Willie Myers

✎ willie.myers@mail.mcgill.ca   🚀 williemyers.com

EDUCATION

2022–2026   Ph.D., Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

2021–2021   Qualifying Year Program, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.
(Permits strong candidates to make up gaps in their linguistics background by taking appropriate undergraduate courses.)

2007–2011   B.A., East Asian Studies, cum laude, Princeton University.
Minors in Linguistics and Translation & Intercultural Communication
Thesis: *Destination Campaigns and the Prefectural Prerogative in Contemporary Japanese Domestic Tourism* (committee: Amy Borovoy and Atusko Ueda).

RESEARCH

Interests

BROAD   Syntax, semantics, morphology, linguistic elicitation and fieldwork, language documentation and revitalization, community-based language work

NARROW   Cross-linguistic variation, exclamativity, speech acts, (free) relatives, argument structure, Bantu languages (Kirundi), Iroquoian languages (Kanien'kéha)

Journal articles

2024   **Myers, Willie**. The form and function of Kirundi exclamatives. Accepted at *Linguistic Variation*.

Peer-reviewed book chapters

Accepted   **Myers, Willie**, Justin Royer, and Jessica Coon. Correlates of object raising in Mayan. Hermann Keupdjio, James Crippen, and Rose-Marie Déchaine (eds.) *Move & Agree*.

Proceedings papers

To appear   **Myers, Willie**. A syntactic approach to repetitive presuppositions in Kanien'kéha. Proceedings of NELS 55.

To appear   **Myers, Willie**. 'Paul died again': argumentless presuppositions in Kanien'kéha. Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29.

To appear   Cross, Tehokwiráthe Terrance Gatchalian, Katya Morgunova, **Willie Myers**, and Ro'nikonhkátste Norton. Lexical aspect and the stative present in Kanien'kéha. Proceedings of WSCLA 26.

Peer-reviewed proceedings papers

To appear   **Myers, Willie**. Headless relative clauses and anti-agreement in Kirundi. Proceedings of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL) 54.

2023   **Myers, Willie**. Unpacking -*ish*: a bimorphemic account of Kirundi causatives. In Gregory Antono, Jessica Coon, Suzi Lima, and Claudia Raihert (eds.), *Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics, 46(1)*. doi:10.33137/twpl.v46i1.39254.

Presentations

Refereed conference presentation

2024   The Repetitive Prefix and Argumentless Presupposition in Kanien'kéha. Talk to be presented at Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas (SULA) 13, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil. October 28–31, 2024.

2024   A syntactic approach to repetitive presuppositions in Kanien'kéha. Poster to be presented at NELS 55, Yale University. October 17–18, 2024.

2024   'Paul died again': argumentless presuppositions in Kanien'kéha. Poster presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 29, C.U.M.O, Noto, Italy. September 17–19, 2024.

2024   Repetitive presuppositions in Kanien'kéha. Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal Semantics Workshop (TOM) 16, University of Toronto. May 11, 2024.

2023   Re-thinking Bantu anti-agreement effects: evidence from Kirundi. Talk presented at the Annual Conference on African Languages (ACAL) 54, University of Connecticut. June 12–14, 2023.

2023   Exclamatives in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda. Talk presented at the Workshop on Bantu Syntax and Information Structure, Leiden University. June 8–9, 2023.

2023   Lexical aspect and the stative present in Kanien'kéha (presented with Tehok-wiráthe Cross, Terrance Gatchalian, Katya Morgunova, and Ro'nikonhkátse Norton). Talk presented at the Workshop on the Structure andConstituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA) 26, McGill University. April 28–30, 2023.

2022   Unpacking -ish: a bimorphemic account of Kirundi causatives. Talk presented at the Toronto-Montreal Bantu Colloquium (Ba-TOM) 1, University of Toronto Scarborough. May 27–28, 2022.

2022   High, Low, and No Absolutive Mayan Syntax: Effects of No Object Raising in Mam. Talk presented at the Montreal-Ottowa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH) 10, UQAM. April 22–23, 2022.

2021   High, Low, and No Absolutive Mayan Syntax: Effects of No Object Raising in Mam. Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottowa-Montreal Workshop on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (TOMILLA) 3, University of Ottowa. December 3–4, 2021.

Local workshops

2024   Again and again, Iakwarihwí:saks, Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.

2024   The repetitive prefix vs. English "again", Iakwarihwí:saks, Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.

2024   Comparing Kanien'kéha and English "again", Roti'nikonhrowá:nens Reading Group.

2024   The Repetitive Prefix and Presupposition in Kanien'kéha', McGill Syntax Semantics Reading Group.

2024   Imperatives in Kanien'kéha' (with Wishe Mittelstadt), Roti'nikonhrowá:nens Reading Group.

2023   Relative (pro)nominals in Kirundi, McGill Syntax Semantics Reading Group.

2023   Lexical Aspect and the Stative Present in Kanien'kéha' (with Terrance Gatchalian and Katya Morgunova), McGill Syntax-Semantics Group.

2023   Expressing Present in Kanien'kéha' (with Terrance Gatchalian and Katya Morgunova), Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab.

2023   Exclamatives in Kirundi. Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab.

2022   Re-assessing relative clauses in Kirundi, Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab.

2022   Nasals, Glides, and Complex Onsets in Kirundi, Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab

2022   Benefactives in Kanien'kéha (with Wenhni'tí:io Gareau), Workshop for McGill University's Course on 'Linguistic elicitation for language revitalization', Akwesasne Reserve.

2021   No-ABS syntax in Heritage Mam, Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab.

TEACHING AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Course lecturer

2011-2012   English pronunciation, Kien Giang Community College, Kien Giang, Vietnam.

            English conversation, Kien Giang Community College, Kien Giang, Vietnam.

Teaching assistant

F2024   LING 371: Syntax 1, McGill University. Instructor: Junko Shimoyama.

W2024   LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics, McGill University. Instructor: Anne Bertrand.

F2023   LING 371: Syntax 1, McGill University. Instructor: Junko Shimoyama.

W2023   LING 260: Meaning and Language, McGill University. Instructor: Jing Ji.

Other work experience

2024   Project Manager, Kanien'kéha Radio Transcription Project.

2021   Research assistant (for Jessica Coon), McGill University.

2021   Operations Associate, CORE Response, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

2018–2021   Global Grants Finance Director, One Acre Fund, Nairobi, Kenya.

2016–2018   Global Financial Planning & Analysis Manager, One Acre Fund, Nairobi, Kenya.

2014–2016   Field Operations & Systems Associate, One Acre Fund, Muramvya, Burundi.

2012–2014   Manager of Special Projects, TowerData, Chicago, IL, USA.

2010–2011   Research assistant (for Amy Borovoy), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.

2008–2011   Peer Tutor, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Service

Conference organization

2024	Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), abstract reviewer, McGill University.
2023	Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WS-CLA), committee member, McGill University.

Departmental service

2022-2024	President, Graduate Linguistics Association of McGill, McGill University.
2022-2023	Grad Student Representative, McGill Linguistics Department, McGill University.
2021-2023	Co-organizer, Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab, McGill University.
2022	Co-organizer, Tetewatatienawà:se Research Group, McGill University.
2022	Co-organizer, Bantu Languages Reading Group, McGill University.
2020–2021	Member, College Undergraduate Committee (CUC).

To other institutions

2020	Mentor, Village Capital, Nairobi, Kenya.
2020	Text Team Moderator, 2020 Victory (Biden) Campaign, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
2010–2011	Volunteer, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, Japan.
2010–2011	Writing Coordinator and Director, Princeton Triangle Club, Princeton University.
2009–2011	Assistant Social Vice President, Princeton Tower Club, Princeton University.
2009–2011	Artistic and Managing Director, Quipfire! Comedy, Princeton University.

Awards

2024–2026	Fonds de recherche du Québec Doctoral Fellowship, McGill University ($25,000/year).
	Application-based fellowship given to graduate students in Québec to support research excellence.
2024–2025	Graduate Excellence Award, Department of Linguistics, McGill University ($500).
	"Awarded by the Department of Linguistics to an outstanding graduate student registered in the Ph.D. or M.A. program in Linguistics."
2024	GREAT Travel Award, McGill University ($500).
	A "competitive award designed to support graduate student travel by both MA and PhD students for the purposes of research and the dissemination of research."
2024	Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) Graduate Travel Award, McGill University ($700).
	Application-based award given to CRBLM student members to present their scientific results at a conference.
2024	Post-Graduate Student Society Travel Award, McGill University ($750).
	Application-based award given to McGill graduate students to present their work at a conference.
2023–2024	Cremona Memorial Fellowship in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, McGill University ($11,000).
	"Awarded by the Department of Linguistics to an outstanding graduate student registered in the Ph.D. or M.A. program in Linguistics."
2023	Bantu Syntax and Information Structure Travel Award, Leiden University (EUR 550).
	Application-based award given to international attendees of the workshop.
2023	Linguistics Department Travel Award, McGill University ($1,000).
	Application-based award given to McGill Linguistics graduate students to present work at a conference.
2023	Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) Graduate Travel Award, McGill University ($350).
2023	Post-Graduate Student's Society Grant Award, McGill University ($750).
	Application-based award given to graduate students to organize academic events.
2022–2023	Graduate Excellence Award, Department of Linguistics, McGill University ($11,000).
2009	Fred Fox '39 Fund Award, Princeton University ($1,000 USD).
	Application-based award given to undergraduate students undertaking research in the arts.
2009	Peter B. Lewis Fund Award, Princeton University ($400 USD).
	Application-based award given to undergraduate students undertaking research in the arts.
2008	East Asian Studies Award, Princeton University ($1,100 USD).
	Application-based award given to undergraduate students for language-based study abroad.

2008   Dean's Fund Award, Princeton University ($765 USD).
                Application-based award given to undergraduate students for research-based travel.

Honors and associations

2024   Selected McGill applicant, Vanier Doctoral Scholarship.

2023   Finalist, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship.

2023 (joined)   Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM), Montréal,
                Canada.

2023 (joined)   Member, Association of Contemporary African Linguistics (ACAL).

2011   Departmental honors, East Asian Studies Department, Princeton University.

2010   Milton Lyon Award for Musical Theater Writing, Princeton University.