyprus
2023	Silvia Terenghi, Utrecht University
2022	Alberto Frasson, Utrecht University
2018	Nina Ouddeken, CLS Nijmegen
2016	Laura Migliori, Leiden University
2015	Giuseppe Torcolacci, Leiden University
2015	Edoardo Cavarani, Leiden University and University of Pisa
2013	Sara Lusini, Leiden University

Service, Boards and Administrative experience (since 2018)

KNAW/VSNU/NWO/other	KNAW Council for the Humanities (Raad van Geesteswetenschappen) (2017-2024) KNAW Committee for Freedom in Research Pursuit (CVW) (2017-2025) NWO VIDI: committee member (2021- 2022; 2023-2024) KHMW Jan Brouwer Scriptieprijs 2021; 2023 Niels Stensen Stichting: committee member (2018-
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	NWO VENI: committee member (2015-2016; 2018) VSNU/KNAW Committee for the New Code of Conduct of the Dutch Universities (commissie Herziening Nederlandse Gedragscode Wetenschapsbeoefening) (2015-2018)
International	Swiss NSF, Sinergia panel (2023-2024) National Science Centre (NCN), Poland, OPUS funding scheme within HS2 area (Culture and cultural production), committee member (2022-) FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, Portugal, national Individual Call to Scientific Employment Stimulus - 5th Edition, committee member (2022-) GLOCAL (Global Council for Anthropological Linguistics), scientific board (2021-) Nova CLUNL, Nova University Lisbon. Examining committee, scientific board (2020-) URPP Research Priority Program Language and Space, University of Zürich. Scientific board (2018-) ICREA research professorship: selection committee (2016-) Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), Catalan Government, external evaluator (2018-) Swiss National Science Foundation (2018; 2021)
UU/UL	Director of the Linguistics Section, Utrecht University (2021 -) Director of the BA in Italian Language and Culture, Leiden University (2007- 2015) Director/coordinator of the MA in Italian Language and Linguistics (under different names), Leiden University (2007- 2016) Chair of Italian Language and Culture, Leiden University (2007-2015) National coordinator of the joint master in Italian (Masterlanguage) (2014-2017)

Science Policy

Publications

Nollkaemper, A., D'Alessandro, R., Duyvendak, J. W., van Saarloos, W., & Schermer, M. H. N. 2025. *Academische vrijheid in Nederland: Reactie op actuele bedreigingen*. KNAW.

Trustworthy Public Communication. How public communicators can strengthen our democracy. Joint Research Center report for *Enlightenment 2.0*. 2024.

Gerards, J., D'Alessandro, R., Duyvendak, W.G.J., Nollkaemper, A., van Saarloos, W., Schermer, M. 2023. *Kennisveiligheid*. KNAW.

Van der Heijden, P., D'Alessandro, R., Bredenoord, A. L., Gerards, J., van Hees, M., & Verbeek, P-P. 2021. *Academische vrijheid in Nederland: Een brgripsanalyse en richtsnoer*. KNAW.

Understanding our political nature. Joint Research Center report for Enlightenment 2.0. 2019.

Muysken, P., D'Alessandro, R., Buyse, A.C., Zurcher, Erik-Jan, Jensma, Goffe, Maassen van den Brink, H., Leerssen, J. & de Swart, H.E. 2018. *Talen voor Nederland*. KNAW.

Algra, K., Bouter, L, Hol, A., Van Kreveld, J., Andriessen, D., Bijleveld, C., D'Alessandro, R., Dankelman, J. & P. Werkhoven. 2018. *Netherlands Code of conduct for Research Integrity*. 2018.

Academic freedom: challenges, threats, emerging issues. ALLEA-Akademie im Dialog. 2017.

International committees

ISC Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

EU Commission Enlightenment 2.0. Meaningful and Ethical Communication. Scientific Advisor (2022 -)

European Commission Expert, EX2016D289297

UN: UN-DESA Expert Group meeting for the Global Sustainable Development Report: "Emerging issues for the attention of policy makers" (2016)

ICSU: Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science

Global Young Academy: Young Scientist Ambassador Program; Open Access WG; Science Advice WG.

***Invited lectures/conference participation**

Science Communication Kick-off - JRC MEC, 14 December 2022.

*Upskilling. From Marie Curie to ERC. Invited talk, Marie Curie Alumni Association, March 11, 2021.

*INGSA 2018. Science Advice in a changing world. Tokyo, 5-8 November 2018.

Enlightenment 2.0. An initiative of the Joint Research Center. Meeting on May 30-31, 2018. Advisor to the Scientific Board and Reviewer.

*On Trust, Freedom, and Responsibility. World Science Forum 2017, Jordan, 7 November. Thematic workshop The future of the Principle of Universality.

JRC/European Commission annual conference, #EU4Facts. Brussels, 26 September 2017.

INGSA/JRC/SAS Summer School on Migration and Demographic Change. Senec, Slovakia, 6-8 September 2017.

World Conference on Research Integrity. Amsterdam, May 28-31 2017.

INGSA Principles and Guidelines for Government Scientific Advice, Brussels, 28 September 2016.

European Commission/INGSA: Science and Policy Making: towards a new dialogue, Brussels, September 29-30, 2016.

* On Freedom of movement and research. Invited talk, Twelfth Meeting of the International Human Rights Network of Academies

and Scholarly Societies, National Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation of Panama, Panama City, October 5-9, 2016.

*The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands. Invited talk, ALLEA General Assembly 2016, Vienna, 18 April 2016.

Global Sustainable Development Report: how to present the issues to politicians. UN-DESA Expert Group meeting for the Global Sustainable Development Report: "Emerging issues for the attention of policy makers", New York, 4-6 April 2016.

*Mundus and Kennis op Straat: Two successful ways of communicating science. KAST-ASM-IAP International Workshop on Science Literacy: science communication and science outreach, Korean Academy of Science and Technology, Seoul, Korea, 12-13 June 2014.

The Young Academy of the Netherlands, talk given at the European Young Academies Working Group on Europe, Brussels, Flemish Academy of Science, 4-5 October 2013.

Evaluating science, Workshop on Science Academies in Central and Eastern Europe and their role in knowledge-based societies, Belarus Academy of Science, Minsk, 11-12 June 2012.

Languages

	Passive	Active
Italian	native speaker	
English	C2	C2
Dutch	C1	B2/C1
Spanish	C1	B2
German	B2	B1
Russian	B2	B1
French	B2	A1
Portuguese	B1	A1
Catalan	B2	A1
Latin	good	