

MICHAEL DIERCKS

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CV Date: September 3, 2026

Pomona College
Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science

FACULTY POSITIONS	Professor Pomona College (<i>Linguistics & Cognitive Science</i>)	2024 - present
	Associate Professor Pomona College (<i>Linguistics & Cognitive Science</i>)	2016 - 2024
	Assistant Professor Pomona College (<i>Linguistics & Cognitive Science</i>)	2010 - 2016
EDUCATION	PhD: Linguistics Georgetown University	2010
	• Dissertation: Agreement with Subjects in Lubukusu • Committee: Raffaella Zanuttini, Paul Portner, Ruth Kramer, Mark Baker	
	MS: Linguistics Georgetown University	2008
	BA: Intercultural Studies Houghton College	2004
RESEARCH INTERESTS	■ Syntactic theory, morphological theory ■ African languages (and Bantu languages, specifically) ■ morphology and syntax (in particular, issues relating to agreement, Case licensing, object marking, and extraction contexts, among others) ■ Intersection of syntax and information structure ■ Documentation and description of understudied languages ■ Theories of child acquisition of syntax	
	BOOKS	
	Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. 2026, in press. Object Marking in Lubukusu: At the intersection of pragmatics and syntax. Accepted for publication with Open Generative Syntax at Language Science Press. [.pdf , currently being finalized for publication]	
	Diercks, Michael, Beatrice Santorini, and Anthony Kroch. 2025. <i>The syntax of natural language</i> [textbook]. 2nd edition. Scholarship @ Claremont .	
	JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS	
	* <i>with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges</i>	
	Major, Travis, Justine Sikuku, and Michael Diercks. 2026, in press. Grammatically citing your sources via ‘say’- complementation. To appear in <i>Natural Language and Linguistic Theory</i> . [preprint .pdf]	

- *Hannah Lippard (PO ‘17), Justine Sikuku, Crisófia Langa da Câmara, Rose Letsholo, Madelyn Colantes (PO ‘22), Kang (Franco) Liu (PO ‘20), and Michael Diercks. 2023. Emphatic Interpretations of Object Marking in Bantu Languages. *Studies in African Linguistics* 52 (Supplement 14): 78-109. [.pdf]
- *Bossi, Madeline, & Diercks, Michael. 2019. V1 in Kipsigis: Head movement and discourse-based scrambling. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*, 4(1): 65. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.246>
- Sikuku, Justine, Michael Diercks, and Michael Marlo. 2018. Pragmatic Effects of Clitic Doubling: Two Kinds of Object Markers in Lubukusu. *Linguistic Variation* 18.2: 359-429. [.pdf]
- *Diercks, Michael, Lindsey Meyer and Mary Paster. 2015. Agreement with conjoined arguments in Kuria. *Studies in African Linguistics* 44.1: 27-46. [.pdf]
- Diercks, Michael. 2013. Indirect Agree in Lubukusu complementizer agreement. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 31.2: 357-407. [.pdf]
- Carstens, Vicki and Michael Diercks. 2013. Agreeing How? Implications for theories of agreement and locality. *Linguistic Inquiry* 44.2: 179-237. [.pdf]
- *Bax, Anna and Michael Diercks. 2012. Information Structure Constraints on Object Marking in Manyika. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* 30.2: 185-202. [.pdf]
- Diercks, Michael. 2012. Parameterizing Case: Evidence from Bantu. *Syntax* 15.3: 253-286. [.pdf]
- Diercks, Michael. 2011. The morphosyntax of Lubukusu locative inversion and the parameterization of Agree. *Lingua* 121.5: 702-720. [.pdf]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges*
- *Johnson, Katherine and Michael Diercks. 2026. Interpretive Properties of Perception Verbs in Tiriki: Hyperraising and Copy-raising. In Vicki Carstens, Katherine Russell, Olawale Akingbade, Deborah Morton & Michael Diercks (eds.), *Pamoja tena ‘Together again’: African linguistics after COVID*, 403–436. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.20285218](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20285218) [.pdf]
- Diercks, Michael and Vicki Carstens. 2025. Syntax [An overview of the syntax of Bantu languages]. In *The Oxford Guide to the Bantu languages*, edited by Lutz Marten, Ellen Hurst-Harosh, Nancy C. Kula, and Jochen Zeller. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [preprint: <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003902>]
- Green, Christopher, Michael Marlo, and Michael Diercks. 2025. Wanga (JE32A) [a grammatical sketch]. In *The Oxford Guide to the Bantu languages*, edited by Lutz Marten, Ellen Hurst-Harosh, Nancy C. Kula, and Jochen Zeller. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [preprint .pdf]
- *Langa da Câmara, Crisófia, Michael Diercks, Madelyn Colantes (PO ‘22), Brendan Ly (PO ‘22), Jackson Kuzmik (PO ‘20), and Hannah Lippard (PO ‘22). 2024. An initial look at object marking in Cinyungwe. In *Pushing the boundaries: Selected papers from the 51–52 Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, eds. James Essegbey, Brent Henderson, Fiona McLaughlin & Michael Diercks, 269–295. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.14038755](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14038755). [.pdf of paper]

- *Letsholo, Rose, Madelyn Colantes (PO '22), and Michael Diercks. 2024. Emphatic Properties of Object Marking in Ikalanga. In *ACAL in SoCAL: Selected papers from the 53rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, eds. Yaqian Huang, Nina Hagen Kaldhol, Jun Jie Lim, Sharon Rose & Anthony Struthers-Young, 367–394. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.11210468 [[pdf of paper](#); [link to volume](#)]
- Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. 2021. Object Marking in Lubukusu: Information Structure in the Verb Phrase. In Bickmore, Lee, Michael Cahill, Michael Diercks, Laura J Downing, James Essegbey, Katie Franich, Laura McPherson, and Sharon Rose (eds.), *Celebrating 50 years of ACAL: Selected Papers from the 50th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. Berlin: Language Science Press. [[pdf of paper](#)]
- Michael Diercks, Marjo van Koppen & Michael Putnam. 2020. Agree probes down: Anaphoric feature valuation and phase reference. In Peter W. Smith, Johannes Mursell & Katharina Hartmann (eds.), *Agree to Agree: Agreement in the Minimalist Programme*, 347–389. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.354176 [[pdf of paper](#)]
- *Diercks, Michael and Meghana Rao. 2019. Upward-oriented complementizer agreement with subjects and objects in Kipsigis. In Clem, Emily, Peter Jenks, and Hannah Sande (eds.), *Theory and description in African Linguistics: Selected papers from the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, 369–393. Berlin: Language Science. DOI:10.5281/zenodo.3365789. [[pdf of paper](#)]
- Halpert, Claire & Michael Diercks. 2018. More on have and need. In Kandybowicz, Jason, Travis Major, Harold Torrence & Philip T. Duncan (eds.), *African linguistics on the prairie: Selected papers from the 45th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, 289–305. Berlin: Language Science Press. [[pdf](#)]
- Diercks, Michael. 2017. Locative Inversion. In Everaert, Martin and van Riemsdijk, Henk (eds), *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, Second Edition. Wiley-Blackwell. [[pdf](#)]
- *Diercks, Michael, Rodrigo Ranero, and Mary Paster. 2014. Evidence for a Clitic Analysis of Object Markers in Kuria. In *Selected Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, eds. Ruth Kramer, Elizabeth C. Zsiga, and One Tlale Boyer, 52–70. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. [[pdf of published version](#)]
- Carstens, Vicki and Michael Diercks. 2013. Parameterizing Case and Activity: Hyper-raising in Bantu. In *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, eds. Seda Kan, Claire Moore-Cantwell, Robert Staubs, 99–118. Amherst: GLSA. [[pdf](#)]
- Diercks, Michael. 2013. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement: Binding to Agree. In *NELS 41: Proceedings of the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, edited by Yelena Fainleib, Nicholas LaCara, and Yangsook Park. Amherst: GLSA.
- Diercks, Michael. 2011. Incorporating Location in Argument Structure: The Lubukusu Locative Clitic. In *Selected Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics: African Languages and Linguistics Today*, eds. E. Bokamba, R Shosted, and BT Ayalew, 65–79. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. [[pdf of published version](#)]

Diercks, Michael. 2009. Subject extraction and (so-called) anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. In Proceedings of Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, Volume 45, Number 1, edited by Ryan Bochnak, Nassira Nicola, Peet Klecha, Jasmin Urban, Alice Lemieux and Christina Weaver, 55-69.

Diercks, Michael. 2009. Challenges to Case Theory from Bantu. The Georgetown University Working Papers in Theoretical Linguistics VII, edited by L. Krawczyk and C. Hutchinson, 1-42.

EDITED VOLUMES

Carstens, Vicki, Russell, Katherine R., Akingbade, Olawale, Morton, Deborah & Diercks, Michael (eds.). 2026. *Pamoja tena ‘Together again’: African linguistics after COVID*. (Contemporary African Linguistics). Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.19222632](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19222632)

Essegbey, James, Henderson, Brent, McLaughlin, Fiona & Diercks, Michael (eds.). 2024. *Pushing the boundaries: Selected papers from the 51-52 Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. (Contemporary African Linguistics 10). Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.14017793](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14017793).

Akinlabi, Akinbiyi, Bickmore, Lee, Cahill, Michael, Diercks, Michael, Downing, Laura J, Essegbey, James, Franich, Katie & McPherson, Laura. 2021. *Celebrating 50 years of ACAL: Selected Papers from the 50th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.5578772](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5578772)

Gruber, Jim and Michael Diercks. 2006. Georgetown University Working Papers in Theoretical Linguistics IV. Georgetown University Linguistics Department.

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

**with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges*

*Diercks, Michael, Cliff Mountjoy-Venning, and Kristen Hernandez. 2023. Agreeing and non-agreeing hyper-raising in Luyia: Establishing the empirical landscape. To appear in Linguistics. [[pdf of current version](#)]

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

**with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges*

*Xiaoxing Yu (PO ‘25) and Michael Diercks. 2026. Is verum focus? Evidence from Luhya object markers. Under review at *Linguistic Inquiry*. [[pdf of submitted version](#)]

*Xiaoxing Yu (PO ‘25) and Michael Diercks. Object marker doubling in Llogoori as secondary topic marking. Under review with the proceedings of ACAL 57. [[pdf forthcoming](#)]

*Diercks, Michael, Katherine Johnson (HMC ‘23), Galia Bar-Sever, and Madeline Bossi (PO ‘17). 2024. Developmental Minimalist Syntax. Under revision for resubmission to Open Generative Syntax at Language Science Press. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007134>

Wasike, Aggrey and Michael Diercks. Lubukusu Adverbials. Under revision for resubmission Studies in African Linguistics. [[pdf of submitted version](#)]

Diercks, Michael. Information structure is syntactic: Evidence from Bantu languages. Under revision for resubmission to Glossa. [[pdf of submitted version](#)]

CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT	* <i>with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges</i>		
	Diercks, Michael.	UG without linguistic innateness. Ms, Pomona College. [pdf of current version]	
	*Diercks, Michael and <u>Madeline Bossi</u> (PO '17).	A Field Guide to the Minimalist Program (pedagogical paper). Ms, Pomona College and UC Berkeley. [pdf of in-progress draft]	
	Diercks, Michael.	Information Structure is derivationally late. [pdf of talk handout]	
	* <u>Xiaoxing Yu</u> (PO '25) and Michael Diercks.	Pragmatic context and postverbal accusative clitic doubling in Spanish. Ms. in development.	
	Green, Christopher, Michael Marlo, and Michael Diercks.	Wanga Verbal Tonology. Ms, Syracuse University, University of Missouri, and Pomona College.	
TEACHING AWARD	Wig Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching <i>Pomona College</i> 2015		
GRANTS	Firebird Foundation Research Grant		2026
	Research Grant for the Documentation of Oral Literature and Traditional Ecological Knowledge; Grant Proposal for documentation of Lurichichi Oral Literature: \$10,000		
	Collaborative Research Grant	<i>National Science Foundation</i>	2014-2019
	Structure and Tone in Luyia. Collaborative research between Pomona College, University of Missouri, and CASL (University of Maryland). Collaborators include Michael Marlo, Vicki Carstens, Mary Paster, David Odden, Chris Green, Meredith Landman, and Kris Ebarb. Overall budget: approximately \$485,000.		
	NSF doctoral dissertation research improvement grant	<i>Georgetown University</i>	2010
	“Dissertation research on the morphosyntax of Bukusu.” Co-Principal Investigator along with the Principal Investigator Paul Portner. (\$11,951)		
	<i>Not listed: Multiple Pomona-internal research grants of various sizes.</i>		
FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE	in the US, Kenya and Tanzania		
LANGUAGES	English: native speaker		
	Swahili: conversational speaking and reading knowledge		
	Spanish: former conversational speaker, limited speaking/reading knowledge		
	Linguistic Fieldwork: Lubukusu, Ikikiizu, Manyika Shona, Igikuria, Lurichichi, Llogoori, Luwanga, Kipsigis, Cinyungwe		
CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS	* <i>with a student (or students) from the Claremont Colleges (underlined)</i>		
	2026. Justine Sikuku, Michael Diercks, and Travis Major. An initial description of multi-verb constructions in Lubukusu. Presentation at the clause chaining workshop at Bantu 11 @ Ghent University. 18-21 August 2026.		

2026. Diercks, Michael. Height vs. Timing: Information Structure is derivationally late. Evidence from Bantu languages Aug 26, 2026. Presentation at *The morphosyntax of who knows what and how in interaction*, workshop at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea.
- ✱2023. Xiaoxing Yu (PO '25) and Michael Diercks. Object marker doubling in Llogoori as secondary topic marking. Presentation at ACAL 57 at the University of Buffalo, May 2026.
- ✱2023. Katherine Johnson (HMC '23) and Michael Diercks. Hyperraising in Tiriki. Presentation at ACAL 54 at the University of Connecticut, June 2023.
- ✱2022. Hannah Lippard (PO '17), Justine Sikuku, Crisófia Langa da Câmara, Madelyn Colantes (PO '22), Kang (Franco) Liu (PO '20), and Michael Diercks. Emphatic Interpretations of Object Marking in Bantu Languages. Presentation at ACAL 53 hosted virtually by UCSD.
- ✱2022. Letsholo, Rose, Madelyn Colantes (PO '22), and Michael Diercks. 2022. Emphatic Properties of Object Marking in Ikalanga. Presentation at ACAL 53 hosted virtually by UCSD.
- ✱ 2021. Hannah Lippard (PO '17), Justine Sikuku, Crisófia Langa da Câmara, Madelyn Colantes (PO '22), Kang (Franco) Liu (PO '20), and Michael Diercks. Emphatic Interpretations of Object Marking in Bantu Languages. Presentation at virtual workshop on Mirativity and Evidentiality in Bantu Languages, hosted by Leiden University and University of Essex.
2021. Michael Diercks. Methodologies for Research on Grammars of East African Languages Presentation at the Conference of the Language Association of East Africa. August 13, 2021.
- ✱2021. Langa da Câmara, Crisófia, Michael Diercks, Madelyn Colantes (PO '22), Brendan Ly (PO '22), Jackson Kuzmik (PO '20), and Siva Zhou (PO '22). Object marking in Cinyungwe. Presentation at the 51st/52nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics, hosted virtually by the University of Florida and Rutgers University. April 2021.
- ✱2019. Diercks, Michael, Justine Sikuku, Kang (Franco) Liu (PO '20), and David Langa. Afranaph Sister Project (in development): Object Marking. Presentation at the 3rd Afranaph Project Development Workshop @ Georgetown University, Dec 13-14 2019.
2019. Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. Object Marking in Lubukusu: Information Structure in the Verb Phrase. Presentation at the Southern California Annual Meeting on Syntax. November 2, 2019.
2019. Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. Object Marking in Lubukusu: Information Structure in the Verb Phrase. Presentation at the Conference of the Language Association of East Africa. August 2, 2019.
2019. Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. Object Marking in Lubukusu: Information Structure in the Verb Phrase. Presentation at ACAL 50 at the University of British Columbia. May 26, 2019.
2018. Diercks, Michael. Clarifying the Position of Preverbal Subjects: Subject Pronoun Doubling in Wanga. Presentation at ACAL 49 at Michigan State University.

2017. Gluckman, John, Margit Bowler, Maurice Sifuna, Michael Diercks, and Kelvin Alulu. A typological study of modality in Luhya languages. Presentation at ACAL 48, Indiana University.
- *2017. Diercks, Michael, Madeline Bossi, Peter Staub, and Jordan Wong. V1 in Kipsigis: Head Movement and Scrambling. Presentation at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society. University of California, Berkeley.
2017. Gluckman, John, Margit Bowler, Maurice Sifuna, and Michael Diercks. Modality in Luhya: A typological study. Poster presentation at the LSA 2017 Annual Meeting, Austin TX.
2016. with Aggrey Wasike. Lubukusu Adverbial Syntax. Presentation at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.
- *2016. with Cliff Mountjoy-Venning. Raising in Logoori. Presentation at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.
- *2016. with Meghana Rao. Complementizer Agreement in Kipsigis. Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.
2015. with Justine Sikuku. Pragmatic Effects of Clitic Doubling: Two Kinds of Object Markers in Lubukusu. Presentation at ACAL 46 at the University of Oregon.
2014. with Claire Halpert. On the decomposition of ‘need.’ Presentation at ACAL 45 at Kansas University.
2013. with Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. Presentation at WCCFL 31, Arizona State University.
- *2013. with Rodrigo Ranero and Rebekah Cramerus. On Object Marking in Kuria. Presentation at the joint conference of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics and the Georgetown University Round Table, Georgetown University.
2013. On the value of linguistic fieldwork. Invited talk given at the workshop: Fieldwork in the 21st Century: Goals, Tools and Techniques preceding the joint conference of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics and the Georgetown University Round Table, Georgetown University.
2012. Upwards-oriented complementizer agreement in Lubukusu. Generative Initiatives in Syntactic Theory 6, Ghent University, workshop on complementizer agreement (invited talk).
2012. with Michael Putnam and Marjo van Koppen. Upward- vs. downward-probing Agree: Defining a single feature-valuation relation. Presentation at WCCFL 30, Santa Cruz.
- *2012. with Anna Bax. Out with the new and in with the old: Topic-based object marking in Manyika. Presentation at LSA, Portland, January 5-8.
2011. with Michael Putnam and Marjo van Koppen. The Directionality of Agree: Can a Universal Feature Valuation Operation be Established? Presented in Potsdam, Germany at the workshop The Minimalist Program: Quo Vadis? – Newborn, Reborn, or Stillborn? October 3-6.
2011. with Vicki Carstens. Agreeing How? Presentation at B4ntu, Berlin, April 7-9.
2011. with Justine Sikuku. Lubukusu object marking as pronominal incorporation. Presentation at B4ntu, Berlin, April 7-9.

- 2010. with Vicki Carstens, Loyiso Mletshe, Juvénal Ndayiragije, Justine Sikuku. DP Positions in African Languages. Presentation at the Afranaph Workshop, Rutgers University, December 10-11.
- 2010. with Vicki Carstens, Luis Lopez, Loyiso Mletshe, Juvénal Ndayiragije, Justine Sikuku. Properties of Subjects in Bantu Languages. Presentation at the Afranaph Workshop, Rutgers University, December 10-11.
- 2010. On the Nature of Logophoric Relations: Complementizer Agreement in Lubukusu. Poster presented at NELS 41, University of Pennsylvania, October 22-24.
- 2010. Complementizer agreement in Lubukusu and the properties of subjects. Talk presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Jan. 9.
- 2009. with Vicki Carstens. Parameterizing Case and Activity: Raising verbs in Bantu. Presented at the 40th annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Nov. 13-15.
- 2009. Complementizer Agreement in Lubukusu: Intersections with logophoricity and factivity. The Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Oct. 9-10.
- 2009. with Vicki Carstens. Implications of Bantu raising verbs. The Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Oct. 9-10.
- 2009. Subject extraction and (so-called) anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. The 45th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, April 17.
- 2009. Arguments for a Motion Phrase: The Bukusu locative clitic. At the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, April 10.
- 2009. The implications of Bukusu locative constructions: Expletives and agreement. At the syntax workshop at the 3rd International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu 3), March 28.
- 2009. The morphosyntax of Bukusu locative inversion. At the 3rd International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu 3), March 26.
- 2009. Null expletives and agreement in Bukusu locative inversion. At the Annual Meeting of the LSA, January 8.
- 2008. Licensing Inversion: Bukusu in the Typology of Bantu Inversion Constructions. At the Movement and Word Order in Bantu conference, Leiden University, March 7-8.

INVITED
PRESENTATIONS

- 2026. Diercks, Michael. Bantu inversion. Presentation in a syntax seminar at NYU, February 3, 2026.
- 2024. Diercks, Michael. Making sense of linguistic theory: connections with language acquisition. Presentation at the University of Connecticut, October 15, 2024.
- 2024. Diercks, Michael. Lubukusu object marking: at the intersection of syntax and pragmatics. Presentation at NYU, October 4, 2024.
- 2024. Revising and editing papers for publication. A professional development talk given at a workshop with the Language Association of Eastern Africa. September 27, 2024.

2023. Diercks, Michael. Academic publishing, step by step, with a focus on African linguistics. Invited presentation at workshop. Sharpening the Lens: Enhancing Linguistics Career Prospects in East Africa (Writing Workshop). Makerere University, August 12-14 2023. Presentation link.
2022. Diercks, Michael. Height vs. Timing: Information Structure is derivationally late. Evidence from Bantu Languages. Talk at Workshop on the Foundations of Extended Projections, at the Center for Advanced Study in Theoretical Linguistics at the University of Tromsø (Oct 28-29, 2022).
- *2021. Diercks, Michael, Madeline Bossi (PO '17), Galia Bar-Sever and Katherine Johnson (HMC '23). Building Bridges: Developmental Minimalist Syntax. Talk given at Leiden University. Dec. 9 2021.
2021. Major, Travis, Justine Sikuku, and Michael Diercks. Re-analyzing Bukusu “complementizer agreement.” Talk at UC San Diego Linguistics Department. Nov 9 2021.
2021. Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. Bukusu object marking: At the interface of pragmatics and syntax. Talk given at International Christian University in Japan. October 16 2021.
2021. Sikuku, Justine and Michael Diercks. Bukusu object marking: At the interface of pragmatics and syntax. Talk given at the Department of Linguistics, UC Berkeley. March 2021.
2021. Major, Travis, Justine Sikuku, and Michael Diercks. Agreeing “complementizers” are neither complementizers nor selected: Reanalyzing Bukusu “complementizer agreement.” Talk given at the Department of Linguistics, UCLA. February 2021.
2020. w. Justine Sikuku. Grammatical Information Structure in the Lubukusu Verb Phrase. Talk given at the Department of Linguistics, UCLA. March 3, 2020.
- February 10, 2019. w. Justine Sikuku. Object Marking and Information Structure in Lubukusu and related Luyia. Talk given to the Fieldwork group in the Department of Linguistics, University of California, San Diego.
- April 25, 2016. w. Justine Sikuku. Hidden Complexity in Object Clitics in Lubukusu and related Luyha Languages. Talk given at the Department of Linguistics, University of California, San Diego.
- March 19, 2015. w. Justine Sikuku. Object Clitics in Bantu Languages. Talk given at the Fieldwork Forum at University of California, Berkeley.
- April 14, 2014. What Kinds of Agreement Are Possible? Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and (Non)Anaphoric feature valuation. Department of Linguistics, University of Southern California.
- April 11, 2014. What Kinds of Agreement Are Possible? Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and (Non)Anaphoric feature valuation. Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.
- March 6, 2014. Professional development workshop for graduate students. Moi University, Kenya. Department of Foreign Language and Linguistics.
- March 5, 2014. Language Patterns, Vocabulary, and Oral Literature in Luyia Languages. Moi University, Kenya. Department of Foreign Language and Linguistics.

May, 2013. w. Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. UCLA Linguistics Department.

January, 2013. w. Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. UCSC Linguistics Department.

Nov 2, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Hyper-raising in Bantu. Georgetown University Linguistics Department.

*October 5, 2012. w. Carmen Fought, Karen Eisenhauer, Kaya LeGrand, Chris Leon, Hannah Walhout. Toward explaining social awkwardness: A linguistic approach to a new empirical domain. University of California, Santa Barbara, in the Language, Interaction, and Social Organization group.

July 25, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Raising and Hyper-raising in Bantu. MIT Linguistics Department.

June 24, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Raising and Hyper-raising in Bantu. University of Missouri African Linguistics Workshop.

February 16, 2012. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and upward-oriented Agree(ment). Cornell University Linguistics Department.

October 21, 2011. with Justine Sikuku. Object Marking as Pronominal Incorporation in Lubukusu. Rutgers University Department of Linguistics.

April 18, 2011. Indirect Agreement: How complementizer agreement in Lubukusu shakes up syntactic theory. California State Fullerton Linguistics Symposium.

April 27, 2010. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement. Harvard University Linguistics Department.

January 27, 2010. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and the Role of Subjects. Pomona College.

December 1, 2009. Typological and Theoretical Implications of Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement. The Center for Advanced Study of Language, University of Maryland.

September 11, 2009. Agreeing with subjects in Lubukusu: Examining complementizer agreement. Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.

November 21, 2008. Subject extraction and anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. Yale University Linguistics Department.

SERVICE	Associate Editor <i>Language</i>	2025-present
	Co-founder and Technical Editor <i>Journal of the Language Association of Eastern Africa</i>	2020-present
	Director of Proceedings <i>Association of Contemporary African Linguistics</i>	2019-present
	Founder <i>Southern California Annual Meeting on Syntax</i>	2019
	Associate Editor <i>Linguistic Variation</i>	2013-2016
	Ad-hoc reviewer	

Journals: Glossa, Syntactic Theory and Research, Linguistics, Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, Linguistic Inquiry, Language, Languages, Linguistics, The Linguistic Review, Linguistic Variation, South African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Studies in African Linguistics; Grants: National Science Foundation; Conferences: LSA (Linguistic Society of America), ACAL (Annual Conference on African Linguistics), WCCFL (West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics), GLS conference (Georgetown Linguistics Society), NELS (North Eastern Linguistics Society)

COLLEGE SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Served on many department tenure/promotion review committees, departmental review committees, etc

Search Committee Chair *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* 2025-2026

Coordinator *Linguistics major* July 2025 - present

Search Committee Member *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* 2024-2025

Committee Member *Fulbright Committee* 2024

Coordinator *Linguistics major* 2018-2024

Committee Chair *Pomona College Research Committee* AY 22-23

Department Chair *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* January 2019-June 2021

Committee Member *Work-Family Committee* AY20-21

Committee Member *Work-Family Committee* Spring 2019

Coordinator *Linguistics major* 2016-2017

Department Chair *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* July 2016-December 2017

Search Committee Member *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* 2016-2017

Search Committee Member *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* 2015-2016

Search Committee Member *Academic Procedures Committee* Fall 2014, '15-'16

Search Committee Member *Study Abroad Committee* 2011-2013

Reader and interviewer *Fulbright Committee* Fall 2012

Search Committee Member *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* 2010-2011

LaTeX Resources for Students and ACAL Researchers

- LaTeX learning for Pomona College students
- For members of the Association of Contemporary African Linguistics to publish conference proceedings

Ph.D. student committee work Ph.D. thesis committee member, Claire Halpert, MIT, 2012 Ph.D. thesis committee member, Kyle Jerro, University of Texas, 2016 Generals Committee member, Emma Wing (UConn), 2025 Generals Committee member, Olivia Ndapo (NYU), 2025

Claremont Colleges Undergraduate Theses (primary advisor):

Pooja Paul (2011), Arianna Schreiber (2012), Alexander Rhodes (2012), Katie Feller (2013), Martha Johnson (2013), Rebekah Cramerus (2013, Meredith Landman primary), Rodrigo Ranero (2014, Meredith Landman primary), Kaya LeGrand (2015), Emma Manning (2015), Meghana Rao (2016), Cliff Mountjoy-Venning (2016), Madeline Bossi (2017), Evan Iliakis (2018), Franco Liu (2020), Madelyn Colantes (2022), Isaac Blackburn-Johnson (2022), Katherine Johnson (2023), Xuehuai He (2023), Amelia Lewis (2024), Alexandra Runnels (2024), Xiaoxing Yu (2024), Sydney Pearson (2025)

COURSES TAUGHT

Pomona College: *First year seminars* (Language, Culture, and Human Nature, 2010; Explaining Social Awkwardness, 2012); LGCS 10: Introduction to Linguistics; LGCS 105: Syntactic Analysis; LGCS 118: Morphosyntax; LGCS 125: Linguistic Field Methods; LGCS 175 Topics in Morphosyntax (advanced level, language documentation course); LGCS 183: Topics in Generative Syntax (advanced seminar); LGCS 186: Investigating Child Language

Georgetown University: Phonetics, Introduction to Linguistics

NON-ACADEMIC LINGUISTICS WORK

Linguistic Consultant *Second Language Testing*

April 2008

Linguistic Consultant *SIL Orthography Development*

February 2007