Te-placement in Dutch infinitival three-verb clusters

The morphosyntactic variation in Dutch finite verb clusters has been studied extensively, but their non-finite counterparts have received much less attention. In this talk, I present new data on the placement of the infinitival marker *te* 'to' in three-verb clusters in Dutch (1). I will show that some speakers of Dutch allow *te* to occur on a different verb (1b)-(1c) than we would expect it to appear on (1a) based on selection criteria.

(1) a. …   dat huis   **te** hebben$_1$ kunnen$_2$ kopen$_3$.
           that house to   have.INF can.INF   buy.INF

  b. …% dat huis   hebben$_1$ **te** kunnen$_2$ kopen$_3$.
           that house have.INF to can.INF   buy.INF

  c. …% dat huis   hebben$_1$ kunnen$_2$ **te** kopen$_3$.
           that house have.INF can.INF   to buy.INF
           'to have been been able to buy that house.'

I will discuss the variation in the placement of *te* in different types of infinitival three-verb clusters in 123 order. In addition, I will show how the variation in *te*-placement is distributed geographically across the Netherlands and Flanders.