Exploration of the character and course of acquisition of syntactic knowledge in both first and second language contexts. Covers methodological principles for conducting studies and analyzing data, and topics such as development of verb movement, binding theory, and tense.

Prerequisite: CAS LX 321/GRS LX 621 (Syntax), or consent of instructor

Hard-working syntacticians, struggling over decades, have made much progress in understanding the complexity of human language syntax. Good job, hard-working syntacticians! But children seem to have acquired these complex systems almost as early as we can test them. How?

In this course, we leverage our understanding of the target system of adult/native syntax to understand the properties and development of syntax in children acquiring their first language, and adults acquiring additional languages.

We will discuss major results, issues of experimental design, analysis, and argumentation. By the end of this course, you should be familiar with the major concepts in the study of the acquisition of syntax from a theoretical perspective, and have experience designing and analyzing research studies of your own.