ALEXIS M. PALMER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational discourse and semantics; computational linguistics for low-resource languages and for language documentation; discourse structure and coherence, modes of discourse; automated short-answer scoring for language learners; native language identification; active learning; language documentation; formal and functional syntax, argument structure and linking, voice; distributional, lexical, and formal semantics; language and music

Linguistics of American indigenous languages: Ojibwe (Algonquian), Uspanteko (Mayan), Chatino (Zapotecan)

EDUCATION

2001 – 2009	**PhD** in Linguistics, October 2009, University of Texas at Austin (UT) 'Semi-Automated Annotation & Active Learning for Language Documentation' Supervisors: Jason Baldridge, Katrin Erk Committee members: Nora England, Raymond Mooney, Tony Woodbury
2001 – 2005	**MA** in Linguistics, 2005, University of Texas at Austin 'Strategies for Automatic Classification of Situation Entities' Supervisors: Jonas Kuhn, Carlota Smith
1990 – 1994	**BA** in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan

RESEARCH POSITIONS

4/15 – present	Research Group Leader, Leibniz ScienceCampus (http://wisscamp.de/en) Institute for Computational Linguistics, Heidelberg Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim
2014 – 10/15	Postdoctoral researcher, Project B9 (PI: Sebastian Padó) SFB-732, IMS, University of Stuttgart
2012 – 2014	Postdoctoral researcher, group of Professor Manfred Pinkal, Department of Computational Linguistics and Phonetics, Saarland University
2009 – 2012	Postdoctoral researcher, *Computational Modelling of Discourse and Semantics*; Caroline Sporleder, research group head; MMCI Cluster of Excellence, Department of Computational Linguistics and Phonetics, Saarland University.
2007 – 2008	Research Assistant, *EARL – Efficient Annotation of Resources using Learning;* Jason Baldridge and Katrin Erk, principal investigators; NSF Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) grant
2003 – 2007	Research Assistant: *TexTime – Temporal Expressions and Time Processing, OpenCCG GUI development, The UT-Austin NLP Software Suite, Natural language generation for the medical domain, Linguistic research on text interpretation* PIs/supervisors: Carlota Smith, Jason Baldridge, Mary Dee Harris

ADVISING/SUPERVISION

PhD Students, UdS	Annemarie Friedrich, Computational Linguistics (expected 2016, co-advisor) Topic: computational implementation and application of theories of discourse, in particular situation entity classification Andrea Horbach, Computational Linguistics (expected 2016, co-advisor) Topic: reducing supervision for automatic scoring of short-answer exercises in foreign language learning

MA Students, HU	Thomas Haider (ongoing), Experiments toward a Functional Stylistics for Text Genre classification in English and German
MSc Students, UdS	Charles Larosse (ongoing), Native Language Identification with Linguistically-informed Features
	Nikolina Koleva (February 2014, co-supervisor), Paraphrase Fragment Extraction for German with Applications to Short Answer Scoring
	Yudong Victor Zhou (October 2013, co-supervisor), Fine-Grained Sentiment Analysis with Discourse Structure
	Marina Valeeva (October 2013, co-supervisor), Annotation of Factors of Linguistic Quality for Multi-Document Summarization
	Mariya Koleva (December 2012), Towards Adaptation of NLP Tools for Closely-Related Bantu Languages: Building a Part-of-Speech Tagger for Zulu
	Chenhua Chen (October 2011, co-supervisor), Active Learning for Semantic Role Labeling
Bsc Students, UdS	Jonathan Poitz (April 2014, co-supervisor), Applying POS-Based Language Models to Learner Data for Native Language Identification and Error Detection
	Simon Ostermann (October 2013, co-supervisor) Die Anwendbarkeit von Active Learning auf Sprachlerner-Corpora (The Applicability of Active Learning for Language-Learner Corpora)

TEACHING POSITIONS

present, HU	**Instructor, Undergraduate course:** Software project (1 semester, co-taught)
2012 – 2014, UdS	**Instructor, MSc seminars**: Computational Linguistics for Low-Resource Languages (3 semesters) Recent Developments in Computational Discourse Processing (1 sem, co-taught) Discourse Coherence: Theories and Modeling (1 semester, co-taught) Software Project: NLP Tools Low-Resource Languages (1 semester, co-taught) **Instructor, Undergraduate course:** Introduction to Pragmatics and Discourse (1 semester, co-taught)
2003 – 2009, UT	**Instructor, Undergraduate courses:** Language and Music (3 semesters x 2 sections of 30-40 students) Introduction to Study of Language (2 semesters x 2 sections of 30-40 students) **Teaching Assistant:** Syntax I (graduate level, 1 semester x 20 students) Language and Meaning (1 semester x 30-40 students) Introduction to the Study of Language (1 semester x ~100 students)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

2015   Max Kisselew, Sebastian Padó, Alexis Palmer, and Jan Šnajder. Obtaining a Better Understanding of Distributional Models of German Derivational Morphology. In *Proceedings of the International Workshop on Computational Semantics.* London, England.

Sebastian Padó, Alexis Palmer, Max Kisselew, and Jan Šnajder. Measuring Semantic Content to Assess Asymmetry in Derivation. In *Proceedings of the IWCS Workshop: Advances in Distributional Semantics.* London, England. (extended abstract)

Kleio-Isidora Mavridou, Annemarie Friedrich, Melissa Peate Sørenson, Alexis Palmer, and Manfred Pinkal. Linking discourse modes and situation entity types in a cross-linguistic corpus study. In *Proceedings of EMNLP Workshop: Linking Models of Lexical, Sentential, and Discourse-level Semantics.* Lisbon, Portugal.

Annemarie Friedrich, Alexis Palmer, Melissa Peate Sørenson, and Manfred Pinkal. Annotating genericity: a survey, a scheme, and a corpus. In *Proceedings of The Linguistic Annotation Workshop IX*, NAACL 2015. Denver, Colorado.

Andrea Horbach, Jonathan Poitz, and Alexis Palmer. Using Shallow Syntactic Features to Measure Influences of L1 and Proficiency Level in EFL Writings. In *Proceedings of 4th NLP4CALL Workshop*. Vilnius, Lithuania.

Mengfei Zhou, Anette Frank, Annemarie Friedrich, and Alexis Palmer. Semantically Enriched Models for Modal Sense Classification. In *Proceedings of EMNLP Workshop: Linking Models of Lexical, Sentential, and Discourse-level Semantics.* Lisbon, Portugal.

2014   Annemarie Friedrich and Alexis Palmer. Automatic prediction of aspectual class of verbs in context. In *Proceedings of ACL 2014.* Baltimore, Maryland.

Annemarie Friedrich and Alexis Palmer. Situation entity annotation. In *Proceedings of The Linguistic Annotation Workshop VIII,* COLING 2014. Dublin, Ireland.

Alexis Palmer and Annemarie Friedrich. Genre distinctions and discourse modes: Text types differ in their situation type distributions. To appear in *Proceedings of Symposium at the Intersection of Argumentation Theory and Natural Language Processing.* Bertinoro, Italy 2014. (lightly refereed)

Annemarie Friedrich and Alexis Palmer. Centering Theory in natural text: a large-scale corpus study. In *Proceedings of KONVENS 2014.* Hildesheim, Germany.

Alexis Palmer and Michaela Regneri. Short-term projects, long-term benefits: Four student NLP projects for low-resource languages. In *Proceedings of ACL 2014 Workshop ComputEL: The use of computational methods in the study of endangered languages.* Baltimore, Maryland.

Guy Emerson, Liling Tan, Susanne Fertmann, Alexis Palmer, and Michaela Regneri. SeedLing: Building and using a seed corpus for the Human Language Project. In *Proceedings of ACL 2014 Workshop ComputEL: The use of computational methods in the study of endangered languages.* Baltimore, Maryland.

Anjana Vakil, Maximillian Paulus, Alexis Palmer, and Michaela Regneri. lex4all: A language-independent tool for building and evaluating pronunciation lexicons for small-vocabulary speech recognition. In *Proceedings of ACL 2014 Demo Session.* Baltimore, Maryland.

Anjana Vakil and Alexis Palmer. Cross-language mapping for small-vocabulary ASR in under-resourced languages: Investigating the impact of source language choice. In *Proceedings of 4th Workshop on Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced Languages.* St. Petersburg, Russia.

Annemarie Friedrich, Marina Valeeva, and Alexis Palmer. LQVSumm: A corpus of linguistic quality violations in multi-document summarization. In *Proceedings of LREC 2014.* Reykjavik, Iceland.

Nikolina Koleva, Andrea Horbach, Alexis Palmer, Simon Ostermann, and Manfred Pinkal. Paraphrase Detection for Short Answer Scoring. In *Proceedings of NLP4CALL 2014.* Gothenburg, Sweden.

Andrea Horbach, Alexis Palmer, and Magdalena Wolska. Finding a Tradeoff between Accuracy and Rater's Workload in Grading Clustered Short Answers. In *Proceedings of LREC 2014.* Reykjavik, Iceland.

Magdalena Wolska, Andrea Horbach, and Alexis Palmer. Computer-assisted Scoring of Short Responses: The Efficiency of a Clustering-based Approach in a Real-life Task. In *Proceedings of PolTAL 2014.* Poznan, Poland.

2013   Andrea Horbach, Alexis Palmer, and Manfred Pinkal. Using the text to evaluate short answers for reading comprehension exercises. In *Proceedings of STAR-SEM 2013.*

2012   Alexis Palmer, Caroline Sporleder, and Linlin Li. So to Speak: A Computational and Empirical Investigation of Lexical Cohesion of Non-Literal and Literal Expressions in Text. *Discours: Revue de linguistique, psycholinguistique et informatique.*

Richard Littauer, Rory Turnbull, and Alexis Palmer. Visualising typological relationships: Plotting WALS with heat maps. In *Proceedings of the EACL 2012 Joint Workshop of LINGVIS and UNCLH.*

2011   Alexis Palmer, Afra Alishahi, and Caroline Sporleder. Robust Semantic Analysis for Unseen Data in FrameNet. In *Proceedings of RANLP 2011.*

Chenhua Chen, Alexis Palmer, and Caroline Sporleder. Enhancing Active Learning for Semantic Role Labeling via Compressed Dependency Trees. In *Proceedings of IJCNLP 2011.*

2010   Alexis Palmer, Taesun Moon, Jason Baldridge, Katrin Erk, Eric Campbell, and Telma Can. Computational strategies for reducing annotation effort in language documentation. *Linguistic Issues in Language Technology.* 3(4):1-42, February 2010. CSLI Publications.

Alexis Palmer and Caroline Sporleder. Evaluating FrameNet-style semantic parsing: the role of coverage in FrameNet. In *Proceedings of COLING 2010.* Beijing.

Ines Rehbein, Josef Ruppenhofer, and Alexis Palmer. Bringing Active Learning to Life. In *Proceedings of COLING 2010.* Beijing.

2009	Jason Baldridge and Alexis Palmer. How well does active learning *actually* work? Time-based evaluation of cost-reduction strategies for language documentation. In *Proceedings of EMNLP-09*. Singapore.
	Alexis Palmer, Taesun Moon, and Jason Baldridge. Evaluating automation strategies in language documentation. In *Proceedings of the NAACL HLT 2009 Workshop on Active Learning for Natural Language Processing*. Boulder, Colorado.
2007	Alexis Palmer, Elias Ponvert, Jason Baldridge, and Carlota Smith. A sequence model for situation entity classification. In *Proceedings ACL 2007*. Prague.
	Alexis Palmer and Katrin Erk. IGT-IML: An XML format for interlinearized glossed text. In *Proceedings of the ACL 2007 Linguistic Annotation Workshop (LAW)*. Prague.
	Jason Baldridge, Sudipta Chatterjee, Alexis Palmer, and Ben Wing. DotCCG and VisCCG: Wiki and Programming Paradigms for Improved Grammar Engineering with OpenCCG. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Grammar Engineering Across Frameworks (GEAF)*. Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.
2004	Alexis Palmer, Jonas Kuhn, and Carlota Smith. Utilization of Multiple Language Resources for Robust Grammar-Based Tense and Aspect Classification. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2004)*. Lisbon.
	Nicholas Asher, Pascal Denis, Jonas Kuhn, Erik Larson, Eric McCready, Alexis Palmer, Brian Reese, and Linton Wang. Extracting and Using Discourse Structure to Resolve Anaphoric Dependencies: Combining Logico-Semantic and Statistical Approaches. In *TALN Proceedings (SDRT Workshop)*. Fès, Morocco.
2003	Alexis Palmer. Inverse agreement, argument structure, and hierarchy-driven phenomena in Ojibwe. In *Proceedings of Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 2003)*. Santa Barbara, California.

EDITED VOLUMES

2008	Nicholas Gaylord, Stephen Hilderbrand, Alexis Palmer, and Elias Ponvert. *Proceedings of TLSX 2006: Computational Linguistics for Less-Studied Languages*. CSLI: Stanford, CA.
2007	Online proceedings of *4th Workshop on Discourse Structure*. UT Austin. http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/linguistics/workshops/4DW
2006	Pascal Denis, Eric McCready, Alexis Palmer, and Brian Reese. *Proceedings of the 8th Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society: Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface*. Cascadilla Proceedings Project: Somerville, MA.

PRESENTATIONS (WITHOUT CORRESPONDING PUBLICATION)

2009	Alexis Palmer and Caroline Sporleder. Situation entities and genre distinctions in the Penn Discourse TreeBank. Presented at TLS 2009. Austin, Texas.

| 2004 | Alexis Palmer. Toward an Understanding of the Discourse Function of the Inverse Construction in Ojibwe. Presented at *Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 2004)*. Santa Barbara, California. |

INVITED TALKS

2015	Situation Entities and Discourse Modes. Computational Linguistics Colloquium, Heidelberg University. June 2015.
2014	Situation Entities and Discourse Modes. Informatik-Kolloquium, Ubiquitous Knowledge Processing Lab, Technische Universität Darmstadt. August 2014.
	Tutorial: Computational Discourse Processing. Symposium *Argumentation Theory and NLP*. Bertinoro, Italy. July 2014.
	Situation Entities and Discourse Modes. IMS Stuttgart. July 2014.
	Situation Entities and Discourse Modes. ILCC/HCRC Seminar Series, Informatics Forum, University of Edinburgh. March 2014.
2013	Computational linguistics for low-resource languages. Digital Humanities Colloquium, Universität Trier. November 2013.
	Active Learning in the Real World. Oberseminar Detmar Meurers: Linguistic Modeling and its Interfaces, Universität Tübingen. November 2013.
	Computational linguistics for low-resource languages. Keynote address and tutorial session. Computational Field Workshop. McGill University, Montreal, Canada. May 2013.
2012	Computational linguistics for low-resource languages. Keynote address. Corpus Approaches to Mayan Linguistics. Patzún, Guatemala. August 2012.
	Evaluating Automation Strategies for Endangered Languages. CLiPS, University of Antwerp. March 2012.
	Connecting Semantic Argument Structure to Discourse. Colloquium, Dept. of Communication and Information Sciences, Tilburg University. February 2012.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING CL FOR LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION

2013	Computational linguistics for low-resource languages. Keynote address and tutorial session. Computational Field Workshop. McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
2012	Computational linguistics for low-resource languages. Keynote address. Corpus Approaches to Mayan Linguistics. Patzún, Guatemala.
2009	Connecting language documentation and natural language processing. LSA symposium on Computational Linguistics in the Service of Linguistic Analysis. San Francisco, California. (With Jason Baldridge.)
2006 – 2009	Invited working group participation: *Cyberling 2009, Toward Interoperability of Language Resources (TILR), EMELD Workshop on Digital Language Documentation: 'Tools and Standards: State of the Art', Digital Tools Summit in Linguistics (DTLS).*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial board	Linguistic Issues in Language Technology (LiLT)
Journal reviewing	Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation, Linguistic Issues in Language Technology (LiLT), Discourse and Dialogue, Philippine Social Sciences Review.
Conference reviewing	ACL 2015, ESSLLI SRW 2015, ArgMining 2015, GSCL 2015, CoNLL 2015, NAACL 2015, LAW 2015, BEA 2015, COLING 2014, Konvens 2014, NLA4DB 2014, ComputEL 2014, LREC 2014, EMNLP 2013, ACL 2013, ACL-SRW 2013, GSCL 2013, IWCS 2013/15, AAAI 2012, EACL 2012, EMNLP 2011, LSA 2010-2012, COLING 2010, Konvens 2010, EMNLP-CoNNL 2007, SALSA 2005-2008.
Funding review	NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program, 2011-2015
Committees	Local scholarship committee, UdS Erasmus Master's program; Selection committee, UdS Language and Speech Technology Master's program; Linguistic Society of America Technology Advisory Committee; UdS FEAST talk series.
Other	Erasmus Coordinator, Institute for Computational Linguistics (HU)
Conference organization	SFB-732 2015 Area D Workshop (*Linguistically-aware models of distributional semantics in computational linguistics), TLSX 2006 (Computational Linguistics for Less-Studied Languages), 4th Workshop on Discourse Structure* (2006), TLS8 2004 (*Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface).*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2008	Carlota S. Smith Memorial Fellowship, UT Austin Dept. of Linguistics
2007 – 2008	University Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin
2007	NAACL/ACL Fellowship to the LSA Linguistic Institute
2007	Travel grant to ACL 2007, Don and Betty Walker Foundation Student Scholarship Fund
2004	David Bruton, Jr, Graduate Fellowship stipend, UT Austin
2003	Honorable mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
1992 – 1994	National Merit Scholarship, University of Michigan

REFERENCES

Professor Manfred Pinkal;
Computational Linguistics, Saarland University   pinkal@coli.uni-saarland.de

Assoc. Professor Jason Baldridge;
Linguistics, UT Austin   jbaldrid@mail.utexas.edu

Assoc. Professor Katrin Erk;
Linguistics, UT Austin   katrin.erk@mail.utexas.edu

Professor Caroline Sporleder;
Computational Linguistics, Trier University   sporledc@uni-trier.de

*Professor Richard Meier;
Linguistics, UT Austin   rmeier@mail.utexas.edu

Professor Rajesh Bhatt;
Linguistics, University of Massachusetts   bhatt@linguist.umass.edu

* Professor Meier can speak specifically to my teaching at UT Austin.