

# Introduction

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**Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory 2003: Selected papers from 'Going Romance' 2003, Nijmegen, 20–22 November**

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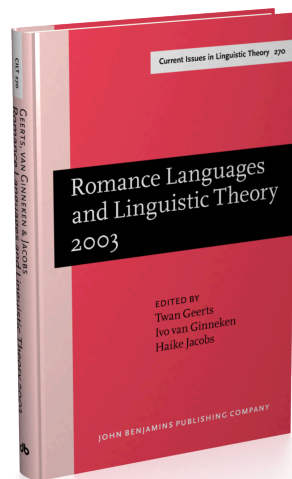
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## INTRODUCTION

The annual *Going Romance* conference is an international initiative of the Dutch university community involved in research on Romance languages. In the last two decades of its existence, it has developed into the major European discussion forum for theoretically relevant research on Romance languages where current ideas about language in general and about Romance languages in particular are tested. Starting with the thirteenth conference held in 1999, the proceedings volumes, entitled *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory*, contain the selected papers of the conferences which are organized and held at various universities of the country.

This is the fifth volume, containing a selection of papers that have been presented at the seventeenth *Going Romance* conference, which was held at the Radboud University Nijmegen from 20-22 November 2003. Younger than its American sibling, the annual *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages*, the *Going Romance* conference is highly comparable to it, except that in previous issues *Going Romance* balanced more and more to syntax and less and less to phonology. In accordance with our wish to make phonology a more important part of *Going Romance* XVII, the three day program included a workshop on “Diachronic Phonology” and proudly listed Morris Halle as a key-note speaker.

The present volume reflects the restored balance and contains a broad range of articles dealing not only with syntax and phonology, but also with morphology, semantics and acquisition of the Romance languages.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 17th edition of *Going Romance*. We would like to thank the Rector of the Radboud University, Cees Blom, for his kind acceptance to deliver the opening address. We take great pleasure in singling out Maja Ciumak and Agnieszka Gasior, who helped us with all kind of organizational matters and to whom we express our great gratitude. Finally, we would like to thank Monique Burggraaf for last-minute help in preparing the indexes.

Besides one of the editors, the organization committee consisted of Reineke Bok-Bennema (Groningen), Frank Drijkoningen (Utrecht), Aafke Hulk (Amsterdam), Brigitte Kampers-Mahne (Groningen), Johan Rooryck (Leiden) and Henriëtte de Swart (Utrecht).

The editors would like to express their warmhearted thanks to the following individuals who have helped establishing the program by evaluating the more than 70 received abstracts and/or by reviewing and selecting the papers in this volume:

Reineke Bok-Bennema, Olga Borik, Onno Crasborn, Jenny Doetjes, Frank Drijkoningen, Andrzej Dubina, Paula Fikkert, Randall Gess, Carlos Gussenhoven, Marco Haverkort, Bart Hollebrandse, Angelique van Hout, Aafke Hulk, Yves D'Hulst, Brigitte Kampers-Mahne, Gert-Jan Postma, Josep Quer, Tobias Scheer, Jan Schroten, Philippe Ségéral, Petra Sleeman, Marianne Starren, Henriette de Swart and Jeroen van de Weijer.

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