FOREWORD

Since February 2014, The Department of Linguistics of the University of Geneva, together with the Department of Social, Political and Cognitive sciences of the University of Siena, has hosted the project “Syntactic Cartography and Locality in Adult Grammar and in Language Acquisition” (https://www.unige.ch/syncart), funded by the European Research Council Advanced Grant n. 340297.

The present volume contains a selection of the papers presented by junior researchers at the 1st SynCart Workshop (https://www.unige.ch/1st-syncart-workshop) that took place on July 2016 in the Tuscan cities of Chiusi, Siena, Pienza and Montepulciano. The workshop, titled “Syntactic Cartography and Locality: from Maps to Principles”, aimed to collect the state of the art of the cartography of the syntactic structures.

In particular, the workshop focused on the role of the cartography of the syntactic structures at the interfaces with the systems of sound and meaning. International experts, professors and senior researchers in syntax, semantics and phonology presented their recent research related to the fine-grained maps that syntactic configurations provide. The interdisciplinary dialogue produced very interesting discussions and it generated new research questions. A special session in the workshop was dedicated to junior researchers, whose papers are collected in this volume.

The volume opens with Giuseppe Samo’s paper, discussing the drawbacks of recent analyses of V2 and developing an analysis of subject-initial clauses in V2 languages based on a criterial approach to V2 and on the guidelines of the Cartography of Syntactic Structures (Cinque & Rizzi 2010, Rizzi & Cinque 2016). The author provides evidence from Swiss Romansh varieties and Icelandic supporting his proposal. Samo defended his doctoral dissertation ‘A criterial approach to the cartography of V2’ at the University of Geneva in 2018 and he is currently lecturer of Linguistics at the Beijing Language and Culture University and committee member of the International Association of Syntactic Cartography based in Macau.

The paper by Caterina Bonan argues that in Trevigiano, a Romance dialect of the Venetan area, ‘insituness’ is actually an instance of wh-movement targeting a TP-internal focal position. The paper discusses matrix and embedded questions, concluding that ‘insituness’ in Trevigiano is incompatible with remnant-IP movement à la Poletto and Pollock (2015 and previous related works) and calling for a different analysis. Bonan is concluding her PhD at the University of Geneva, with a dissertation on the syntax of ‘optional insituness’ in Northern Italian Dialects.

Lucas Tual’s paper deals with the apparent optionality of French wh-in-situ. Using data from a corpus of spontaneous spoken French, the author tested Cheng & Rooryck (2000)’s hypothesis on French in-situ wh-elements, according to which in situ wh-elements in French would be licensed by a special Q-morpheme that is realized at PF with a final rising intonation. The results the author presents do not confirm C & R’s analysis, contra previous work by
Déprez, Syrett & Kawahara (2012, 2013). Tual is a doctoral student at the University of Geneva, writing a dissertation on syntactic, semantic and prosodic aspects of French interrogatives.

Daniele Botteri’s paper investigates some aspects of the syntax of interrogatives in modern Fiorentino. A special type of question introduced by the interrogative pronoun *icché* (*Icché è venuto, Gianni?*, lit. ‘What came, John?’) is deeply investigated in the article and analysed, based on several tests (complementiser omission, clitic resumption, island sensitivity), as split question. Non-canonical questions introduced by the particle *o* are also discussed and analysed as biased questions. Botteri defended his doctoral dissertation on the formal properties of interrogative clauses in standard Italian at the University of Siena in 2018.

The paper authored by Valentina Colasanti shows that the upper southern Italian dialect of Ferentino (Southern Lazio) presents a triple complementiser system, adding new evidence to the usual dual complementiser systems of upper southern Italian dialects. Some questions and speculations on the nature of complementisers, modality and its encoding within the left periphery of the sentence are raised in the paper. Specifically, it is shown how specific kinds of modality are encoded in specific functional heads within the split-CP. Colasanti is currently post-doc at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

The paper by Jamie Douglas presents a systematic study of adverbial and argument fronting possibilities in different types of finite and infinitival English relative clauses and argues that different types of (English) relative clause vary in structural size, i.e. in the amount of syntactic structure in their C-domain. A categorial distinctness effect between the fronted argument and the relative pronoun or operator emerges on argument fronting, which is, the author argues, one manifestation of the more general categorial distinctness effect holding between topics and foci in the (English) C-domain. Douglas defended his doctoral dissertation on the syntactic structures of restrictive relativisation in English at the University of Cambridge in 2016 and he is now a research associate on the ReCoS project in the same department.

Anna Hollingsworth’s paper presents preliminary Finnish data suggesting that the Strong Modularity Hypothesis for Discourse Features proposed by Horvath (2010), according to which no purely discourse-related notions can be encoded as formal features being only available outside the narrow syntax, does not hold for Finnish and that there is significant variation in the ways discourse-related notions are realized cross-linguistically. Hollingsworth is a Phd student at the University of Cambridge working on discourse-configurationality in Finnish and Japanese and on its repercussions on the minimalist architecture of syntax.

Building on the data gathered by Belletti & Contemori (2010) and Contemori & Belletti (2014) on the elicited production of relative clauses in Italian-speaking children, the paper by Karen Martini, Adriana Belletti, Carla Contemori and Luigi Rizzi proposes a new way of highlighting the problematic nature of headed object relatives with an intervening lexical subject in production. The authors also argue that the emergence of the same pattern of difficulties in both the comprehension and the production of relative clauses can be captured by a grammar-based approach like featural Relativized Minimality. Martini is currently writing her Phd dissertation on aspects of the acquisition of syntactic locality at the University of
Geneva. Belletti is professor at the University of Geneva and at the University of Siena. Contemori is assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. Rizzi is professor at the University of Geneva and at the University of Siena.

Silvia D’Ortenzio’s paper aims to investigate the production of subject and object relative clauses in Italian-speaking cochlear-implanted children and adolescents and to show the benefit of a treatment approach based on the explicit teaching of verb argument structure, theta criterion and syntactic movement, following Levy & Friedmann (2009)’s previous work on a child with Specific Language Impairment. D’Ortenzio is concluding her Phd at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.

The paper authored by Emilio Servidio presents a concise picture of the typology of answering systems and surveys the major theoretical approaches to this topic. It critically discusses predictions, as well as potential advantages and shortcomings, of syntactic and semantic approaches to answering particles. It also devotes attention to recent experimental research leading to refine and revise the assumptions of the previous literature. Servidio completed his Phd at the University of Siena in 2014, with the dissertation ‘Polarity particles in Italian: Emphasis, fragments, tags’.

Franziska Stuntebeck’s paper describes in detail the annotation schemes used in order to identify types and distribution of argument omission in a multilingual corpus of WhatsApp messages, giving insight into the reasoning behind the various decisions taken throughout the process. Stuntebeck is a PhD student at the University of Zurich, working on argument drop in WhatsApp messages.

The selection of papers presented above is the result of a single blind peer review process, in which all the contributors to the volume served as reviewers. We are truly grateful to each of them for their invaluable work as authors and reviewers. We are also extremely thankful to all the people and institutions who made the 1st Syncart Workshop possible, in particular the European Research Council Advanced Grant n. 340297, the municipalities of Chiusi, Pienza and Montepulciano, the University of Siena. Special thanks go to the Department of Linguistics of the University of Geneva for hosting these papers.

Giuseppe Samo, Karen Martini and Giuliano Bocci