

A0039

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The Diachrony of Negation

This workshop brings together scholars working on the genesis and evolution of negative constructions in a wide spectrum of languages representing different language families and areal groupings. Open to both functional and formal theoretical and methodological approaches, the workshop will provide new insights into the history and function of negation, which will be investigated from a variety of mutually complementary angles.

The workshop is expected to make a significant contribution to current theorizing on (i) the typology, structure, and development of negative constructions; (ii) the nature of “Jespersen’s Cycle”, a well-known and cross-linguistically instantiated pattern whereby elements that were originally introduced into negative clauses to reinforce negation are reanalyzed as negative markers themselves; (iii) the different pace and form of grammaticalization of different negative markers within one language and of similar negative markers in related languages; (iv) the role of sociolinguistic and pragmatic factors in negation renewal phenomena; (v) the nature and causes of grammatical change in general, including implications for models of language change.

References

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- Van Gelderen, E. (ed.). 2009. *Cyclical change*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.