

Preface

M. RYAN BOCHNAK, EVA CSIPAK, LISA MATTHEWSON,
MARCIN MORZYCKI, AND DANIEL K. E. REISINGER
University of British Columbia

Nobody's perfect, they say.¹ But Hotze nearly is; an alternative title we nearly chose for this volume was *Somebody's Perfect: Papers in Honour of Hotze Rullmann*. In particular, Hotze is an exceptional colleague. We are delighted to be able to honour him with this volume, on the occasion of one of his round-number birthdays. It is also clear that we are not the only people who think highly of Hotze; it was easy to find contributors to the volume who hail from all periods of his academic life.

How is Hotze such a great colleague? Well, we can start with the well-known and obvious fact that he's a great semanticist. He's also — unlike some great semanticists — able to explain semantics clearly and with patience.

Next, we can mention his astounding dedication to students of all levels. Hotze is passionate about teaching and about student well-being. He's an enthusiastic and popular advisor of graduate students. Since Hotze arrived at UBC in 2004, he has helped nearly 50 students obtain Master's or Ph.D. degrees by serving on their thesis committees or as their supervisor. Many of his former or current students have contributed papers to this volume.

Since this isn't a reference letter, we are also allowed to talk with abandon about personal qualities that we appreciate. Hotze has integrity and believes in principles. He is generous with his time and ideas, fair, open-minded, supportive, efficient, 100% reliable, and never competitive. (Hey, nobody get any ideas about poaching him! We need him here.)

One of us, Lisa, has been at UBC even longer than Hotze has. Here are a few words about her personal experience of these past nearly 20 years.

¹ Bertrand, Anne, Yurika Aonuki, Sihwei Chen, Henry Davis, Joash Gambarage, Laura Griffin, Marianne Huijsmans, Lisa Matthewson, Daniel Reisinger, **Hotze Rullmann**, Raiane Salles, Michael Schwan, Neda Todorović, Bailey Trotter, and Jozina Vander Kloek 2022. Nobody's perfect. *Languages* 7:148.

Hotze, the day you arrived at UBC, my life got better. It's a pleasure and a fun learning experience to write papers with you. It's a pleasure to co-advise students with you; somehow we always seem to be on the same wavelength. It's a pleasure to co-run research projects with you; ditto. Thank you for being a great listener and for offering sensible words when I occasionally need to vent about life. Thank you for being interested in the same big-picture questions as me and for wholeheartedly and expertly supporting the fieldworking faculty and students in our department. Please don't ever retire!

The title we did choose is a nod to the construction that bears Hotze's name: a Rullmann ambiguity.² What is the range of lengths that the papers in this volume are allowed to be? That's for you to figure out, Hotze; longer than 20 words anyway.

² **Rullmann, Hotze.** 1995. Maximality in the semantics of wh-constructions. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.