

# prescriptivism beyond norms and usage

8<sup>th</sup> PRESCRIPTIVISM CONFERENCE  
24-26 JUNE 2026

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

When there are no parallel sessions, all talks take place in **Auditorium (3.10)**. This is also where the poster session and all coffee breaks are held.

When parallel sessions are scheduled, sessions are held in both **Auditorium (3.10)** and **Malachiet (1.10)**, as indicated in the program below.

Time	Wednesday 24 June 2026
9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30 - 09:45	Opening
9:45 - 10:45	<b>KEYNOTE 1 (chair: Eline Lismont)</b> <a href="#">Anne Curzan</a> (University of Michigan) – Prescriptivism, Education, and the Public: Lessons Learned
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
<b>SESSION 1: Technology and Artificial Intelligence</b> chair: Gijsbert Rutten	
11:15 - 11:45	<a href="#">Naomi Truan</a> (Leiden University) – Dash Panic: Punctuation, Authenticity, and New Prescriptive Ideologies
11:45 - 12:15	<a href="#">Viktorija Kostadinova</a> (University of Amsterdam) & <a href="#">Matt Hunt Gardner</a> (Queen Mary University of London) – How prescriptive are Large Language Models?
<b>POSTER SESSION</b>	
12:15 - 12:45	<a href="#">Ilaria De Cesare</a> (Universität Potsdam) – Comma placement before German infinitives between norm and usage <a href="#">Lena Sophie Wilkens</a> (Freie Universität Berlin) – Correcting Speech, Constructing Norms: Ideologies in Logopedics Textbooks <a href="#">Maharatrie Teges Ken</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) – Effects of Prescriptivism on the Acceptance of Gender-Neutral Pronouns in Dutch <a href="#">Meili Hollingshaus</a> (Brigham Young University) – Feminine, Effeminate, Feminists: Judgment Claims on Feminine Speech in

	<p>Usage Guides</p> <p><a href="#">Nanna Hilton</a> (Fryske Akademy), <a href="#">Wilbert Heeringa</a> (Fryske Akademy), <a href="#">Amber Nota and Matt Coler</a> (University of Groningen) – Read Frisian: Prescriptivism in a Minority Language</p> <p><a href="#">Saiya Karamali</a> (University of Washington) – Prescriptivism in an organically developing writing system: the case of Roman Hindi-Urdu</p>
12:45 - 14:15	Lunch (at own expense)
<p><b>SESSION 2: Education</b> chair: Jenny Brumme</p>	
14:15 - 14:45	<a href="#">Susanna Karlsson</a> (Göteborg universitet) & <a href="#">Lena Lind Palicki</a> (Institute for language and folklore) – Historical changes in language teachers' perception with teaching language norms
14:45 - 15:15	<a href="#">Kristel Algvere</a> (University of Tartu) – Estonian L1 teachers' prescriptive practices and attitudes in Estonian lessons
15:15 - 15:45	<a href="#">Laura Rosseel</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) & <a href="#">Chloé Lybaert</a> (Universiteit Gent) – What language norms are teachers held to in Flemish schools? A language attitudinal perspective on standard - colloquial variation
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee break
<p><b>SESSION 3: Media</b> chair: Laura Rosseel</p>	
16:15 - 16:45	<a href="#">Anđel Starčević</a> (University of Zagreb) – Our Daily Croatian: Prescriptivism and Language Ideologies Live on Croatian Radio
16:45 - 17:15	<a href="#">Ari Páll Kristinsson</a> (The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies) – Lend me an error. On the borrowing of errors from different complaint traditions
18:00 - 19:45	Welcome reception (Rooftop 58, 8th floor, Rue de l'Evêque 1, 1000 Brussels)

Time	Thursday 25 June 2026	
9:00 - 10:00	<b>KEYNOTE 2 (chair: Nelle Simonet)</b> <a href="#">Loreta Vaicekauskienė</a> (Vilniaus universitetas) – The tyranny of the red pen: Prescriptivism and politics	
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break	
	<b>SESSION 4: Manuals, style guides and dictionaries</b> chair: Don Chapman <a href="#">Auditorium, 3.10</a>	<b>SESSION 5: Language use and the general public</b> chair: TBA <a href="#">Malachiet, 1.10</a>
10:30 - 11:00	<a href="#">Spiros Moschonas &amp; Ioulani Theodosi</a> (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) – Variable prescriptivism: The case of Gregorios Palaiologos’ Letter-Writing Manual (1843)	<a href="#">Anja Wanner</a> (University of Wisconsin-Madison) – Seeking linguistic advice in the digital age: the shift from authority to interactivity
11:00 - 11:30	<a href="#">Jenny Brumme</a> (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) – On the prescriptive nature of conduct books: Forms of address in the Catalan sub-corpus	<a href="#">Valentin Balczesak</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) – “Neither Our Language, Nor Our Culture”: Intersectional prescriptivism in the 2024 Paris Controversy
11:30 - 12:00	<a href="#">Holly Baker</a> (Brigham Young University) – Beyond the Usage Guide: Usage Advice in Online Style Guides	<a href="#">Frauke Vervaeke</a> (Universiteit Gent) & <a href="#">Anne-Sophie Ghyselen</a> (Universiteit Gent) – Do ‘norms from above’ match mainstream perceptions? Insights from an online survey in Aruba, Belgium, the Netherlands and Suriname
12:00 - 12:30	<a href="#">Margit Langemets</a> (University of Tartu) & <a href="#">Lydia Risberg</a> (Estonian Language Institute, University of Tartu) – Re-creation of norms: the “Dictionary of Standard Estonian 2025” and its reception	
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch (at own expense)	
	<b>SESSION 6: Historical perspectives on prescriptivism</b> chair: TBA <a href="#">Auditorium, 3.10</a>	<b>SESSION 7: Gender and inclusivity</b> chair: Naomi Truan <a href="#">Malachiet, 1.10</a>

14:00 - 14:30	<a href="#">Alena Andrlová Fidlerová</a> (Charles University) – Elite Prescriptivism versus Language Practice: The Case of Czech Script Reform in the Early Nineteenth Century	<a href="#">Morana Lukač</a> (University of Groningen) – From Solecism to Standard: Singular They Across Two Centuries of Usage Advice
14:30 - 15:00	<a href="#">Mairi McLaughlin</a> (University of California, Berkeley) – “Let’s abolish the orders and found the Republic of Letters!” The French Revolution and Prescriptivism in the Journal de la langue française (1784-1795)	<a href="#">Elisabeth Kaukonen</a> (University of Tartu) – Of Myths and Men: Prescriptivist Conceptions of Feminist Linguistic Activism in Estonia
15:00 - 15:30	<a href="#">Noam Davidov</a> (Leiden University) & <a href="#">Mo Gordon</a> (Leiden University) – The Use of 'will' and 'shall' in Scottish and English Newspapers	
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break	
	<b>SESSION 8: Education</b> chair: Spiros Moschonas <a href="#">Auditorium, 3.10</a>	<b>SESSION 9: Standardization, politics, and ideologies</b> chair: Alena Andrlová Fidlerová <a href="#">Malachiet, 1.10</a>
16:00 - 16:30	<a href="#">Olivia Walsh</a> (University of Nottingham) – Language attitudes in the French supplementary school classroom in the UK and the US	<a href="#">Hamish Pottinger</a> (University of Oxford) – Normativity and the diversity trade-off in minority languages: the case of Scots
16:30 - 17:00	<a href="#">Kirsti Lunde</a> (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) – Prescriptivism and the language teaching of Norwegian Nynorsk	<a href="#">Olena Synchak</a> (Institute of Slavic Studies University of Klagenfurt) – Negotiating Norms: Feminine Personal Nouns in Ukrainian Across Prescriptivism and Displacement
17:00 - 17:30	<a href="#">Victorina Gonzalez-Diaz</a> (University of Liverpool) & <a href="#">Sofia Lampropoulou</a> (University of Liverpool) – Negotiating ‘Prescriptivism’ in Oracy: standard English, Dialect, and Teacher Agency in Liverpool Secondary Classrooms	<a href="#">Miriam Bouzouita</a> (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) & <a href="#">Johnatan Bonilla</a> (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) – On standardisation and its relation to formal registers in Canarian Spanish: The case of the existential "haber" construction

18:00 - 19:30	City walk (starting point: conference venue, Hoek 38)
---------------	--

Time	Friday 26 June 2026
9:00 - 10:00	<b>KEYNOTE 3 (chair: Eline Lismont)</b> <a href="#">Linda Pillière</a> (Aix-Marseille Université) – Prescriptivism through the back door: How standard language ideology is perpetuated in popular culture
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break
<b>SESSION 10: Authorities and experts</b> chair: Olivia Walsch	
10:30 - 11:00	<a href="#">Don Chapman</a> (Brigham Young University) – From Schoolmasters to Linguists: Language Experts in 20th-Century Usage Guides
11:00 - 11:30	<a href="#">Rik Vosters</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), <a href="#">Eline Lismont</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) & <a href="#">Arman Pakhchanyan</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) – This really gets on my nerves! Prescriptive attitudes among professional linguists in the Low Countries
11:30 - 12:00	<a href="#">Eglė Jankauskaitė</a> (Vilnius University) – “I’m happy to be corrected”: power relationships between copy-editors, authors, and norm-setters
12:00 - 12:30	<a href="#">Matjaž Zgonc</a> (University of Ljubljana) – Belief as a factor in norm-usage interaction: trust in prescriptive authority and prescriptive felicity
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch (at own expense)
<b>SESSION 11: Purism and language contact</b> chair: Morana Lukač	
14:00 - 14:30	<a href="#">Petar Vuković</a> (University of Zagreb) – From Purism to Functionalism: Transformations of Czech Prescriptivism
14:30 - 15:00	<a href="#">Nelle Simonet</a> (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) – Elaboration beyond innovation: new qualitative and quantitative perspectives on Dutch purist word lists (1550–1850)
15:00 - 15:30	<a href="#">Gijsbert Rutten</a> (Leiden University) – Prescriptive success depends on ideology: the fate of French elements in Dutch (1500-1900)

15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:00	<b>KEYNOTE 4 (chair: Rik Vosters)</b> Emma Humphries (Queen's University Belfast) – From 19th-century letters to 21st-century social media: Strategies of critique and justification in language commentary on French
17:00 - 17:15	Closing
19:00 - 23:00	Conference dinner (Brasserie de Bruxelles, Place de la Vieille Halle aux Blés 39, 1000 Bruxelles)

Time	Saturday 27 June 2026
9:00 – 18:40	<p><b>Excursion to Bruge</b></p> <p><b>Departure: meeting point at Brussel-Centraal station at 9:00. The train departs at 9:20.</b></p> <p><b>Return: the scheduled train arrives back at Brussel-Centraal station at 18:40.</b></p>



BRUSSELS CENTRE FOR  
LANGUAGE STUDIES  
RESEARCH GROUP



Historical Sociolinguistics  
Research Program  
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL



De Gruyter Brill

