

This obituary was written by Hans Bennis following
Hans den Besten's passing in July 2010.
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– the editors

Obituary

On 19 July 2010, Hans den Besten passed away at home in Amsterdam. Hans was a broad and multi-talented linguist working in different fields of linguistics. He was an influential scholar in theoretical syntax (e.g. his articles on verb placement and *wh*-movement in Germanic), Dutch linguistics, creole studies (including Negerhollands), the study of Afrikaans, contact linguistics, the study of Yiddish and etymology. In all these areas he was a master of careful observation, without losing track of more general implications. We will miss his inspiring presence, his clever reactions, his dedication and his inexhaustible knowledge. He was a sympathetic and loyal colleague and friend.

Hans den Besten was employed by the University of Amsterdam since 1974, in the last decade as an associate professor and a prominent member of the Amsterdam graduate school in linguistics (ACLIC). In addition, he had an appointment as Extraordinary Professor at the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa) as of 2007. He inspired generations of students and young researchers.

Hans was 61 years old. During his last years Hans was increasingly handicapped by Parkinson's disease. Nevertheless he continued to be active in linguistics until his last moments.

Hans Bennis
(Meertens Instituut / Universiteit van Amsterdam)

