

Call for Papers

Complex prepositions in French

Theories, descriptions, applications

29 September – 2 October 2021
University Toulouse Jean Jaurès, Toulouse, France

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline	March 21 February 28 , 2021
Notification of acceptance	May 10–15, 2021
Registration	May 24–June 25, 2021
Conference	September 29–October 2, 2021
Paper for publication submission deadline	January 20, 2022

Invited speakers

Ludo Melis

(KU Leuven, Belgium)

Walter De Mulder

(University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Benjamin Fagard

(LATTICE, Paris, France)

Organizers

Dejan Stosic, Myriam Bras,

Chiara Minoccheri, Océane Abrard
(Toulouse, France)

Sasa Marjanovic, Veran Stanojevic
(Belgrade, Serbia)

The international conference *Complex prepositions in French: Theories, descriptions, applications* will explore multi-word expressions that are half-way between the lexicon and grammar such as *à travers* 'through', *au bord de* 'on the edge of', *en dépit de* 'in spite of', *par rapport à* 'with respect to', *à l'instar de* 'like', *en ce qui concerne* 'concerning', etc.

It follows on from two major conferences that have marked the research on (simple and complex) prepositions in French: the Conference *PREP AN'2000. La préposition française dans tous ses états*, organized by L. Kupferman, E. Katz, and M. Asnès, at the University of Tel Aviv (Israel), in September 2000, and the Conference *Autour de la préposition* organized by J. François, É. Gilbert, C. Guimier, and M. Krause, at the University of Caen Basse-Normandie (France), in September 2007. However, while extensive research on prepositions in French has continued to be done (see, among others, Melis 2003, Hoffmann 2005, Leeman (Ed.) 2007, Franckel & Paillard 2007, Kurzon & Adler (Eds) 2008, De Mulder & Stosic (Eds) 2009, Fagard 2010, Vigier (Ed.) 2013, Aurnague & Col (Eds) 2017, Blumenthal & Vigier (Eds) 2017), no major conference has been devoted to this topic since 2007.

This conference aims to fill this gap, and especially, it will be the first to be exclusively dedicated to *complex* prepositions in French, while strongly encouraging insights from cross-linguistic studies. Originating in an international research project on the more general category of complex adpositions in European Languages (cf. Fagard, Pinto de Lima & Stosic (Eds) 2019, Fagard, Pinto de Lima, Stosic & Smirnova (Eds) 2020)*, the conference is intended both to provide an update on the topic and to open up new perspectives in the analysis of complex prepositions in French, and more broadly, on the theoretical level, in the description of this recalcitrant word sub-class.

* The conference will also mark the end of a bilateral project between the University Toulouse Jean Jaurès (UT2J) (France) and the Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade (Serbia) supported by the Partenariat Hubert Curien 2020-2021 of Campus France, entitled *PREDICT: Petit dictionnaire raisonné des prépositions : français-serbe* [Short explanatory dictionary of prepositions: French-Serbian], directed by D. Stosic (UT2J, CLLE), V. Stanojevic, and S. Marjanovic (Univ. of Belgrade).

Complex prepositions: An old question in French linguistics

Complex prepositions are usually considered as distributional equivalents of simple prepositions (e.g. *à* 'to', *de* 'of', *sur* 'on, onto', *dans* 'in, into', *par* 'by'), which are defined as invariable words functioning as *relators*. These basically relational expressions establish a grammatical and semantic relationship between two other elements, one of which is a governing word while the other is a governed expression, commonly called "complement" (see the functional equivalence between *se perdre dans la forêt* 'to be lost in the forest' vs *se perdre au sein de / au fin fond de la forêt* 'to be lost within / in the darkest depths of the forest') (cf. Pottier 1962, Melis 2003). Despite extensive research on the topic, prepositions are still considered as a word class with fuzzy boundaries, which is due to a range of factors: their morphological and structural diversity, a wide variety of syntactic behaviors, a wealth of both grammatical and lexical meanings, a wide spectrum of evolution paths, polysemy and category membership ambiguity of many class members. Furthermore, even though several attempts have been made to index both simple and complex prepositions in French (cf. Delaunoy 1967, Gaatone 1976, Borillo 1991, 1997, 2000, Melis 2003, Gross 1981, 2006, Le Pesant 2006, Leeman (éd.) 2007, Fagard, Stosic & Mardale 2016), they have not led to a complete list, and the inventories resulting from these surveys have not been made available and shared with the scientific community. Difficulties of indexing, related to various theoretical and methodological problems (cf. Melis 2003, Adler 2001), are particularly pronounced in the case of complex prepositions, whose number is estimated at several hundred (cf. Borillo 1997, Stosic & Fagard 2019, Stosic in preparation).

General scope of the conference

The purpose of the conference is twofold: Firstly, it aims to promote recent advances and to stimulate new research in the area of complex prepositions, whatever the approach, by enabling rich interactions between experts. Secondly, the conference aims to arouse interest and to create a relevant dynamics within several applicative domains (Lexicography, Natural Language Processing, Human and automatic translation, Teaching French as a first, second or foreign language). Insights from such domains are expected to have significant impact both on the theoretical description of complex prepositions in linguistics, and on the exploitation and the dissemination of the outcomes of fundamental research among different audiences. The conference is thus meant to be an opportunity for exchange and debate on complex prepositions between scholars from different disciplines in language sciences and various socio-economic actors dealing with the processing of linguistic data, be they monolingual or multilingual.

**Languages of the
conference**
French & English

**Two forms of
communication**
Oral presentations &
Posters

Communications can consist of case studies, deal with a sub-group of complex prepositions, or have a more general descriptive or theoretical scope. Studies can explore written or spoken data, coming either from general language use, or from specialized languages, or be based on any other kind of specific data providing new and original insights into the functioning of complex prepositions in French.

Main topics

Given the general scope of the conference as sketched above, communications can cover, but are not limited to, the following topics, with possible cross-linguistic perspectives comparing the system of complex prepositions in French with systems of complex adpositions in other languages:

- 1) **Definitional issues** about which multi-word expressions do and do not belong to the sub-class of complex prepositions. Renewal of methods and approaches, with the ultimate objective of answering the question where the boundaries of the complex adposition category should be drawn. In this respect, all theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome for establishing a reliable set of criteria to build the inventory of complex prepositions in French (cf. Gaatone 1976, Borillo 1997, 2000, Adler 2001, 2008, Melis 2003, Leeman 2007, Lauwers 2014, Stosic & Fagard 2019).
- 2) **Syntax and morphology of complex prepositions** in French, with a special focus on the alleged distributional equivalence between simple and complex prepositions.
- 3) **Range of meanings expressed by complex prepositions** in French (cf. Gross 2006), or in comparison with other languages (European, non-European, regional, Creoles, etc.); Polysemy of complex prepositions and modeling of their senses; Re-examination of the opposition between functional and lexical prepositions through the prism of complex prepositions (cf. Mardale 2009, Fagard & Mardale 2019); Discursive role of PPs introduced by complex prepositions (cf. Porhiel 2005a, b, Stosic 2012a).
- 4) **Emergence, formation and evolution of complex prepositions** in French (cf. Fagard 2010, 2012, Blumenthal & Vigier (Eds) 2017, Fagard *et al.* 2020); Grammaticalization, lexicalization, constructionalization (cf. Hoffmann 2005, Fagard & De Mulder 2007, Lehmann 2019, Fagard *et al.* (Eds) 2020).
- 5) **Complex prepositions / adpositions across languages**: What similarities or differences, or what complex adpositions of other languages, in contact with French or not, can tell us about complex prepositions in French, either in synchrony or in diachrony?
- 6) **Complex prepositions as a very specific kind of multi-word expressions**. Are the criteria and methods of identification of verbal or nominal multi-word expressions, either traditional or recent ones, suitable for and transposable to complex prepositions (cf. Lamiroy 2008, Lamiroy & Klein 2005, Ramisch 2012, 2015, Constant *et al.* 2017, Ramisch *et al.* 2018, Savary 2019, Savary *et al.* 2019)?
- 7) **Neuro-psychological issues**. Acquisition of complex prepositions in general, and compared to the acquisition of simple prepositions, by normal subjects, or by subjects with developmental pathologies; Primacy of certain conceptual domains during the acquisition of complex prepositions; Longitudinal studies dealing with various monolingual or bilingual populations.
- 8) **NLP issues**. Complex prepositions, one of the Achilles heels of NLP? How can big language data corpora and new NLP approaches contribute to improving and consolidating inventories of complex prepositions? What are the most suitable NLP tools and methods for indexing them? (cf. Litkowski 2017a, b); Complex prepositions as a challenge for automatic translation.
- 9) **Lexicographical description of complex prepositions** in monolingual and bilingual dictionaries (cf. Heinz 1993, Ucherek 2019); Benefits of corpus-based lexicography for the elaboration of dictionary entries for complex prepositions (cf. Roberts & Montgomery 1996, Teubert 2002, Lindemann 2013, Zavaglia & Galafacci 2014, Litkowski 2017a, Marjanovic *et al.* 2018).
- 10) **From theory to application**. Complex prepositions in teaching French as a first, second or foreign language (e.g. exploration of learner corpora or academic writing, etc.); Complex prepositions in translation, translation studies, and in any other area of application involving the processing of language data, in one way or another.

Submission details

The official languages of the conference are French and English.

Two forms of communication are possible: oral presentation or poster.

For both oral presentations (20 min + 10 min for questions) and posters, we invite submissions of extended abstracts of 6,000–9,000 characters (including spaces; Times New Roman 12; excluding references). Proposals, in French or English, should be anonymous, and submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.docx), Open Office (.odt), or PDF.

All abstracts will be reviewed anonymously by (at least) two reviewers.

Abstracts should be sent to the following address: colloque.prepcomp2021@univ-tlse2.fr

In the subject line of the message, please write: 'Abstract'.

In the body of the email, please include:

- title of the abstract,
- intended format of communication (oral presentation or poster),
- author name(s),
- academic affiliation(s),
- contact information (e-mail and postal address(es)),
- academic status (professor, researcher, PhD student...)

PhD students and young scholars are strongly encouraged to submit proposals for the conference. A selection of papers will be published in a collective volume.

Scientific committee

Silvia Adler (Bar-Ilan, Il)

Dany Amiot (Lille, Fr)

Michel Aurnague (Toulouse, Fr)

Antonio Balvet (Lille, Fr)

Marie-José Béguelin (Neuchâtel, Ch)

Peter Blumenthal (Köln, De)

Andrée Borillo (Toulouse, Fr)

Paul Cappeau (Poitiers, Fr)

Injoo Choi-Jonin (Toulouse, Fr)

Mathieu Constant (Nancy, Fr)

Pierre Corbin (Lille, Fr)

Denis Creissels (Lyon, Fr)

Walter De Mulder (Antwerp, Be)

Henriette de Swart (Utrecht, Nl)

Sascha Diwersy (Montpellier, Fr)

Benjamin Fagard (Paris, Fr)

Nathalie Gasiglia (Lille, Fr)

Claude Guimier (Caen, Fr)

Gerd Jendraschek (Gyeongang, Kr)

Béatrice Lamiroy (Leuven, Be)

Peter Lauwers (Ghent, Be)

Anne Le Draoulec (Toulouse, Fr)

Alexandru Mardale (Paris, Fr)

Ludo Melis (Leuven, Be)

Aleksandra Miletic (Toulouse, Fr)

Aliyah Morgenstern (Paris, Fr)

José Pinto de Lima (Lisbon, Pt)

Thierry Poibeau (Paris, Fr)

Carlos Ramisch (Marseille, Fr)

Frédéric Sabio (Marseille, Fr)

Laure Sarda (Paris, Fr)

Agata Savary (Tour, Fr)

Catherine Schnedecker (Strasbourg, Fr)

Elena Smirnova (Neuchâtel, Ch)

Witold Ucherek (Wroclaw, Pl)

Denis Vigier (Lyon, Fr)

Social program

A rich social program is being prepared for the conference participants, including a visit of the Salle des Illustres (Hall of the Illustrious) of the Capitole, the City hall of Toulouse, a musical event, and a sightseeing tour of the city and/or of another site in the Occitanie region.

Contact

colloque.prepcomp2021@univ-tlse2.fr

Conference webpage

<https://blogs.univ-tlse2.fr/prepcomp2021/>

References

- Adler, S. (2001), Les locutions prépositives : questions de méthodologie et de définition. *Travaux de linguistique*, 42-43,1, 157-170.
- Adler, S. (2007), Locutions prépositives temporelles et modes d'anaphorisation. In D. Trotter (Ed.), *Actes du XXIVe Congrès International de linguistique et Philologies Romanes*. Niemeyer, Tübingen, 495-508.
- Adler, S. (2008), French compound prepositions, prepositional locutions and prepositional phrases in the scope of the absolute use. In D. Kurzon & S. Adler (eds.), *Adpositions: Pragmatic, semantic and syntactic perspectives*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia, John Benjamins, 17-35.
- Aurnague, M. (2015), Motion verbs and spatial PPs in French: from spatio-temporal structure to asymmetry and goal bias, *Carnets de Grammaire*, n°23, Rapports CLLE-ERSS.
- Aurnague, M. & Col, G. (Eds) (2017), *The genesis and dynamics of spatial adpositions: Claude Vandeloise's last written works*. CORELA - COgnition, REprésentation, LAngage, (HS-23).
- Aurnague, M. & Vieu, L. (2013), Retour aux arguments : pour un traitement "relationnel" des prépositions spatiales. *Faits de langues*, 42, 17-38.
- Aurnague, M. & Vieu, L. (2015), Function versus regions in spatial language: a fundamental distinction. In C. Astésano & M. Jucla (dir.), *Neuropsycholinguistic perspectives on language cognition. Essays in honour of Jean-Luc Nespoulous*. Londres, Psychology Press, 31-45.
- Blumenthal, P. & Vigier, D. (Eds) (2017), *Du quantitatif au qualitatif en diachronie : prépositions françaises*. Langages, 206.
- Borillo, A. (1991), Le lexique de l'espace : prépositions et locutions prépositionnelles de lieu en français. In L. Tasmowski & A. Zribi-Hertz (Eds.), *Hommage à N. Ruwet*. Gand, Communication & Cognition, 176-190.
- Borillo, A. (1997), Aide à l'identification des prépositions complexes de temps et de lieu. *Faits de langue*, 9, 173-184.
- Borillo, A. (2000), Degrés de grammaticalisation : des noms de partie aux prépositions spatiales. *Travaux linguistiques du CERLICO*, 13, 257-274.
- Borillo, A. (2002), Il y a prépositions et prépositions. *Travaux de Linguistique*, 42-43, 141-155.
- Constant, M., Eryiğit, G., Monti, J., Plas, L. van der, Ramisch, C., Rosner, M. & Todirascu, A. (2017), Multiword Expression Processing: A Survey. *Computational Linguistics*, 43(4), 837-892.
- Delaunoy, A. (1967). *Le bon emploi de la préposition en français*. Namur, Wesmael-Charlier.
- De Mulder, W. (2019), *En voie de*. Du trajet spatial à l'aspect. *Revue Romane*, 54 (1), 39-61.
- De Mulder, W. & Stosic, D. (Eds) (2009), *Langages n° 173. Approches récentes de la préposition*.
- Fagard, B. (2010), *Espace et grammaticalisation – L'évolution sémantique des prépositions dans les langues romanes*. Sarrebruck, Editions Universitaires Européennes.
- Fagard, B. (2012), Prépositions et locutions prépositionnelles : la question du renouvellement grammatical. *Travaux de linguistique* 64(1), 161-189.
- Fagard, B. (2020), Prépositions et locutions prépositives. In Ch. Marchello-Nizia, B. Combettes, S. Prévost, & T. Scheer (eds.), *Grande grammaire historique du français*. Berlin & New York, Mouton de Gruyter, 856-885.
- Fagard, B. & De Mulder, W. (2007), La formation des prépositions complexes : grammaticalisation ou lexicalisation ? *Langue française*, 156, 9-29.
- Fagard, B. & Mardale, A. (2019), Les prépositions complexes du roumain – approche sur corpus. *Revue Romane* 54(1), 176-203.
- Fagard, B., Pinto de Lima, J. & Stosic, D. (2019), Introduction. Les prépositions complexes dans les langues romanes. *Revue Romane* 54(1), 1-7.
- Fagard, B., Pinto de Lima, J. & Stosic, D. (Eds) (2019), *Les prépositions complexes dans les langues romanes*. Special issue of *Revue Romane* 54(1). Amsterdam & Philadelphia, John Benjamins.
- Fagard, B., Pinto de Lima, J., Stosic, D. & Smirnova, E. (2020), Complex Adpositions and Complex Nominal Relators. In Fagard et al. (Eds), *Complex adpositions in European Languages*. Berlin, De Gruyter.
- Fagard, B., Pinto de Lima, J., Stosic, D. & Smirnova, E. (Eds) (2020), *Complex adpositions in European Languages*. Berlin, De Gruyter.
- Fagard, B., Stosic, D. & Mardale, A. (2016), Approaches to Romance complex adpositions. The case of French and Romanian. *Atelier Emergence and Evolution of Complex Adpositions in European Languages*, dans le cadre du 49^{ème} Congrès annuel de la Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 2016), Université de Naples Federico II, Naples (31 août-3 septembre 2016).
- Fagard, B., Stosic, D. & Pinto de Lima, J. (2020), Complex adpositions in Romance languages. In Fagard et al. (eds), *Complex adpositions in European Languages*. Berlin, De Gruyter.
- Franckel, J.-J. & Paillard, D. (2007), *Grammaire des prépositions*. Paris, Gap, Ophrys.
- Gross, G. (1981). Les prépositions composées. In C. Schwartz (Ed.), *Analyse des prépositions*. Tübingen, Max Niemeyer Verlag.
- Gross, G. (2006), Sur le statut des locutions prépositives. *Modèles linguistiques*, 53, 33-50.
- Hagège, C. (2010), *Adpositions. Function-marking in human languages*. Oxford & New York, OUP.
- Heinz, M. (1993), *Les locutions figurées dans le "Petit Robert"*. Berlin, Boston, De Gruyter.

References (continued)

- Hoffmann, S. (2005), *Grammaticalization and English Complex Prepositions. A corpus-based analysis*. London & New York, Routledge.
- Kurzon, D. & Adler, S. (Eds) (2008), *Adpositions. Pragmatic, semantic and syntactic perspectives*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia, John Benjamins.
- Lamiroy, B. (2008), Le figement : à la recherche d'une définition. *Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur*, Beiheft 36, 85-99.
- Lamiroy, B. & Klein, J. R. (2005), Le problème central du figement est le semi-figement. *LINX*, 53, 135-156.
- Lauwers, P. (2010). Comment dissocier des locutions prépositives quasi-synonymiques ? Essai d'analyse collocationnelle. *Canadian Journal of Linguistics*, 55 (1), 55-84.
- Leeman, D. (2007), De la préposition à la locution prépositionnelle. *Modèles linguistique*, 55, 7-15.
- Leeman, D. (Ed.) (2007), *Prépositions et locutions prépositionnelles. Modèles linguistiques*, 55.
- Lehmann, Ch. (2019), Complex spatial prepositions from Latin to Castilian. *Revue Romane*, 54 (1), 93-125.
- Le Pesant, D. (2006), Classification à partir des propriétés syntaxiques. *Modèles linguistiques*, 53, 51-74.
- Lindemann, D. (2013), Bilingual Lexicography and Corpus Methods. The Example of German-Basque as Language Pair. *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 95, 249-257.
- Liłkowski, K. (2017a), Pattern Dictionary of English Prepositions. In M. Diab, A. Villavicencio, M. Apidianaki, V. Kordoni, A. Korhonen, P. Nakov, & M. Stevenson (eds), *Essays in Lexical Semantics and Computational Lexicography – In Honor of Adam Kilgarriff*. Springer Series Text, Speech, and Language Technology. Springer.
- Liłkowski, K. (2017b), The Preposition Corpus in the Sketch Engine. *Technical Report 17-01*. Damascus, MD: CL Research.
- Mardale, A. (2009), Sur la distinction entre prépositions lexicales et prépositions fonctionnelles. In R. Zafiu, B. Croitor & A-M. Mihail (eds.), *Studii de gramatică. Omagiu Doamnei Profesoarei Valeria Guțu-Romalo*. Bucharest, Editura Universității din București, 115-125.
- Marjanović, S., Stosic, D., Miletic, A. (2018), A Sample French-Serbian Dictionary Entry based on the ParCoLab Parallel Corpus. In S. Krek et al. (eds), *Proceedings of the XVIII EURALEX International Congress: Lexicography in Global Contexts*. Ljubljana, LjUP, 423-435
- Melis, L. (2003), *La préposition en français*. Ophrys, Paris.
- Melis, L. (2017), La préposition. *Encyclopédie grammaticale du français* (encyclogram.fr).
- Porhiel, S. (2005a). Les marqueurs de thématization : des thèmes phrastiques et textuels. *Travaux de linguistique*, 51, 55-84.
- Porhiel, S. (2005b). Les séquences thématiques. *Langue française*, 148, 111-126.
- Pottier, B. (1962) *Systématique des éléments de relation*. Paris, Klincksieck.
- Ramisch, C. (2012), *Un environnement générique et ouvert pour le traitement des expressions polylexicales : de l'acquisition aux applications*. Thèse de doctorat. Université de Grenoble & Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brésil).
- Ramisch, C. (2015) *Multiword expressions acquisition: A generic and open framework*. Springer.
- Ramisch, C., Cordeiro, S. R., Savary, A., Vincze, V., Barbu Mititelu, V., Bhatia, A., Walsh, A. (2018). *Edition 1.1 of the PARSEME Shared Task on Automatic Identification of Verbal Multiword Expressions*. Proceedings of the Joint Workshop on Linguistic Annotation, Multiword Expressions and Constructions (LAW-MWE-CxG-2018), Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, 222-240.
- Savary, A. (2019), Multiword expressions - the Achilles' heel of natural language processing - introductory course at the *Lectures on Computational Linguistics (LCL 2019)*, Italian Association of Computational Linguistics, Pavia, Italy, 10 May 2019.
- Savary, A., Cordeiro, S. & Ramisch, C. (2019). *Without lexicons, multiword expression identification will never fly: A position statement*. Paper presented at *The Joint Workshop on Multiword Expressions and WordNet (MWE-WN 2019)*, Florence, Italy, 79-91.
- Stosic, D. (2012a). Le pouvoir cadratif des compléments introduits par à travers: des cadres de discours pas comme les autres ? *Travaux de linguistique*, 64, 55-78.
- Stosic, D. (2012b), *En passant par : une expression en voie de grammaticalisation ? CORELA*, Numéro thématique *Langue, espace, cognition* (HS-12).
- Stosic, D. (in preparation), Les prépositions complexes en français.
- Stosic, D. & Fagard, B. (2019), Les prépositions complexes en français : pour une méthode d'identification multicritère. *Revue Romane*, 54 (1), 8-38.
- Teubert, W. (2002), The role of parallel corpora in translation and multilingual lexicography. In B. Altenberg & Granger, S. (Eds), *Lexis in contrast: corpus-based approaches*. Amsterdam/ Philadelphia, John Benjamins, 189-214.
- Ucherek, W. (2019), *Les articles prépositionnels en lexicographie bilingue français-polonais. Pratiques et propositions d'amélioration*. Paris, L'Harmattan.
- Vandeloise, C. (1986), *L'espace en français : sémantique des prépositions spatiales*. Paris, Seuil.
- Vigier, D. (Ed.), *La préposition en. Langue Française*, 178.
- Zavaglia, A. & Galafacci, G. (2014), Corpus, Parallélisme et Lexicographie Bilingue. In A. Abel et al. (eds), *Proceedings of the 16th EURALEX International Congress*. Bolzano, EURAC research, 587-597.