

# Ömer Demirok

Department of Linguistics, Boğaziçi University  
34342 Bebek/İstanbul, Turkey

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<https://omerdemirok.com/>

## Education

- 2014-2019 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Thesis: [Scope Theory Revisited: Lessons from pied-piping in \*wh\*-questions](#)  
Co-supervisors: Danny Fox, Sabine Iatridou, Norvin Richards, Roger Schwarzschild
- 2010-2013 M.A. in Linguistics, Boğaziçi University  
Thesis: [AGREE as a unidirectional operation: Evidence from Laz](#)  
Supervisor: Balkız Öztürk
- 2006-2010 B.A. in Foreign Language Education, Boğaziçi University

## Academic Positions

- 2020-  
current Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics,  
Boğaziçi University
- 2016-2018 Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2011-2014 Research Assistant, Department of Western Languages and Literatures,  
Boğaziçi University

## Administrative Positions

- 2022-  
current Vice-chair, Department of Linguistics,  
Boğaziçi University
- 2022-  
current Transfer Advisor, Department of Linguistics,  
Boğaziçi University
- 2021-  
current Coordinator for Caucasian Languages, Department of Linguistics,  
Boğaziçi University
- 2020-  
2021 Vice-chair, Department of Linguistics,  
Boğaziçi University

## Research Interests

syntax (argument structure, case, agreement, nominalization, word order)  
formal semantics (scope, intensionality, conditionals, wh-semantics)  
morphology (root allomorphy, syncretism, Distributed Morphology, Nanosyntax)  
Turkish, South Caucasian languages, endangered languages, fieldwork

## Supervision

- ongoing PhD Thesis in Linguistics, Boğaziçi University.  
Supervisor for: Furkan Dikmen (with Dr. E. Guerzoni)
- ongoing PhD Thesis in Linguistics, University of Oxford.  
Co-supervisor for: Seda Öztürk (with Dr. J. Lowe)
- ongoing MA Thesis in Linguistics, Boğaziçi University.  
Supervising: Muhammed İleri, Serra Gök, Nazmiye Aktaş, Kyle Meppelink.  
Co-supervising: Merve Yazar (with Dr. M. Bağrıaçık), Büşra Marşan (with Dr. Ü. Atlamaz).
- 2021 Bergül Soykan. MA Thesis in Linguistics, Boğaziçi University.  
Thesis: *A semantic description of Turkish conditionals.*

## Fellowships and Awards

- 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award, Boğaziçi University
- 2017-2018 Noam Chomsky Fellowship, MIT Linguistics

## Projects

- 2021-  
current European Research Council (ERC) Project: "Realizing Leibniz's Dream: Child Languages as a Mirror of the Mind"  
Role: Local Collaborator for Laz  
PIs: Artemis Alexiadou (HU), Maria Teresa Guasti (UniMiB), Uli Sauerland (ZAS)
- 2018 MIT International Science and Technology (MISTI) Project: "Quexistentials"  
Role: Fieldwork on Kazan and Mishar Tatar  
PIs: Sabine Iatridou (MIT) & Floris Roelofsen (University of Amsterdam)
- 2010-2013 Boğaziçi University Scientific Research (BAP) Project: "Consonant-Vowel Interactions in Turkish, Laz, and Armenian"  
Role: Research Assistant, Fieldwork on Turkish and Laz varieties in Rize  
PI: Markus Pöchtrager (Boğaziçi University)

## Publications

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2022 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “[Agreeing complementizers may just be moody](#)”, In *Discourse particles: syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and historical aspects*, eds. Xabier Artiagoitia, Arantzazu Elordieta, Sergio Monforte, Linguistik Aktuelle Series, John Benjamins. DOI: 10.1075/la.276.04dem
- 2021 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “[Correlatives in languages of the Caucasus](#)”, In *Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus*, ed. Maria Polinsky. Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190690694.013.21
- 2011 **Ömer Demirok**. “The Verb”, In *Pazar Laz, LINCOS-Languages of the World/Materials 484*, Balkız Öztürk & Markus Pöchtrager (eds.), 42–73.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- in press **Ömer Demirok**. “[On the emergence of inflection classes](#)”. *Dilbilim Araştırmaları Dergisi [Journal of Linguistics Research]*. (Index: Scopus, Q3)
- 2022 Furkan Dikmen, **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “[How can a language have double passives but lack antipassives](#)”, *Glossa* 7(1). DOI: 10.16995/glossa.6553 (Index: SSCI, Q1)
- 2021 **Ömer Demirok**. “[Non-linear Blocking Effects on Suppletive Allomorphy](#)”, *Dilbilim Araştırmaları Dergisi [Journal of Linguistics Research]*, 32 (2) , 83-109. DOI: 10.18492/dad.804477 (Index: Scopus, Q3)
- 2021 **Ömer Demirok**. “[When can a prefix block a root portmanteau?](#)”, *Rivista di Grammatica Generativa (Research in Generative Grammar) [RGG]* 2021.2 (Volume 43).
- 2015 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “[The Logophoric Complementizer in Laz](#)”, *Dilbilim Araştırmaları Dergisi [Journal of Linguistics Research]* 2/2015: 45–69. (Index: MLA)
- 2014 **Ömer Demirok** “[The status of roots in event composition: Laz](#)”, *Lingue e linguaggio* 1/2014: 83–102. DOI: 10.1418/77001 (Index: Scopus, Q2)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2022 **Ömer Demirok**. “[Intervention effects follow from scope rigidity in Turkish](#)”, In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31* [SALT 31]. DOI: 10.3765/salt.v31i0.5079
- 2022 Furkan Dikmen and **Ömer Demirok**. “[Modifying result states in Turkish](#)”, In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31* [SALT 31]. DOI: 10.3765/salt.v31i0.5076
- 2021 Utku Türk and **Ömer Demirok**. “[Hypothetical Comparison in Turkish](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic* [Tu+6]. DOI: 10.3765/ptu.v6i1.5054
- 2019 **Ömer Demirok**, Deniz Özyıldız and Balkız Öztürk. “[Complementizers with attitude](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* [NELS49], ed. Maggie Baird and Jonathan Pesetsky.
- 2019 **Ömer Demirok** and Despina Oikonomou. “[Difficult Imperatives in Turkish](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 14th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics* [WAFL14], ed. Tanya Bondarenko et al., 49-56, MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2019 **Ömer Demirok**. “[A Semantic Characterization of Turkish Nominalizations](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 36th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* [WCCFL36], ed. Richard Stockwell et al., 132-142.
- 2018 **Ömer Demirok**. “[A Modal Approach to Dative Subjects in Laz](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* [NELS48], ed. Sherry Hucklebridge and Max Nelson, Vol 1: 193-206.
- 2017 **Ömer Demirok**. “[Free Relatives and Correlatives in Wh-in-situ](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* [NELS47], ed. Andrew Lamont and Katerina Tetzloff, Vol.1: 271-284.
- 2017 **Ömer Demirok**. “[A Compositional Semantics for Turkish Correlatives](#)”, In *Proceedings of the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* [WCCFL34], ed. Aaron Kaplan et al., 159-166 & In *Proceedings of the 12th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics* [WAFL12], ed. Leyla Zidani-Eroğlu et al., MIT Working Papers in Linguistics

## Accepted publications

- accepted Furkan Dikmen and **Ömer Demirok**. “Compounding with a Polymorphic Deverbalizer in Turkish”, In *Roczniki Humanistyczne / Annals of Arts*. (Index: Scopus, E-SCI)
- accepted **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “On the significance of Laz for theoretical research in linguistics”, In *Lazuri: An Endangered Language of the Black Sea*, ed. Züleyha Ünlü. Vernon Press.
- accepted Ümit Atlamaz and **Ömer Demirok**. “Coordination”, “Right Node Raising/Suspended Affixation”, & “Gapping–Sluicing”. In *Encyclopedia of Turkic Languages and Linguistics*, eds. Lars Johanson, Éva Á. Csató Johanson, Laszlo Karoly & Astrid Menz (eds.) (section eds: Jaklin Kornfilt and A. Sumru Özsoy). Brill.
- accepted w/ revisions **Ömer Demirok**. “Two semantic paths to unintentional causation”, In *Current Research in the Semantics Pragmatics Interface (CRiSPI)*, eds. Julie Goncharov & Hedde Zeijlstra. Brill.

## Manuscripts under review-revision

- minor revisions Deniz Özyıldız and **Ömer Demirok**. “On the prosodic exponence of universal quantification in Turkish relative clauses”. Submitted to *Languages*, (2nd round).
- minor revisions Muhammed İleri and **Ömer Demirok**. “A Paradigm Gap in Turkish”. In *Proceedings of the 7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*.
- under review Ümit Atlamaz, **Ömer Demirok** and Metin Bağrıaçık. “Heritage Grammars as Checkpoints in Acquisition: Split Ergativity in Heritage Kurmanji”. Submitted to *Glossa*, (2nd round).
- under review **Ömer Demirok**, Reyhan Okumuş and Balkız Öztürk. “Thematic suffixes in Şavşat Georgian encode inner and outer aspect”. Submitted to *Glossa*, (2nd round).
- under review **Ömer Demirok** and Yağmur Sağ. “Are there aspectless tensed clauses in Turkish?”. Submitted to *Languages*, (2nd round).
- under review **Ömer Demirok**. “What does the near-absence of wh-free relatives in wh-in-situ languages tell us?”. Submitted to *Acta Linguistica Academica* (1st round).
- under review Furkan Dikmen, **Ömer Demirok** and Ümit Atlamaz. “Revisiting Agent Pseudo-Incorporation in Turkish: A Dependent Case Theoretic Perspective”. Submitted to *The Linguistic Review* (1st round).

## Academic Presentations

### ABSTRACT PEER-REVIEWED

- upcoming Yağmur Sağ and **Ömer Demirok**. “Getting even without “even” in Turkish”, 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society [NELS 53], University of Göttingen, Jan 12-14.
- 2022 Ümit Atlamaz and **Ömer Demirok**. “Revisiting Ergative Case in Laz”, Theoretical Linguistics and Languages of the Caucasus [TLLC]. İstanbul Bilgi University, June 18-19.
- 2022 Muhammed İleri and **Ömer Demirok**. “A Paradigm Gap in Turkish”, 7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic [Tu+7]. U. of Connecticut, Feb 18-19.
- 2021 Ümit Atlamaz, **Ömer Demirok** and Metin Bağrıaçık. “From Split-Ergativity Towards Accusativity in Heritage Kurmanji and Georgian”, Heritage Language Syntax 2 [HLS2]. Utrecht University, Dec 15-17.
- 2021 Furkan Dikmen and **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “Compounding with a polymorphic deverbalizer in Turkish”, 9th Workshop on Nominalizations (JENom), Brown University, June 17-18.
- 2021 **Ömer Demirok**. “Intervention Effects directly follow from Scope Rigidity in Turkish”, Semantics and Linguistics Theory [SALT31], Brown University, May 7-9. & 6th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic [Tu+6], U. of Toronto, Feb 19-20
- 2021 Furkan Dikmen and **Ömer Demirok**. “Modifying result states in Turkish”, Semantics and Linguistics Theory [SALT31], Brown University, May 7-9.
- 2021 Reyhan Okumuş, **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “Thematic suffixes in Şavşat Georgian”, Theme Vowels and V(P) Structure and Beyond [ThV2021], U. of Graz, April 22-23.
- 2021 Utku Türk and **Ömer Demirok**. “Hypothetical Comparison in Turkish”, 6th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic [Tu+6], University of Toronto, Feb 19-20 & Penn Linguistics Conference 45 [PLC45], UPenn, March 19-21.
- 2021 **Ömer Demirok**. “Modal vs. non-modal un-agentive constructions in Laz”, Agency and Intentions in Language [AIL1], University of Göttingen, Jan 13-15.
- 2020 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “Attitude Sensitive Complementizers in Laz”, International Workshop on Discourse Particles [InDisPart], U. of the Basque Country, Oct 8.
- 2020 **Ömer Demirok**, Reyhan Okumuş and Balkız Öztürk. “On the temporal decomposition of bivalent events”, Events and Event Structure at the Limits of Grammar [EESLiG2020], University of Oxford, Sept 15-16.

- 2020 **Ömer Demirok**. “A pied-piping theory of exceptional de re: Scoping after all”, 43rd Generative Linguistics in the Old World [GLOW43], Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Apr 8-20
- 2019 **Ömer Demirok**. “Ergative as a default case: Evidence from a Georgian dialect”, 4th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic [Tu+4], NYU, Feb 16-17.
- 2018 **Ömer Demirok** and Despina Oikonomou “Difficult Imperatives in Turkish”, 14th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics [WAFL14], MIT, Oct 19–21. [poster]
- 2018 **Ömer Demirok**, Deniz Özyıldız and Balkız Öztürk. “Complementizers in Laz are attitude sensitive”, 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society [NELS49], Cornell University, Oct 5-7 [poster]
- 2018 **Ömer Demirok**. “Events are Entities: Evidence from Turkish Nominalizations”, 36th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics [WCCFL36], UCLA, Apr 20-22.
- 2017 **Ömer Demirok**. “A Modal Approach to Dative Subjects in Laz”, 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society [NELS48], University of Iceland, Oct 27-29.
- 2016 **Ömer Demirok**. “Free Relatives and Correlatives in Wh-in-situ”, 47th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society [NELS47], UMass Amherst, Oct 14-16.
- 2016 **Ömer Demirok**. “A Compositional Semantics for Turkish Correlatives”, 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics [WCCFL34], University of Utah, Apr 29 - May 1. [poster] & 39th Generative Linguistics in the Old World [GLOW39], Universität Göttingen, Apr 5-8 [poster] & 12th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics [WAFL12], Central Connecticut State University, May 13-15 [talk].
- 2015 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “The Logophoric Complementizer in Laz”, Societas Linguistica Europaea Annual Meeting [SLE2015], Leiden University, Sept 2-5.
- 2015 **Ömer Demirok** and Ömer Eren. “When Case is not Case: Evidence from Laz”, Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages: Theory and Description, Boğaziçi University, Jul 28-30.
- 2015 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “Agreeing Complementizers and Logophoricity in Laz”, Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages: Theory and Description, Boğaziçi University, Jul 28-30.
- 2014 **Ömer Demirok**. “On the Search Space of AGREE”, Linguistics and Language Conference, Istanbul, June 16-18.
- 2014 **Ömer Demirok**. “An Empirical Critique of Cyclic Agree”, The 22nd Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistic in Europe [ConSOLEXXII], University of Lisbon, Jan 8-10.

- 2013 **Ömer Demirok**. “Revisiting Georgian Obstruent Clusters”, 10th Old World Conference on Phonology [OCP10], Boğaziçi University, Jan 16-19.
- 2012 **Ömer Demirok**. “The Diachrony of Case Marking in Georgian: Ergativity and Specificity”, Typology, Theory: Caucasus, Boğaziçi University, Nov 29-Dec 1.
- 2012 **Ömer Demirok**. “Status of Roots and Nanosyntactic Event Composition: Laz”, Workshop on the Representation and the Selection of Exponents, CASTL, Tromsø, Jun 7-8.
- 2011 **Ömer Demirok**, Balkız Öztürk and Aslı Göksel. “Implications of case and agreement patterns in three Caucasian dialects spoken in Turkey: Pazar Laz, Ardeshani Laz and Inegol (Adjarian) Georgian”, Conference on Caucasian languages, MPI, Leipzig, May 13-15.
- INVITED
- 2022 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “Relativization Strategies in Laz”, SynSem Seminar, CNRS, June 27.
- 2022 **Ömer Demirok** and Balkız Öztürk. “The Emergence of Clausal Nominalizations in Laz”, Formal Approaches to Contact in/with Turkish [FACT]. University of Tromsø, May 19-20.
- 2022 **Ömer Demirok** “A Dependent Case Theoretic Account of Alignment Shifts in Heritage Grammars” [video link], İDÇ Dilbilim Buluşmaları #37. Jan 7. (joint work with Ümit Atamaz and Metin Bağrıaçık)
- 2020 **Ömer Demirok**. “Non-linear blocking of portmanteaus: a case study on Laz”, Nanolab, June 12
- 2019 **Ömer Demirok**. “Does the cross-linguistic distribution of wh-free relatives justify a semantic typology?” Boğaziçi University, Nov 11
- 2017 **Ömer Demirok**. “On Complex DPs in Turkish: Lessons for Inverse Linking and Scope Rigidity”, SuSurrus at UMass Amherst, Nov 10
- 2011 **Ömer Demirok**. “The Hierarchical Nature of Inter-Onset Relations”, Government Phonology Round Table 8, Vienna University, May 6-8



## Employment & Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

2022  
Fall  
*LING 101 Introduction to Language and Linguistics I*  
*LING 412 Research and Writing*  
*LING 541 Syntactic Theory [MA]*  
*LING 571 Readings in Linguistics I [MA ]*  
*LING 579 Graduate Seminar [MA]*  
*LING 690 Master Thesis [MA]*  
*LING 790 PhD Thesis [PhD]*

2022  
Spring  
*LING 314 Syntax and Semantics of Modern Turkish*  
*LING 412 Research and Writing*  
*LING 512 Morphological Analysis [MA]*  
*LING 570 Guided Studies [MA]*  
*LING 690 Master Thesis [MA]*

2021  
Fall  
*LING 101 Introduction to Language and Linguistics I*  
*LING 412 Research and Writing*  
*LING 504 Semantics [MA]*  
*LING 570 Guided Studies [MA]*  
*LING 572 Readings in Linguistics II [MA]*  
*LING 671 Readings in Linguistics I [PhD]*  
*LING 681 Sp.Top. in Question Semantics [PhD]*  
*LING 690 Master Thesis [MA]*

2021  
Spring  
*LING 340 Advanced Syntax*  
*LING 512 Morphological Analysis [MA]*  
*LING 572 Readings in Linguistics II [MA]*  
*LING 612 Morphological Theory [PhD]*  
*LING 690 Master Thesis [MA]*

2020  
Fall  
*LING 101.02 Introduction to Language and Linguistics I*  
*LING 542 Syntactic Theory [MA]*  
*LING 570 Guided Studies [MA]*  
*LING 571 Readings in Linguistics I [MA]*  
*LING 690 Master Thesis [MA]*

2020  
Spring  
*LING 101.01 Introduction to Language and Linguistics I*  
*LING 512 Morphological Analysis [MA]*

TEACHING ASSISTANT, DEPT OF LINGUISTICS, MIT

2016-7  
Spring  
*24.900 Introduction to Linguistics [undergraduate]*  
Instructor: Norvin Richards

TEACHING ASSISTANT, THE CRETE SUMMER SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS

2017-8  
Summer Teaching Assistant to *Fractures at the Syntax-Semantics Interface* [graduate]  
Instructor: Winfried Lechner

Teaching Assistant to *Introduction to Syntax* [undergraduate]  
Instructor: Sabine Iatridou

INSTRUCTOR, TURKISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM, BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

Summer  
2021-22 *Upper-Intermediate Turkish - Grammar*

Summer  
2016 *Upper-Intermediate Turkish - Grammar*

*Upper-Intermediate Turkish - Writing*

Summer  
2015 *Upper-Intermediate Turkish - Grammar*

TEACHING ASSISTANT, WESTERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

2014-2011 *LING 321: English Turkish Contrastive Analysis* × 1  
*LING 302: Syntax and Morphology* × 2  
*LING 300: Morphology* × 2  
*TK 204: Structure of Modern Turkish* × 2  
*ENGL 201: Structure of Modern English* × 3  
*LING 111: Introduction to Language and Linguistics* × 5

## Professional Service

REVIEWING FOR JOURNALS, BOOK CHAPTERS, & PROCEEDINGS

2022 Languages  
Natural Language and Linguistic Theory x 2  
Dil Dergisi  
34. Ulusal Dilbilim Kurultayı  
20th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics (Proceedings of ICTL2020)

2021 Journal of Semantics,  
Natural Language and Linguistic Theory  
The Proceedings of Tu+6  
Book chapter for *John Benjamins*

2020 Journal of Semantics  
Linguistic Inquiry  
The Linguistic Review  
Turkic Languages  
Linguistic Typology

Dilbilim Arařtırmaları Dergisi × 2  
The Proceedings of Tu+5

2019  
and before The Proceedings of Tu+4  
Language and Linguistics  
Linguistic Inquiry  
STUF - Language Typology and Universals

#### REVIEWING FOR CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS

2022	Sinn und Bedeutung 27	(SuB27)
	The 45th Generative Linguistics in the Old World	(GLOW45)
	The 7th workshop on Turkic and languages in contact with Turkic	(Tu+7)
	Going Romance 2022	(GR2022)
	The 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society	(NELS53)
2021	The 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society	(NELS52)
	The 44th Generative Linguistics in the Old World	(GLOW44)
2020	The 51st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society	(NELS51)
	The 6th workshop on Turkic and languages in contact with Turkic	(Tu+6)
2019	The 43rd Generative Linguistics in the Old World	(GLOW43)
	The 5th workshop on Turkic and languages in contact with Turkic	(Tu+5)
	The 50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society	(NELS50)

## Fieldwork Experience

2010-  
2018 Pazar (Atina) Laz  
Kazan and Mishar Tatar  
2011-2013 Varieties of heritage Georgian spoken in İnegol and Ünye

## Organization

June, 2022 Co-organizer of *Theoretical Linguistics and Languages of the Caucasus and Endangered Languages Colloquium* at İstanbul Bilgi University  
Fall 2022 Co-organizer for *Syntactic Theory at Boğaziçi University* [ST@BU]  
2017-2018 MIT Ling-Lunch Co-organizer, MIT Linguistics

## Languages

Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (fair reading), Laz, Georgian, Tatar (elicitation).

Last updated: December 7, 2022