

***Ling 580: The Status of (the Null Subject) Parameter(s) in the
Minimalist Program
Winter 2008***

Meeting Time: Wed 3:30-5:50 pm
Location: MGH 297

Instructor: Barbara Citko
Instructor's Office: Padelford A210D
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Course Website: <https://catalysttools.washington.edu/workspace/bcitko/9190/>

Course Description:

This course deals with the current status of parameters in linguistic theory. We will use the Null Subject Parameter as a case-study, and focus on the following questions:

- What is the nature (and current status) of null subjects ?
- What is the range of crosslinguistic variation with respect to null subjects (canonical pro-drop, partial pro-drop, radical pro-drop languages)?
- What is the current status of the Null Subject Parameter?
- What is the current status of parameters in general?

Course Materials:

There is no textbook for this course. The readings (to be completed before class) involve a selection of articles to be made available electronically, either through UW's library or on the course website. This is a reading intensive course; be prepared to read around 100-150 pages (*of pure syntax*) per week.

Requirements:

Successful completion of this course will depend on the following factors:

active participation	10%
abstract + bibliography	20%
'journal'	20%
2 Presentations	20%
Final Paper	30%
Total	100%

Course Schedule (subject to change)

I. Jan 13: Introduction/Overview/Crucial Issues

Roberts, Ian. 2007. Introduction. In: *Comparative Grammar (Critical Concepts in Linguistics). Volume II: The Null Subject Parameter*. London and New York: Routledge.

II. Jan 20: Does pro exist?

Holmberg, Anders. 2005. Is there a little pro? Evidence from Finnish. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36, 533–564.

Roberts, Ian. to appear. A Deletion Analysis of Null Subjects: French as a Case Study. In: *Parametric Variation: Null Subjects in Minimalist Theory*. Edited by Theresa Biberauer, Anders Holmberg, Ian Roberts and Michelle Sheehan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

III. Jan 27: Alternatives to pro

Alexiadou, Artemis, and Elena Anagnostopoulou. 1998. Parametrizing AGR: Word order, V-movement, and EPP-checking. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 16:491–540.

Kucerova, Ivona. 2009. The Syntax of Null Subjects. Unpublished manuscript. Available at Linbbuzz.

IV. Feb 3: Clustering Properties of Null Subject Languages

Nicolis, Marco. 2008. The Null Subject Parameter and correlating properties: The case of Creole languages. In: *The limits of syntactic variation*. Edited by Theresa Biberauer. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Platzack, Christer. 1987. The Scandinavian languages and the null-subject parameter. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 5: 377-401.

V. Feb 10: Partial Pro-Drop

Barbosa, Pilar. 2009. Two kinds of subject pro. *Studia Linguistica* 63: 2-58.

Holmberg, Anders, Aarti Nayudu and Michelle Sheehan. 2009. Three partial null-subject languages: a comparison of Brazilian Portuguese, Finnish and Marathi. *Studia Linguistica* 63:59-97.

Shlonsky, Ur. 2009. Hebrew as a partial null-subject language. *Studia Linguistica* 63:133–157.

VI. Feb 17: Radical Pro-Drop

Huang, C.-T. James. 1989. Pro-drop in Chinese: A generalized control theory. In: *The null subject parameter*. Edited by Osvaldo Jaeggli and Ken Safir, 185–214. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Neeleman, Ad and Kriszta Szendroi. 2007. Radical pro-drop and the morphology of pronouns. *Linguistic Inquiry* 38: 671-714.

Neeleman, Ad and Kriszta Szendroi. 2008. Case morphology and radical pro-drop. pro and minimalism. In *The limits of syntactic variation*, ed. M.T. Biberauer. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

VII. Feb 24: Parameters: Debate

Holmberg, Anders and Ian Roberts. 2005. On the role of parameters in universal grammar: A reply to Newmeyer. In *Organizing grammar*, ed. H. Broekhuis, N. Corver, R. Huybregts, U. Kleinhenz, and J. Koster, 538–553. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Newmeyer, Frederick J. 2004. Against a parameter-setting approach to language variation. In *Language Variation Yearbook 4*: 181-234.

VIII. March 3: Parameters Continued

Boeckx, Cedric. To appear. Approaching Parameters from Below. In *Biolinguistic Approaches to Language Evolution and Variation*. Edited by Di Sciullo, Anna Maria and Cedric Boeckx. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Richards, Marc. Two Kinds of Variation in a Minimalist System. In: *Varieties of Competition*. Edited by Fabian Heck, Gereon Muller & Jochen Trommer. *Linguistische Arbeits Berichte* 87, Universitat Leipzig, 133-162.

Yang, Charles. In Press. Three Factors in Language Variation. *Lingua*.

IX. March 10: Macro versus Microparameters

Baker, Mark. 2008. The macroparemeter in a microparametric world. In: *The Limits of Syntactic Variation*. Edited by Theresa Biberauer. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Kayne, Richard. 2005. Some notes on comparative syntax. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Syntax*. Edited by Guglielmo Cinque and Richard Kayne, pp. 3-69. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

X. March 17: Presentations

Below are some dissertations/theses to get you started on researching possible paper topics:

Barbosa, Pilar. 1995. Null Subjects. MIT, Cambridge, MA. Ph.D. diss.

Deal, Amy Rose. 2005. *Pro-drop, topic-drop, and the functional lexicon. A constructional account of null arguments.* Honors thesis, Brandeis University.

Gilligan, Gary. 1987. A crosslinguistic approach to the pro-drop parameter. Doctoral dissertation, University of Southern California.

Sheehan, Michelle. 2006. The EPP and null subjects in Romance. Newcastle University, Ph.D. diss.