

# ROBERTA D'ALESSANDRO

**Linguist · Science Policy Advisor · Academic Mentor**

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**Distinctions:** Knight of the Italian Republic (Order of the Star, 2014) · Member KHMW · Young Academy KNAW alumna · Global Young Academy alumna

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**Keywords:** Syntactic theory · Language variation & change · Heritage languages · Minority languages · Open science · Research integrity · Science governance

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## 1. Academic Appointments & Major Grants

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### *Selected Appointments*

- 2021–pres: Head, Linguistics Section, Utrecht University
- 2016–pres: Chair Professor, Syntax & Language Variation, Utrecht University
- 2007–16: Full Professor & Chair, Italian Language & Culture, Leiden University
- 2014: ICREA Research Professorship, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona — offered and declined
- 2005–07: Marie Curie Research Fellow, University of Cambridge
- 2005–06: Linguistics Consultant, Butler Hill–Microsoft

### *Major Grants (as PI)*

- 2017–22: ERC Consolidator Grant — Microcontact. Language variation and change from the Italian heritage perspective
- 2010–15: NWO Vidi — Splitting and clustering grammatical information

*(full record: Appendix F)*

## 2. Science Policy, Governance & Research Integrity

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### *Committee Memberships & Policy Authorship*

- ISC Committee for Freedom & Responsibility in Science (2025–pres)
- EC Joint Research Centre, Enlightenment 2.0 — Scientific Advisor (2018, 2022–pres)
- ICSU Committee for Freedom & Responsibility in the Conduct of Science
- UN-DESA Expert Group, Global Sustainable Development Report (2016)
- Young Academy KNAW, Board Member & International Officer (2013–15)

### *Co-authored Policy Documents (selected)*

- Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018)
- Academische vrijheid in Nederland (KNAW, 2021 & 2025)
- Kennis Veiligheid, KNAW position paper (2023)
- Trustworthy Public Communication, JRC/EC (2024)
- Understanding our political nature, JRC/EC (2019)

### *Selected Invited Policy Presentations*

- Royal Society Te Apārangi, New Zealand (2025)
- World Science Forum, Jordan (2017)
- ALLEA General Assembly, Vienna (2016)

(full record: Appendix H)

### **3. Your Academic Auntie**

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- Founder & Mentor: Your Academic Auntie (2025–pres). Free open-access mentoring platform providing career and publishing guidance to early-career researchers globally.
- Founder: YAA Microfund (2026–). Micro-grants for researchers in low- and middle-income countries.

### **4. Field Infrastructure & Open Science Leadership**

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#### *Editorial Leadership*

- Editor-in-Chief: *Isogloss* — Diamond OA, Q1, Scopus/WoS (2015–pres)
- Co-Editor-in-Chief: *Open Generative Syntax*, Language Science Press
- Editor-in-Chief: *Grammars & Sketches of the World's Languages — Romance*, Brill-De Gruyter
- Editorial board: Open Handbooks in Linguistics (MIT Press); *Lingue e Linguaggio*; *Continua*; others

#### *Founded Conference Series & Research Platforms*

- Founder & Steering Committee: CIDS — Comparative Italian Dialect Syntax Meeting. Founded 2006; now in its 20th edition.
- Founder: HLS — Heritage Language Syntax platform & conference series. Founded 2020; now in its 7th edition.

#### *International Grant Evaluation & Scientific Advisory Boards*

- Grant panels: SNSF Sinergia (2023–pres); Research Council of Finland (2025–pres); NCN Poland, OPUS (2022–pres); FCT Portugal (2022–25); ICREA Catalonia (2016–24); NWO: VIDI (2021–22, 2024–25), VENI (2015–16, 2018), Rubicon (2011–12)
- Scientific boards: URPP Zürich (2018–pres); GLOCAL (2021–pres); Nova CLUNL Lisbon (2020–pres)

(full record: Appendix E)

### **5. Academic Management & Supervision**

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- Head of Linguistics Section, Utrecht University (2021–pres): line management and career mentorship of Assistant and Associate Professors and senior teaching staff
- Head of Department, Italian Language & Culture, Leiden University (2007–15)
- Chair, LUCL Institute Council, Leiden University (2012–15)
- Postdoctoral supervision across ERC and NWO projects (Utrecht & Leiden)
- PhD completions: 11 (primary supervisor); 2 current supervisions; 1 admitted to defense

(full list: Appendix D)

### **6. Core Scientific Output**

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## Books

(full record: Appendix A)

- D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2007. *Impersonal si constructions: Agreement and Interpretation*. Mouton de Gruyter.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta, Michael T. Putnam & Silvia Terenghi (eds). 2025. *Heritage Languages and Syntactic Theory*. Oxford University Press.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta, Irene Franco & Ángel Gallego (eds). 2017. *The Verbal Domain*. Oxford University Press.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta, Adam Ledgeway & Ian Roberts (eds). 2010. *Syntactic Variation: The Dialects of Italy*. Cambridge University Press.

## Selected Peer-Reviewed Articles

(full record: Appendix A)

- D'Alessandro, Roberta, Michael T. Putnam & Silvia Terenghi. 2025. Syntactic change in diachrony versus contact-induced change: two sides of the same coin? *The Linguistic Review*.
- Chandra, Pritha, D'Alessandro, Roberta & Michael T. Putnam. 2025. Ethical concerns for theoretical research in linguistics: Issues and best practices. *Linguistics*.
- Andriani, Luigi, Roberta D'Alessandro et al. 2022. Adding the microdimension to the study of language change in contact. *Glossa* 7(1).
- D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2021. Syntactic change in contact: Romance. *Annual Review of Linguistics* 7, 309–328.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2021. Not everything is a theory. *Theoretical Linguistics* 47(1-2), 53–60.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta, David Natvig & Michael Putnam. 2021. Addressing challenges in formal research on moribund heritage languages: A path forward. *Frontiers in Psychology* 12, 700126.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta & Tobias Scheer. 2015. Modular PIC. *Linguistic Inquiry* 46(4), 593–624.
- D'Alessandro, Roberta & Ian Roberts. 2010. Past participle agreement in Abruzzese: split auxiliary selection and the null-subject parameter. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 28, 41–72.

## Selected Invited Keynotes

(full record: Appendix B)

2026. CGG, University of Barcelona.
2025. Heritage Language Syntax 6, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
2025. WILA 16, University of Stavanger.
2025. Encuentro de Gramática Generativa 9, Universidad de Buenos Aires.
2024. Ninth International Symposium of Linguistics, Romanian Academy of Science, Bucharest.
2024. GLOW in Asia, Chinese University of Hong Kong.
2022. ICTLL, University of Lahore.
2021. LINGUAE Lecture, École Normale Supérieure, Paris.
2021. II Encuentro de Lingüística Formal, University of Puebla, Mexico.

2019. Documentare la diversità linguistica, Bologna.

2016. LSRL 46, Stony Brook University.

*Selected Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations*

*(full record: Appendix B)*

2026. WCCFL 44, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

2025. ICSS/SMOG, Gyeongkuk National University, South Korea.

2022. GLOW in Asia.

2022. Heritage Language Syntax 3, Paris.

2020. GLOW 43, Berlin.

2012. NELS 43, CUNY.

2006. WCCFL 25, Seattle.

2003. LSRL 33, Indiana.

## 7. Teaching & Supervision

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- OA teaching resources: *Syntax Made Easy* (Utrecht repository, 2019, over 21,000 downloads); *Sintassi Semplice* (Utrecht, 2021); أساسيات التركيب الميسر, *Syntax Made Easy* (Arabic version) (2022)
- Graduate teaching: Research MA and PhD-level courses in syntax, microvariation, and field methods (Utrecht & Leiden; also EGG, LOT, and international summer schools)
- Undergraduate teaching: ca. 70 students/year across BA linguistics courses, Utrecht University & Leiden University
- National coordination: Masterlanguage Italian (2014–16); MA Italian Language & Linguistics, director (2007–16)

*(full course list: Appendix C)*

## 8. Education

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- PhD summa cum laude, University of Stuttgart (2004)
- Laurea 110/110 cum laude, University of L'Aquila (2000)
- Senior Academic Leadership, Utrecht University (2023)

*(full record: Appendix G)*

## 9. Public Engagement

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Extensive science communication record: national television (La7, RAI, Sky TG24, Mediaset), print (Repubblica, Corriere della Sera, NRC, Internazionale), radio, and digital platforms; PERA Prize finalist (INVOLVE category, EC, 2022)

*(full record: Appendix I)*