

## ALEXIS M. PALMER

Computational Linguistics and Phonetics  
Saarland University (UdS)  
Saarbrücken, Germany

voice: +49 681 302 70027  
email: alexispalmer@gmail.com  
web: <http://coli.uni-saarland.de/~apalmer>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational discourse and semantics; computational linguistics for low-resource languages and for language documentation; discourse structure and coherence, modes of discourse; active learning; language documentation; formal and functional syntax, argument structure and linking, voice; 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 Baldrige, 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

- 2012 – present      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 Baldrige 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 Baldrige, Mary Dee Harris

## ADVISING/SUPERVISION

- PhD Students, UdS      Annemarie Friedrich, Computational Linguistics (ongoing, co-advisor)  
General topic: computational implementation and application of theories of discourse
- Andrea Horbach, Computational Linguistics (ongoing, co-advisor)  
Topic: reducing supervision for automatic scoring of short-answer exercises in foreign language learning
- MSc Students, UdS      Charles Laross (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

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

(under review) Nikolina Koleva, Andrea Horbach, Alexis Palmer, Simon Ostermann, and  
Manfred Pinkal. Paraphrase Detection for Short Answer Scoring. Submitted to  
COLING 2014.

Annemarie Friedrich and Alexis Palmer. Situation entity annotation. Submitted  
to Linguistic Annotation Workshop VIII, 2014.

Annemarie Friedrich and Alexis Palmer. Centering Theory in natural text: a  
large-scale corpus study. Submitted to Konvens 2014.

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

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*.

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*.

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*.

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 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced Languages*. St. Petersburg, Russia, 2014.

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

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*.

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 PoITAL 2014*. (to appear)

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 Baldrige 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 Baldrige. 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 Baldrige, 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 Baldrige, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society: Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface*. Cascadilla Proceedings Project: Somerville, MA.

#### **CONFERENCE 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

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, Linguistic Issues in Language Technology (LiLT), Discourse and Dialogue, Philippine Social Sciences Review.

Conference reviewing COLING 2014, Konvens 2014, NLA4DB 2014, ComputEL 2014, LREC 2014, EMNLP 2013, ACL 2013, ACL-SRW 2013, GSCL 2013, IWCS 2013, AAAI 2012, EACL 2012, EMNLP 2011, LSA 2010-2012, COLING 2010, Konvens 2010, EMNLP-CoNLL 2007, SALSA 2005-2008.

Funding review NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program, 2011-2014

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.
Conference organization	TLSX 2006 ( <i>Computational Linguistics for Less-Studied Languages</i> ), 4 <sup>th</sup> Workshop on Discourse Structure (2006), TLS8 2004 ( <i>Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface</i> ).

#### 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	<code>pinkal@coli.uni-saarland.de</code>
Assoc. Professor Jason Baldridge; Linguistics, UT Austin	<code>jbaldrid@mail.utexas.edu</code>
Assoc. Professor Katrin Erk; Linguistics, UT Austin	<code>katrin.erk@mail.utexas.edu</code>
Professor Caroline Sporleder; Computational Linguistics, Trier University	<code>sporledc@uni-trier.de</code>
*Professor Richard Meier; Linguistics, UT Austin	<code>rmeier@mail.utexas.edu</code>
Professor Rajesh Bhatt; Linguistics, University of Massachusetts	<code>bhatt@linguist.umass.edu</code>

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