

Caterina Bonan

Swiss National Science Foundation grantee
Supervisor at the University of Cambridge
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My field is theoretical linguistics and my work is set in the framework of Noam Chomsky's nativist approach to human language. My research has so far focussed on Romance comparative syntax, creolistics, dialectology, syntactic theory, and linguistic change. My doctoral dissertation explored Northern Italian wh-questions (available [here](#)), and I am now working on the morphosyntax of cleft questions in the Romance languages. I am experienced in teaching general, comparative and theoretical linguistics to students up to graduate level, as well as L2 Italian and English.

Current Research Project(s)

'The fine structure of Romance interrogative *it*-clefts'. *Early PostDoc.Mobility*, project n° P2GEP1_184384. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). 18 months, starting from September 1st, 2019. Advisor: Professor Adam Ledgeway FBA. Details available [here](#).

Education

Dec 2015 - May 2019

Doctorate

Université de Genève (Switzerland)

PhD program in Theoretical Linguistics. Supervisors: Professors Ur Shlonsky and Giuliano Bocci. Dissertation: On clause-internally moved wh-phrases. Defended with final evaluation 'très honorable à l'unanimité', available [here](#).

Sep 2015 - May 2017

Certificate of Specialisation in Linguistics

Université de Genève (Switzerland)

60CFU. Thesis: Interrogative Sentences in Trevisano: Fieldwork and Discussion. Supervisor: Professor Ur Shlonsky. Evaluation: 6/6.

Sep 2013 - May 2015

Prépa Agrégation externe d'anglais

Université Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle) & CNED (France)

Intensive training for the 'Concours de l'agrégation externe d'anglais'.

Sep 2011 - May 2013

MA in Science of Language

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)

120 CFU. Laurea Magistrale in Scienze del Linguaggio. Specialty: Theoretical linguistics. Thesis: The Core Grammar of Guadeloupean creole. Supervisor: Professor Giuliana Giusti. Co-supervisors: Professors Alessandra Giorgi & Guglielmo Cinque. Evaluation: 110/110 cum laude. Available [here](#).

Sep 2009 - May 2010

9-month Erasmus program

Université Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle) (France)

Département de Littérature et Linguistique françaises et latines.

Sep 2008 - Sep 2011

BA in Languages and The Science of Language

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)

180 CFU. Laurea Triennale in Lingue e Scienze del Linguaggio. Specialty: Glottodidattica (language teaching). Evaluation: 110/110 cum laude.

Professional appointments

- Oct 2019 - present **Supervisor**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, Departments of Italian and Theoretical and Applied Linguistics - *University of Cambridge* (United Kingdom).
- Sep 2015 - Aug 2019 **Research assistant**
Université de Genève (Switzerland)
Supervisor: Professor Ur Shlonsky. Swiss National Science Foundation project n° 156160. Information available [here](#).
- Sep 2013 - Jun 2015 **Teacher of English**
Mairie de Paris (France)
CMA, Cours Municipaux d'Adultes.
- Mars 2014 - May 2014 **Translator**
ELSE: Conseil, Création, Edition (France)
I translated the Italian book *Scrittori. Grandi autori visti da grandi fotografi* (Contrasto publishing company) into French: *Grands écrivains : les auteurs célèbres vus par de grands photographes* (Éditions du Chêne).
- Sep 2012 - May 2015 **Teaching assistant**
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
Supervisors: Giuliana Giusti & Anna Cardinaletti.

Grants

- Oct 2018 **Early PostDoc.Mobility**
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
18-month post-doctoral mobility grant n° P2GEP1_184384, starting in September 2019. Host university: University of Cambridge, Department of Italian. Advisor: Professor Adam Ledgeway FBA. Information on the grant and my research project are available [here](#).
- Jun 2018 **VariaForMea Summer Grant**
Variation in Form and Meaning Doctoral School
I was granted 1000 Swiss Francs for participation in summer schools and conferences.
- Oct 2017 **Financial support for international conference**
Faculté des Lettres and Département de linguistique - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
I was granted 1000 Swiss Francs for the organization of the Geneva Workshop on Optional Insituness (details in the 'additional scientific activities' section).
- Oct 2017 **Scientific Exchange**
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
I was granted 6380 Swiss Francs for the organization of the 'Geneva Workshop on Optional Insituness'. Project n° IZSEZO_178709. Details on the grant are available [here](#).
- May 2017 **VariaForMea Summer Grant**
Variation in Form and Meaning Doctoral School
I was granted 820 Swiss Francs for summer schools and conferences.
- Jan 2009 **Erasmus scholarship**
I was granted an ERASMUS scholarship to support a 9-month exchange period at the Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris III University (France).

Fellowships

- Sep 2019 - present **College Research Associate (CRA)**
St. John's College (Cambridge, United Kingdom)
I am one of the winners of the College Research Associate Scheme 2019.
Information on the competition is available [here](#).
- Sep 2019 - present **Visiting researcher**
Department of Italian, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- Sep 2015 - Aug 2019 **Research assistant (CANDOC)**
Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève (Switzerland).

Publications

- [10] Bonan, Caterina [submitted] ‘Evidence for low focus movement of wh-elements in Romance’. Submitted to *Journal of Linguistics* on [20.04.2020].
- [9] Bonan, Caterina [submitted] ‘The periphery of vP in the theory of wh-in situ’. Submitted to *Glossa* on [30.04.2020].
- [8] Bonan, Caterina [to appear in 2021] *Romance interrogative syntax. Formal and typological dimensions of variation*. Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- [7] Bonan, Caterina & Ur Shlonsky [submitted] ‘Why’ in situ in Northern Italian dialects: evidence from Trevisan’. In G. Soare (ed.) *Proceedings of the 2017 SLE meeting*, University of Zürich.
- [6] Bonan, Caterina [to appear] ‘On focal and wh-projections, indirect wh-questions, and quantificational chains’. In A. Nicolae and A. Dragomirescu (eds) *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 16*. Selected papers from Going Romance 31, Bucharest.
- [5] Bonan, Caterina. 2019. *On clause-internally moved wh-phrases: wh-to-Foc, nominative clitics, and the theory of Northern Italian wh-in situ*. PhD dissertation. Université de Genève. doi:10.13097/archive-ouverte/unige:119060. Available [here](#).
- [4] Bonan, Caterina. 2018. ‘On Insituness and (very) Low Wh-Positions: The Case of Trevigiano’. In G. Samo, K. Martini and G. Bocci (eds) *Generative Grammar in Geneva (GG@G) XI*. Special Issue: Proceedings of the 1st SynCart Workshop ‘From maps to principles’. 21-41. doi:10.13097/unige:120457. Available [here](#).
- [3] Bonan, Caterina. 2017 (b). ‘Arguing against a *one-fits-all* derivation for Northern Italian ‘Insituness’. In J. Garzonio (ed.) *Quaderni di lavoro ASIt 20*. ISSN: 1828- 2326. 49-76. Available [here](#).
- [2] Bonan, Caterina. 2017 (a). ‘Sé or c’est? On the Cartography of Clefts’. In C. Bonan, H. Jivanyan and M. Pallottino (eds.) *Generative Grammar in Geneva (GG@G) X*. 131-151. doi:10.13097/cjg3-tfud. Available [here](#).
- [1] Bonan, Caterina, Hasmik Jivanyan and Margherita Pallottino (eds). 2017. *Generative Grammar in Geneva (GG@G) X*. ISSN: 2504-4435. Available [here](#).

Conferences

- May 2020 ‘Phi-features in T or C: on ‘number’ clitics’
Online seminar-style talk
Venue: Séminaire de linguistique - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
- Apr 2020 ‘The fine structure of Romance it-clefts: state-of-the-art’
[cancelled, COVID-19 pandemic]
Online seminar-style talk, invited speaker (with Adam Ledgeway)
Venue: WEBinar - Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)
- Apr 2020 ‘Wh-in situ and the periphery of vP: the theory of *Wh-to-Foc*’
[cancelled, COVID-19 pandemic]
Seminar-style talk, invited speaker

- Venue: SyntaxLab - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- Mar 2020 ‘The periphery of ν P: from the theory of *Wh-to-Foc* to a general theory of wh-in situ’
[cancelled, COVID-19 pandemic]
Seminar-style talk, invited speaker
Venue: Séminaire de recherche - Université de Nîce (France)
- Nov 2019 ‘Towards a typology of insituness in Northern Italian dialects (and beyond)’
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: The 19th international conference of the department of linguistics.
Workshop: Syntactic variation in Romance - University of Bucharest (Romania)
- Nov 2019 ‘The fine structure of Romance *it*-clefts: a challenging research field’
Seminar-style talk, invited speaker
Venue: Anglia Ruskin-Cambridge Romance Seminars
University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- May 2019 ‘On *Wh-to-Foc* and its consequences for Northern Italian wh-in situ’
Online seminar-style talk, invited speaker
Venue: WEBinar - Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)
- May 2019 ‘Northern Italian subject-clitic inversion in the theory of *Wh-to-Foc*’
Short talk, selected speaker
Venue: 8th CamCoS meeting
University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- Mar 2019 ‘On Wh-to-Foc and its theoretical consequences’
Seminar-style talk, invited speaker
Venue: Anglia Ruskin - Cambridge Romance Linguistics Seminars -
University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
- Feb 2019 ‘Notes on focus-movement of clause internal wh-phrases’
Seminar-like presentation, invited speaker
Venue: Unbound Seminars in Formal Linguistics (USiFL) - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
- Feb 2019 ‘Towards a typology of wh-in situ in Northern Italian Dialects: on Wh-to-Foc and its theoretical consequences’
Poster presentation, selected speaker
Venue: Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG) 45 - Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)
- Oct 2018 ‘Northern Italian Insituness: Derivation(s)’
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: RISQ 2018 (Recent Issues in the Syntax of Questions) - Konstanz Universität (Germany)
- Jun 2018 ‘Arguing against a one-fits-all derivation for Romance ‘insituness’
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: TEAm (Theoretical and Empirical Approaches to Micro-Variation) -
Università degli studi di Padova (Italy)
- May 2018 ‘Insituness in Northern Italian Dialects: argumental, IP-internal or left-peripheral?’
Seminar-like presentation, invited speaker
Venue: Seminario di Ricerca - Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia (Italy)
- Jan 2018 ‘Rethinking Insituness in Northern Italian Dialects’
Long presentation, local speaker
Venue: GenWH2018 (Geneva WH-orkshop on Optional Insituness) -

Université de Genève (Switzerland)

- Dec 2017 ' (Low) Wh-Projections and Clitic Resumption'
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: Going Romance 31 (GR 31). University of Bucharest (Romania)
- Nov 2017 'On non in situ 'in situ' wh-phrases'
Long presentation, local speaker
Venue: Micro Workshop in Romance Dialectology (MicroWRD) - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
- Nov 2017 'Different Languages, Similar Peripheries, Different Focal Positions?'
Seminar-like presentation, invited speaker
Venue: Séminaire de recherche - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
- Oct 2017 'On (very) low Wh-Positions'
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: Word Order in the Left Periphery (WOLP17) - University of Oslo (Sweden)
- Sep 2017 'Why-in-situ in Northern Italian Dialects'
Long presentation, with Ur Shlonsky
Venue: 50th SLE meeting - Zürich Universität (Switzerland)
- May 2017 'On (very) low wh-positions in Trevigiano'
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: UZH, 61st Student's Conference For Linguistics - Zürich Universität (Switzerland)
- May 2017 'On in situ 'why' in Trevigiano'
Long presentation, selected speaker
Venue: Romance Interrogatives (RI17) - Konstanz Universität (Germany)
- Jul 2016 'Interrogative Sentences in French - Syntax and Prosody'
Long presentation, with Lucas Tual
Venue: 1st SynCart Workshop, 'From Maps to Principles' (Chiusi, Italy)

Teaching experience

- Jan 2019 - Mar 2020 **Supervisor**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, Department of Italian - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Class: IT1: Use of Italian (undergraduate level)
- Oct 2019 - Mar 2020 **Supervisor**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, Department of Italian - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Class: CS1: The Romance Languages (undergraduate level)
- Oct 2019 - Mar 2020 **Supervisor**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Class: Li2: Structures (undergraduate level)
- Oct 2019 - Mar 2020 **Supervisor**
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Class: LI9: Syntax (undergraduate level)
- Feb 2017 - Jun 2017 **Teaching assistant** (doctoral traineeship)
Faculté des Lettres, Département de linguistique - Université de Genève (Switzerland)
Class: La grammaire du Trévisien, parler de Vénétie (undergraduate)

- Jan 2015 - May 2015 **On-line teaching assistant**
 Facoltà di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati, Dipartimento di
 Linguistica - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
 Class: Linguistique française (3rd year undergraduate level)
- Jan 2014 - Jun 2015 **Teacher of English**
 Mairie de Paris, CMA - Cours Municipaux d'Adultes
 Class: Pre-intermediate English (A2/B1) for adults
- Sep 2013 - Jan 2014 **Teacher of English**
 Mairie de Paris, CMA - Cours Municipaux d'Adultes (France)
 Class: English for adult beginners (A2), intensive class
- Mars 2013 - Jul 2013 **Teaching assistant**
 Facoltà di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati, Dipartimento di
 Linguistica - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
 Class: English Language for beginners (1st year undergraduate level)
- Mars 2013 - Jul 2013 **Teaching assistant**
 Facoltà di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati, Dipartimento di
 Linguistica - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
 Class: English language 1 (1st year undergraduate level)
- Sep 2012 - Jan 2013 **Teaching assistant**
 Facoltà di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati, Dipartimento di
 Linguistica - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
 Class: Linguistique française (3rd year undergraduate level)
- Jan 2012 - Jun 2012 **Teaching assistant** (150-hour graduate traineeship)
 Facoltà di Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati, Dipartimento di
 Linguistica - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italy)
 Class: English language 1 (1st year undergraduate level)
- May 2009 - Jul 2009 **Linguistic tutor** (75-hour undergraduate traineeship)
 Laboratorio ITALS, Columbia-Ca' Foscari Summer School, Università Ca'
 Foscari Venezia (Italy)

Organisation of conferences, seminars and workshops

- Dec 2019 - present **Workshop convenor**
 [Conference postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic]
 Organisation, with Prof. Adam Ledgeway, of a workshop on it-clefts in the
 Romance languages, to be held at the 53rd meeting of the Societas Linguistica
 Europaea (Bucharest, August 2020). Accepted workshop proposal [here](#).
- Oct 2017 - present **Seminar organiser**
 [2020 edition postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic]
 'WEBinars' (Università degli Studi di Padova)
 Webinars are on-line seminars that take place every other Friday, organised
 by the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy). Webinars bring together many
 European Universities (Padova, Trento, Bologna-Reggio Emilia, Genève,
 Oslo, Beijing, Brno) via an on-line classroom.
- Jan 2018 - June 2019 **Seminar organiser**
 [2020 edition postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic]
 'Unbound Seminars in Formal Linguistics' (USiFL)
 Cycle of weekly independent seminars held at the Université de Genève
 (Switzerland), featuring national and international doctoral and post-doctoral
 fellows. Detailed information available [here](#).
- Jun 2017 - Jan 2018 **Conference organiser**
 'Geneva WH-orkshop on Optional Insituness'

Scientific exchange organized with Lucas Tual. Held at Université de Genève on January 16th-18th, 2018. 3 local speakers, 8 international invited speakers, and 9 doctoral students selected via a peer-reviewed evaluation of anonymously-submitted abstracts.

Oct 2017 - Nov 2017

Conference organiser

‘Micro Workshop in Romance Dialectology’

Doctoral workshop held at the Université de Genève (Switzerland) on November 1st, 2017. 3 speakers from the Université de Genève and 1 from the Universität Zürich (Switzerland). Financially supported by the Department of linguistics of the Université de Genève. Dedicated webpage: [here](#).

Additional scientific activities

Jan 2019 - present

Scientific peer reviewer

Glossa, a journal of general linguistics.

June 2018 & 2019

Jurée de maturité (English language and literature)

External expert for the high school final exams of ‘English language and literature’. Geneva, Switzerland.

Sep 2017 - Aug 2018

Editorial board member

GG@G, Generative Grammar in Geneva (Université de Genève, Switzerland). On-line scientific journal.

Sep 2017 - present

Active membership

SLE - Societas Linguistica Europaea

Languages

Italian

Native

French

Near-native competence

English

Advanced

Spanish

Intermediate

Career Breaks

July 2020 - present

Maternity leave

Nov 2016 - Apr 2017

Maternity leave

Jun 2005 - Sep 2008

Professional sport (volleyball)

An official list of the teams I played for can be found [here](#).

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Last update: August 20th, 2020