



# 2015 CLARIN Young Scientist Award

The development and implementation of a research infrastructure requires sustained effort by a large group of developers, data and tool providers, and researchers. As CLARIN Executive Director, Steven Krauwer has always emphasized in his many presentations that the success of CLARIN is built on the work of more than a hundred people.

Infrastructure building is a rather recent activity at least in the domain of humanities and social sciences. Therefore, the ways in which the efforts, contributions, and achievements especially by young scientists and scholars can be recognized and credited still have to be explored.

The NCF, the National Coordinators Forum of CLARIN ERIC, would like to contribute to such a culture of giving credit through the CLARIN Young Scientist Award, which is presented at the CLARIN Annual Meeting to young developers or researchers in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the construction of the CLARIN research infrastructure as well as its use.

2015 marks the second year for this award, and I am happy to inform you that the NCF received four very strong and convincing nominations for candidates for this award. This made it extremely tough for an ad-hoc selection committee of the NCF, chaired by Kadri Vider, to choose the winner.

To build up the suspense a little bit longer, but also to return to the theme of giving credit, let me emphasize that all of the young researchers and developers who have presented their contributions to CLARIN at this meeting and at other conferences and workshops should consider themselves winners. It is therefore as a tribute to all of you and as one outstanding example of many that I am very happy to announce this year's awardee.

The winner of the 2015 CLARIN Young Scientist Award is Maarten van Gompel of Radboud University Nijmegen. Maarten van Gompel is currently a Ph.D. student at the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) of Radboud University under the guidance of Prof. Antal van den Bosch, and is also a part-time developer at the Centre for Language and Speech Technology (CLST) at the same university, since September 2011. Before, Maarten was scientific programmer at Tilburg University (2009-2011), working, among other projects, on the NWO *Middelgroot* project **DutchSemCor** (directed by Profs. Piek Vossen and Antal van den Bosch) and on the CLARIN transnational Dutch-Flemish infrastructural project **TTNWW**.

Maarten van Gompel has been nominated by Professors Hans Bennis of the Meertens Institute in Amsterdam and by Walter Daelemans of Antwerp University in recognition of the design, development, and support of **CLAM** (Computational Linguistics Application Mediator, a webservice shell) and **FoLiA** (Format for Linguistic Annotation, an XML standard). In their joint nomination letter, the nominators emphasize that "both tools have had a major impact on language resource infrastructure development in the Netherlands and Flanders in the past four years."

Hans Bennis and Walter Daelemans conclude their nomination letter as follows: "Maarten is a gifted programmer and researcher, who has demonstrated a clear appreciation and precise understanding of the need for open tools for crucial infrastructural steps in the development of, and research on linguistic resources. The tools he created to meet these aims are already widely adopted and can be expected to lie at the basis of many new developments. His deep commitment to these goals deserves recognition and encouragement; the CLARIN Young Scientist Award would be the most excellent means."



The nomination letter includes an impressive number of publications single-authored or co-authored by Maarten van Gompel, but also a list of investigators who use the tools developed by Maarten and who give credit to him in their publications. All of this made it easy for the members of the NCF ad-hoc selection committee to confirm that the assessment offered by the two nominators has a solid and impressive fundamentum in re.

It is my pleasure and my privilege to now present the Award Certificate, which is accompanied by a cash award of 500 Euros, to Maarten van Gompel.

*Erhard Hinrichs*

Chair of the National Coordinators Forum

Wroclaw, October 17, 2015