## Extended deadline: 19 November 2023

## Pathways to insubordination

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Keywords: insubordination, subordination, mechanisms of change, corpus linguistics, clause patterns and clause linkage

## Description

This workshop focuses on the diachrony of insubordination, a phenomenon defined by Evans (2007: 377) as "the conventionalized independent use of a formally subordinate clause". An example is a clause introduced by the complementizer *que* ('that') that is used to express a wish in Spanish, as in (1).

 Nati: Bueno, chicos, me voy a acostar. Rafael: Chau, que descans-e-s. COMP rest-PRS.SBJV-2SG
'Nati: OK, guys, I'm going to bed. Rafael: Bye, have a good rest.' [CREA Teatro, El hijo de la novia, Argentina, example from Sansiñena 2015]

Over the past two decades insubordination has witnessed an increase in scholarly attention (e.g. Verstraete et al. 2012; Brinton 2014; Narrog 2016; Gras & Sansiñena 2017; D'Hertefelt 2018, and the articles in Evans & Watanabe (2016) and Beijering et al. (2019)), mostly from a synchronic perspective, but the diachronic perspective has so far "received comparatively less attention" (Cristofaro 2016: 395). Notable exceptions include Gras & Estellés (2012), Sevens 2013, Van linden & Van de Velde (2014) and la Roi (2021; 2022). This workshop seeks to investigate the developmental pathways leading to such independent clauses that are structurally similar to subordinate ones, as the que-clause in (1). It has been argued that "patterns that are superficially identical on the level of contemporary languages, may turn out as the results of radically different diachronic processes" (Wiemer 2019:157) and that insubordinate constructions "can emerge from a variety of sources via a variety of mechanisms" (Mithun 2019: 31), such as ellipsis of a main clause (Evans 2007), extension of dependency (Mithun 2008, 2016), dependency shift (D'Hertefelt & Verstraete 2014), hypoanalysis (Van linden & Van de Velde 2014), cooptation (Heine, Kaltenbock & Kuteva 2016), and clausal disengagement (Cristofaro 2016). The available evidence imposes then the necessity of a case-by-case investigation of the development of such clause structures. Against this backdrop, this workshop seeks to look deeper into the diachrony of insubordinate constructions along multiple pathways of change.

## Aims of the workshop

The workshop will bring together linguists working on insubordinate clause patterns, their sources and the mechanisms by which they developed, either on the basis of historical corpus data for languages with written records or on the basis of first-hand data collected in the field for those languages that do not have historical data. We invite language-specific contributions, as well as cross-linguistic or areal studies. More specifically, the topics and questions to be addressed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Considering the wide range of functions of insubordinate constructions, how can we relate them to their respective sources and developmental pathways?
- What are the methodological challenges in tracing the diachrony of insubordinate structures in historical data?
- What can interactional approaches to insubordination and the study of prosody contribute to diachronic hypotheses?
- In the absence of spoken data, what information on the diachrony of insubordination can be gleaned from dialogical text types? What proxies can be used for prosodic information?

Invited speakers: Marianne Mithun (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Björn Wiemer (Mainz University)

Discussant: Sonia Cristofaro (Sorbonne University)

Please send provisional abstracts of no more than 300 words (excluding references) in PDF format by the <u>19<sup>th</sup> of November 2023</u> to <u>Ezra.laRoi@UGent.be</u>. If the workshop is approved, authors will be asked to submit revised 500-word abstracts meeting the SLE guidelines by 15 January 2024.