GENDER PROJECTS AT LUND UNIVERSITY

Gerd Carling
Online workshop: Diversity and evolution of gender, noun class and classifier systems
March 12, 2021, Lund University

GENDER PROJECTS AT LUND, AN OVERVIEW

Completed (almost…)

1. Reconstructing the evolution of Indo-European grammar, including gender (Gerd Carling & Chundra Cathcart)
2. Gender assignment in Indo-European culture vocabulary (Gerd Carling et al)
3. PhD project: Gender assignment in North Germanic vocabulary (Briana Van Epps)

Ongoing

1. Gender assignment in Indo-European basic vocabulary (Gerd Carling, Silvia Luraghi, Filip Larsson, Olof Lundgren, Linus Nilsson, and others)
2. Worldwide gender/noun class and classifier evolution (Marc Tang, Harald Hammarström, Olof Lundgren, Maja Robbers, Filip Larsson, William Zetterberg, Hilda Appelgren)
3. Gender in Nakh-Dagestanian languages (Kate Bellamy, Jesse Wichers Schreur & Gerd Carling)
4. Gender in Tocharian (Gerd Carling, and others)
5. PhD projects: classifiers in Baniwa (Sandra Cronhama) and gender affixation in Caucasian families (Filip Larsson)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

RECONSTRUCTING THE EVOLUTION OF INDO-EUROPEAN GENDER

- Comparative phylogenenetic models

- Assumption that grammar variables change according to a stochastic process

- 65 categorical variables, of which 3 target gender (nominal gender only)

- Use of an Indo-Anatolian reference tree.

- Result for gender: higher probability of a three-gender system (masculine, feminine, neuter) of Proto-Indo-European

- Evolutionary dynamics: masculine/feminine: medium entry (0.3)/exit (0.2) rates, neuter: low entry (0.09) higher exit (0.3) rates.

- To appear (Language, September 2021)

- Gender only a minor part, which leaves many questions for gender – will be continued with focus on gender
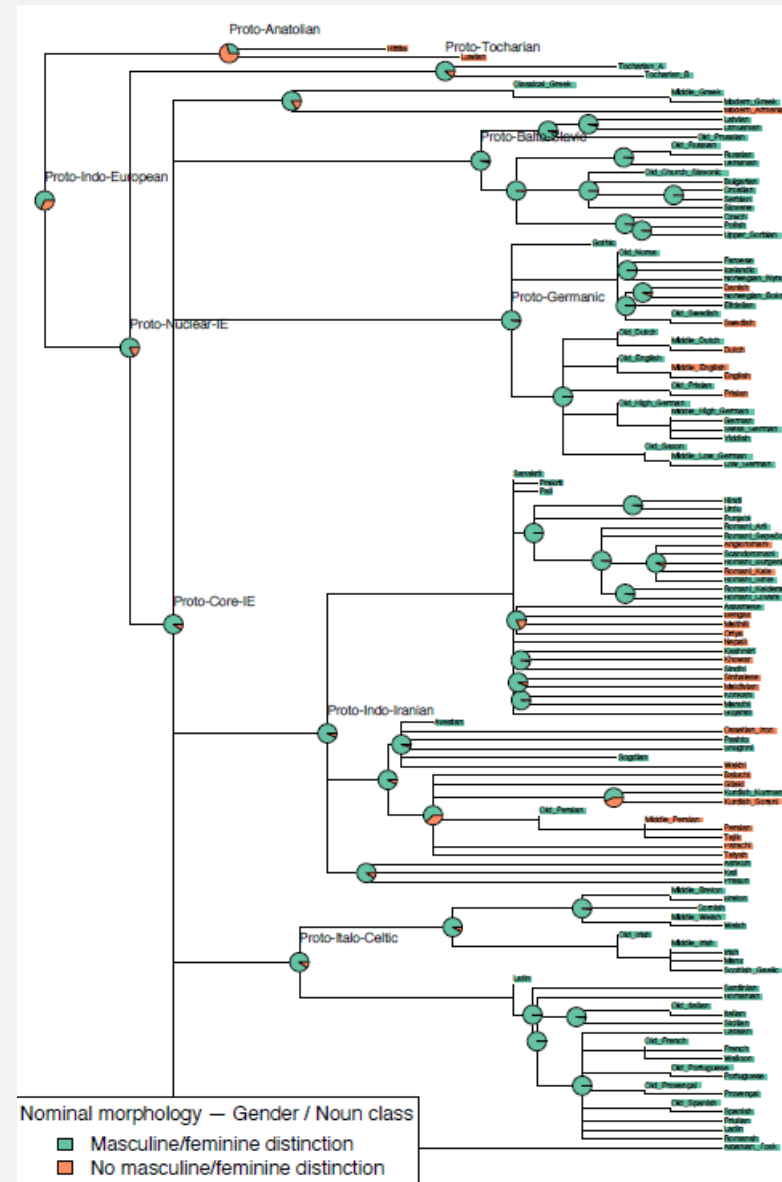

Chundra Cathcart

Gerd Carling

STIFTELSEN
MARCUS OCH AMALIA
WALLENBERGS
MINNESFOND

Gerd Carling
Lund University

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GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN CULTURE VOCABULARY

- Part of the project *Mouton Atlas of Languages and Cultures* (2019).

- 100-culture list, gender assignment tendencies for various concepts (Indo-European, 7500 lexemes).

- Not optimal for gender – the culture list was not aiming at gender assignment.

Classes	Borrowability	Instability	Cognacy	Gender (Indo-European)	Animacy
ACTIVITIES	Low	Medium	Medium	not applicable	n
CATTLE	Medium	High	High	M > F/N	y
CROPS	High	High	Medium	M > N > F	n
DOMESTIC ANIMALS	Low	Low	Medium	M > F > N	y
DOMESTIC INSECTS	Low	Medium	High	F > M > N	y
DRAFT ANIMALS	High	High	Medium	M > N/F	y
DRINK AND DRUGS	High	Medium	Low	M > N > F	n
GAME ANIMALS	Medium	Medium	High	M > F > N	y
IMPLEMENTS	High	High	High	F > M > N	n
MATERIALS	Low	High	Medium	N/F/M	n
METALS	Medium	Low	Medium	N > M > F	n
PIG RAISING	Low	Medium	High	M > F > N	y
POULTRY	Medium	High	Medium	M > F > N	y
PREDATOR ANIMALS	High	Low	Low	M > F > N	y
PREDATOR BIRDS	Low	High	Low	M > F > N	y
PRODUCTS	Low	Low	Low	M > F > N	n
SEASONS	Low	Medium	High	M > F > N	n
SMALL CATTLE	Low	Medium	High	M > F > N	y
TILLAGE	Low	High	High	M > F > N	n
TREES	Low	Low	High	F > M > N	n
WEAPONS	High	Low	Medium	F > M > N	n
VEGETABLES & FRUIT	Medium	Medium	Low	F > M > N	n
VEHICLES	High	High	Medium	M > F/N	n
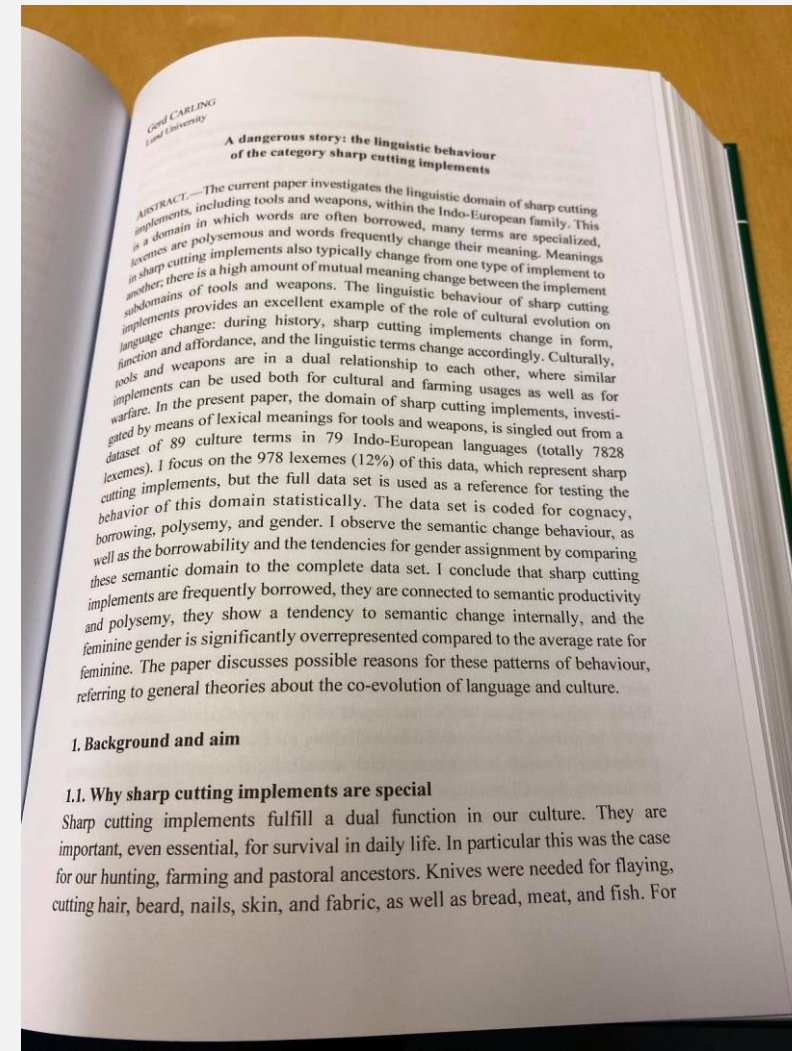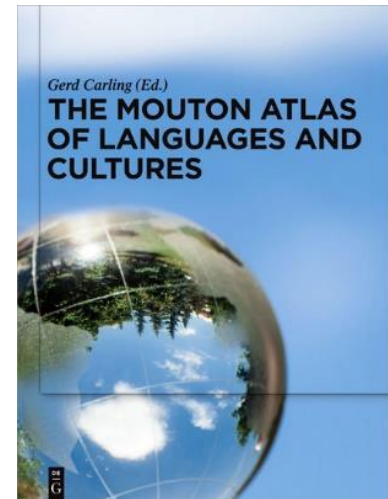
Carling, Gerd (2021) Special study on sharp implements in *Loanwords and Substrata*, IBS

Gerd Carling
Lund University

GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN GERMANIC

- PhD project "Sociolinguistic, comparative and historical aspects on Scandinavian gender: with focus on Jamtlandic".

- Completed in 2019.

- Final paper to appear in Journal of Germanic Linguistics, 2021.

- Comparative study on six North Scandinavian three-gender varietes.

- 1200 lexical concepts coded for cognacy, morphology, and gender.

- **Some results:**

- Morphological assignment most important in Germanic

- Phonological assignment weaken over time

- Gender instability connected to lexical frequency

- Weakening of feminine traceable already in Old Norse and continues into all three-gender varieties

Sociolinguistic, comparative and historical perspectives on Scandinavian gender:
With focus on Jamtlandic

BRIANA VAN EPPS
CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE | LUND UNIVERSITY
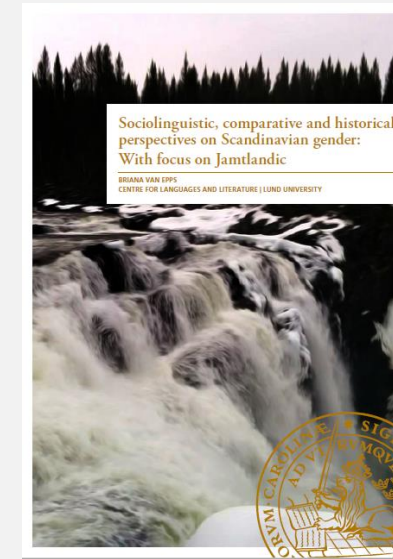
Briana Van Epps

HUMANISTISKA OCH TEOLOGISKA FAKULTETERNA

LUNDS UNIVERSITET

ONGOING PROJECTS

GENDER ASSIGNMENT IN INDO-EUROPEAN BASIC VOCABULARY

(Gerd Carling, Filip Larsson, Olof Lundgren, Linus Nilsson, Silvia Luraghi, Sunny Pudygadu and others)

- Task: to feed/curate/code cognacy and gender for 200 basic vocabulary concepts in 150 Indo-European languages.

- Feeding/coding/checking directly into the open access database DiACL

- Coding not completed, only preliminary results (70 concepts, 90 languages)

Distribution of lexical gender over time

Distribution of grammatical gender over time

Olof Lundgren

Filip Larsson

Linus Nilsson

Swedish Research Council

ÅKE WIBERGS STIFTELSE

Gerd Carling
Lund University

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THE GENDER TOP LISTS (88 LGS, 5762 LEXEMES)

Feminine

- WOMAN
- NIGHT
- EARTH (SOIL, GROUND)
- TONGUE (ANATOMICAL)
- BARK (OF TREE)
- SKIN (PERSON'S)
- LOUSE (LICE)
- HAND (NOT ARM)
- ASH(ES)
- STAR
- FEATHER (NOT DOWN)
- ROOT (BOTANICS)
- SAND
- FAT (ORGANIC SUBSTANCE)
- BREAST
- NOSE
- ROAD/PATH
- LIVER
- MOON

Masculine

- MAN (ADULT MALE HUMAN)
- DOG
- SMOKE (N)
- TOOTH (GENERAL)
- PERSON (INDIVIDUAL HUMAN)
- FINGERNAIL
- FISH (N)
- NECK
- STONE
- RAIN (N)
- FIRE
- BELLY (ABDOMEN, STOMACH)
- HAIR (OF HEAD)
- FOOT (NOT LEG)
- TREE
- MOON
- ROAD/PATH
- TAIL
- SUN

Neuter

- EGG
- MEAT/FLESH
- LEAF (BOTANICS)
- SEED (N)
- NAME
- KNEE
- EYE
- WATER (N)
- HEART (ORGAN)
- BONE
- BLOOD (N)
- HEAD (ANATOMIC)
- TREE
- FAT (ORGANIC SUBSTANCE)
- HAIR (OF HEAD)
- FEATHER (NOT DOWN)
- MOUTH
- MOUNTAIN
- SKIN (PERSON'S)

Pie chart: s 10%, vac 4%, a 0%, c 5%, fem. 28%, masc. 36%, neutr. 17%
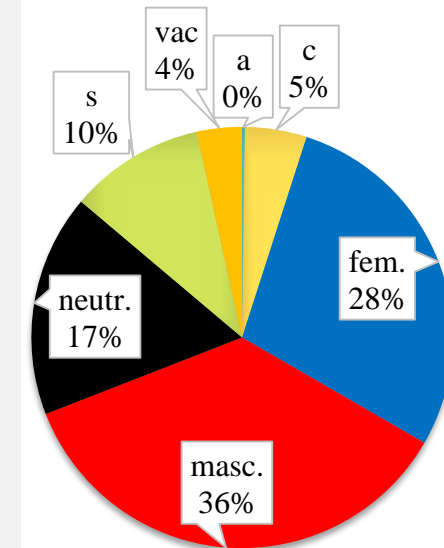
MANY QUESTIONS

Syncronic, diachronic, and evolutionary

Assignment

- Are there any interesting tendencies of assignment principles related to semantic properties?

- Are there any interesting tendencies of variation and instability related to specific genders and/or specific semantic properties?

- Are there any connections between specific classes (e.g., body parts, kinship terms) and specific genders?

Evolution

- What is/was the general evolutionary tendency in the family?

- Are there any general differences in the evolution of the lexicon in relation to grammar?

- Is there any difference in change rates of pronominal and nominal gender?

WORLDWIDE DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION OF NOUN CATEGORIZATION SYSTEMS

(Marc Tang, Harald Hammarström, Olof Lundgren, Maja Robbers, Filip Larsson, William Zetterberg, Hilda Appelgren, Gerd Carling)

NOMINAL GENDER (3240 LANGUAGES)

Nominal gender
- MF
- MFN
- MN
- NONE

Esri, Garmin, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Marc Tang
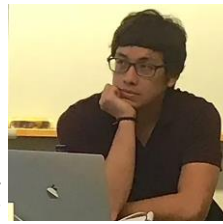
One-Soon Her

Harald Hammarström

Olof Lundgren

Sandra Cronhamn

Filip Larsson
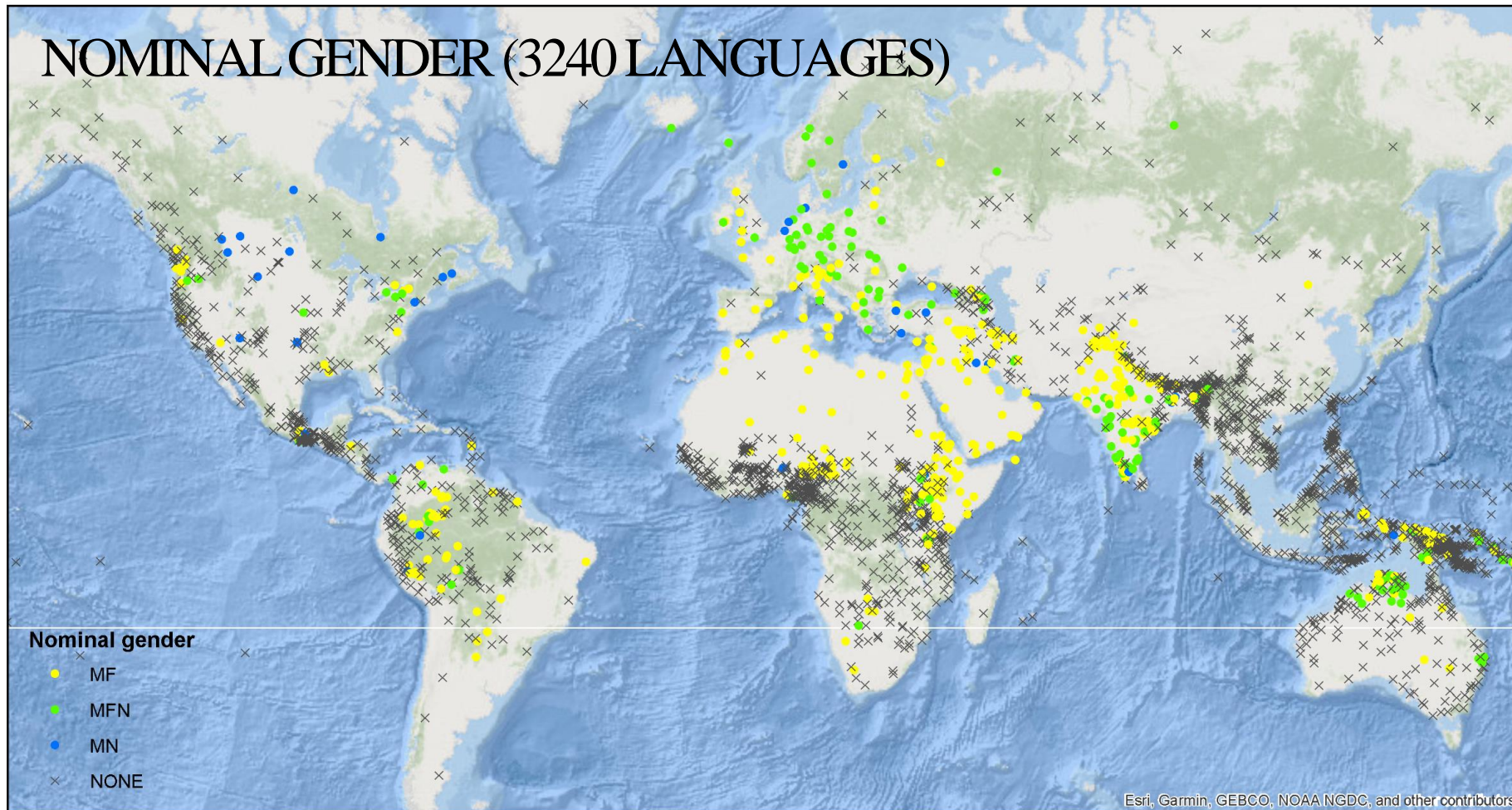
GENDER IN NAKH-DAGESTANIAN LANGUAGES

Jesse Wichers-Schreur, Kate Bellamy, Gerd Carling

GENDER IN TOCHARIAN

Gerd Carling, Georges-Jean Pinault, Timothée Chamot-Rooke
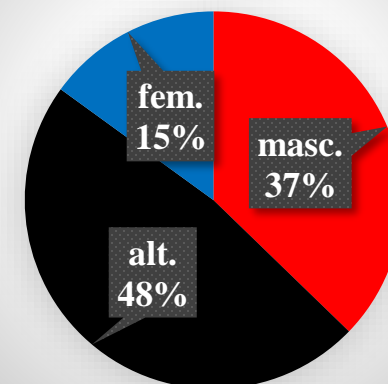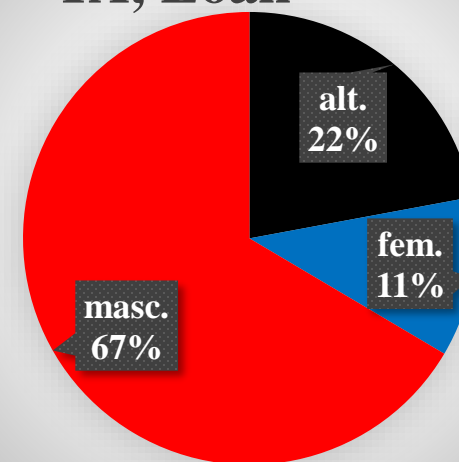
PHD AND POSTDOC PROJECTS

Sandra Cronhamn

Nominal Classification in Baniwa

(PhD, Lund, 2018-2022)

Filip Larsson

Nominal and verbal affixation in the Caucasus

(PhD, Lund, 2019-2023)

Niklas Erben Johansson
(International postdoc Lund/Prague, 2021-2023)

- Will investigate form-meaning mapping in noun categorization morphemes from hundrerds of language families

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Swedish Research Council

RESOURCES

- Lund University: Database DiACL (SWE-CLARIN)

- Typological and lexical data open access (but work in progress!)

- Note: the world-wide gender/noun class/ classifier data is not in the database/open access

Thanks for your attention!

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SWE-CLARIN

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