

Aron David Finholt

Curriculum Vitæ

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Research Specialization

SYNTAX · MORPHOLOGY · SEMANTICS · FIELD RESEARCH · BANTU LANGUAGES

EMPLOYMENT

2024-2025

Postdoctoral Researcher

Syntax, Morphology, and Variability Research Group; PI: Doreen Georgi
Department of Linguistics, University of Potsdam, Germany

2021, 2023

Graduate Research Assistant

Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

A linguistic microvariation approach to complementizers and complementation
National Science Foundation Grant #2140837; PI: John Gluckman

Survey and Documentation of African Languages in Kansas
New Faculty Research Grant, University of Kansas; PI: John Gluckman

2019-2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

EDUCATION

2024

Ph.D., Linguistics

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Dissertation: *Non-verbal predication and copular variation in Eastern Bantu*

Committee: John Gluckman (chair), Claire Halpert, Andrew McKenzie,
Peter Ojiambo, Jie Zhang

2021

M.A., Linguistics

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Thesis: *Attitude Reports and Relative Belief: A New Perspective on the Swahili
Dual-Complementizer System*

Committee: John Gluckman (chair), Alison Gabriele, Andrew McKenzie

2019

B.A. *magna cum laude*, French and Linguistics

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

PAPERS

- In revision (with John Gluckman) A preliminary typology of causal clauses in Bantu languages.
- In revision Verbal Tonology and the Conjoint-Disjoint Alternation in Kinyarwanda and Kinyamulenge.
- To appear Interpretive effects of the copula *-ri* in Kinyarwanda and Kinyamulenge. *Proceedings of ACAL 55*
- To appear (with John Gluckman) A New Perspective on Swahili's Dual-Complementizer System. *Proceedings of ACAL 51/52*
- 2025 Interpretive contrasts in the Kifuliiru copular system. *Proceedings of WCCFL 41*
- 2024 Copulas, Possession, and the Temporary-Permanent Distinction in Mashi: Evidence for decompositional HAVE. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, DOI: 10.16995/glossa.9977
- 2023 (with John Gluckman) A Corpus Study of Swahili's Dual Complementizers. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*
- 2022 Decomposing HAVE: Evidence from Possessive Predication in Mashi. *NELS 52: Proceedings of the fifty-second meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Volume One*
- 2022 (with John Gluckman) Reason and result in Kinyamulenge. *Proceedings of TripleA 8*

PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

- 2025 Locative inversion strategies in Mashi, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 56*, University of Minnesota
- 2024 Interpretive effects of the copula *-ri* in Kinyarwanda and Kinyamulenge, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 55*, McGill University
- 2023 Locatives in Mashi, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 54*, University of Connecticut
- 2023 Interpretive contrasts in the Kifuliiru copular system, *41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, University of California Santa Cruz
- 2023 Three-way Copular Contrast in Kifuliiru, *97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America*, Denver, CO
- 2022 (alternate; with John Gluckman) Evidentiality and Modality in the Mashi complementizer system, *TripleAFLA 2022*, University of Manchester
- 2022 On the Semantic Contribution of Complementizers: Data from Mashi, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53*, University of California San Diego

- 2022 (with John Gluckman, Stephanie Born, Jack Foster and Lucy Whittington) Non-verbal Predication in Kihavu, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53*, University of California San Diego
- 2022 On Complementizer Choice in Swahili, *44th Annual Conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS)*, University of Tübingen
- 2022 States and Possession in Mashi: Novel Evidence for Decomposing HAVE, *96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington D.C.
- 2022 (with John Gluckman) Complementizer Choice and Relative Belief: On Swahili Complementizer Variation, *96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington D.C.
- 2021 Decomposing HAVE: Evidence from Possessive Predication in Mashi, *52nd meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, Rutgers University
- 2021 Evidence and Relative Belief: Swahili Complementizer Variation, *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 49*, University of Texas
- 2021 (with John Gluckman) Reason and Result in Kinyamulenge, *TripleA 8*, National University of Singapore
- 2021 A New Perspective on Swahili's Dual-Complementizer System, *37th Annual Northwest Linguistics Conference*, University of British Columbia
- 2021 A Corpus Study of Swahili's Dual-Complementizer System, *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 51/52*, University of Florida
- 2019 The Scope of Negation In Romance, *Scholars Week*, Western Washington University
- 2019 (with Grace deMeurisse) Western Talks, *Scholars Week*, Western Washington University

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 To (use) *be* or not to (use) *be*: Non-verbal Predication Strategies in Eastern Bantu, *Linguistics Talk Series*, Western Washington University
- 2022 Observations on *be* and *have* in Mashi, *Syntax-Semantics Lab Talk Series*, University of Manchester
- 2021 A Parallelism between *be* and *have*: Evidence from Mashi for the decomposition of *have*, *Monday Linguistics Colloquia Series*, University of Florida

TEACHING

2024-2025

University of Potsdam

Instructor, Department of Linguistics

Field Research. Graduate course in linguistic field research methodologies. Taught in Winter 2024, Summer 2024, Winter 2025, Summer 2025.

Non-verbal predication: Typological survey and theoretical issues. Graduate syntax/morphology seminar on non-verbal predication. Taught in Summer 2024, Summer 2025.

Introduction to Phonology and Morphology. Graduate introductory course in phonology and morphology. Taught in Winter 2025.

2019-2023

University of Kansas

Graduate Instructor, Department of Linguistics

Intro to Linguistics (LING 106). Undergraduate introductory course in linguistics. Taught in Winter 2022, Winter 2023.

Language in Culture and Society (LING 320). Undergraduate introductory course in linguistic anthropology. Taught in Summer 2022.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics

Language in Culture and Society (LING 320). Undergraduate introductory course in linguistic anthropology. Taught in Spring 2023.

Syntax I (LING 325). Undergraduate introductory course in syntax. Taught in Fall 2021, Fall 2022.

Phonology I (LING 312). Undergraduate introductory course in phonology. Taught in Spring 2022.

Intro to Linguistics (LING 106). Undergraduate introductory course in linguistics. Taught in Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021.

ADVISING

2025

Marina Fomenko, University of Potsdam, M.Sc. Committee (chair)

Title: Causative Morphology in Kannada

2025

Georgia Randall, University of Potsdam, M.Sc. Committee (chair)

Title: An Empirical Investigation of Word Order Variation and Scope in Kannada

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-2025 **Postdoctoral Researcher**

Syntax, Morphology, and Variability Research Group; PI: Doreen Georgi
Department of Linguistics, University of Potsdam

2021, 2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**

A linguistic microvariation approach to complementizers and complementation
National Science Foundation Grant #2140837; PI: John Gluckman
Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas

Survey and Documentation of African Languages in Kansas; PI: John Gluckman
Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas

2019 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**

Border Minorities of la Francophonie des Amériques; PI: Christina Keppie
Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Western Washington University,

2019 **Intern for Assistance**

Western Talks, funded by WWU Thaddeus Spratlen and Lois Price-Spratlen
Inclusion and Diversity Grant; PI: Kristin Denham, Anne Lobeck
Department of Linguistics, Western Washington University

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023-2024 **University Graduate Fellowship, Dissertation-Year Fellow**

Awarded by: Department of Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Kansas

2022 **Best Student Abstract - LSA Annual Meeting, First Prize**

Abstract Title: *States and Possession in Mashi: A Novel Argument for Decomposing HAVE*
Awarded by: Awards Committee, 96th Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America

2021-2022 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, KiSwahili Language Fellow - Academic Year**

Awarded by: Kansas African Studies Center, University of Kansas

2021 **Outstanding Master's Thesis Project, Winner**

Thesis Title: *A New Perspective on the Swahili Dual-Complementizer System*
Awarded by: Office of Graduate Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Kansas

- 2020 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, *KiSwahili Language Fellow - Summer***
Awarded by: Kansas African Studies Center, University of Kansas
- 2020 **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Winner***
Awarded by: Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas
- 2019 **Outstanding Linguistics Graduate, *Finalist***
Awarded by: Linguistics Department, Western Washington University

PROFESSIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2025-present **Ad hoc reviewer, *Proceedings of ACAL***
- 2024-present **Ad hoc reviewer, *Working Papers in the Language Sciences at the University of Rochester***
- 2021-present **Ad hoc reviewer, *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, University of Kansas**
- 2025 **Faculty representative, *University Student Commission*, University of Potsdam**
- 2024-2025 **Member, *Syntax, Morphology, and Variability Research Group*, University of Potsdam**
- 2021-2024 **Member, *KUBantu - Bantu Research and Reading Group*, University of Kansas**
- 2021-2023 **Member, *Linguistics Social Media Committee*, University of Kansas**
- 2019-2024 **Member, *Research in Field and Formal Linguistics Seminar*, University of Kansas**
- 2020-2021 **Editor, *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, University of Kansas**
- 2020-2021 **Secretary, *Linguistics Graduate Student Association*, University of Kansas**
- 2019-2020 **Member, *Linguistics Colloquy Committee*, University of Kansas**
- 2018-2019 **Officer, *Linguistics Club*, Western Washington University**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2021-present **Association of Contemporary African Linguistics**
- 2019-present **Linguistic Society of America**

FIELDWORK

- 2025 **Ewe**
 Fieldwork in Potsdam, Germany
- 2024 **Kannada**
 Fieldwork in Potsdam, Germany
- 2023-present **Luganda**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS
- 2022-present **Kifuliiru**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS and Kansas City, MO
- 2021-present **Kihavu**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS and Kansas City, MO
- 2021-present **Kinyarwanda**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS, Kansas City, MO, and Kigali, Rwanda
- 2021-present **Kinyabwisha**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS and Kansas City, MO
- 2021-present **Kiswahili**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS and Kigali, Rwanda
- 2021-present **Mashi**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS and Kansas City, MO
- 2020-present **Kinyamulenge**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS, Kansas City, MO, and Kigali, Rwanda
- 2020 **Turkmen**
 Fieldwork in Lawrence, KS

LANGUAGES

English, native speaker

French, advanced

Kiswahili, intermediate

German, novice

Ewe, research proficient

Kannada, research proficient

Kifuliiru, research proficient

Kihavu, research proficient

Kinyabwisha, research proficient

Kinyamulenge, research proficient

Kinyarwanda, research proficient

Luganda, research proficient

Mashi, research proficient

Turkmen, research proficient

SKILLS

ΛT_EX, PRAAT, R Studio, Microsoft Office, Linguistic Corpora