

Willie Myers



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EDUCATION

- 2022– Ph.D., Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.
Parental leave: January 2026 – May 2026
- 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).

LINGUISTIC RESEARCH

Interests

- BROAD Syntax-semantics interface, morphology, linguistic elicitation and fieldwork, language documentation and revitalization, community-based language work
- NARROW Cross-linguistic variation, exclaimativity, speech acts, degrees, (free) relatives, argument structure, Iroquoian languages (Kanien'kéha), Bantu languages (Kirundi)

Journal articles

- In revision **Myers, Willie.** Subjectless and objectless readings of *again* in Kanien'kéha: Implications for argument structure.
- 2025 **Myers, Willie.** Expanding the typology of absolutive syntax in Mayan: Evidence from Northern Mam. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 19 (3).
- 2025 **Myers, Willie.** The form and function of Kirundi exclamatives. *Linguistic Variation*.

Peer-reviewed proceedings papers

- To appear **Myers, Willie.** Headless relative clauses and anti-agreement in Kirundi. In *Pamoja tena ‘Together again’: African linguistics after COVID*, eds. Vicki Carstens, Katherine Russell, Olawale Akingbade, Deborah Morton and Michael Diercks, chapter 20, 467-502. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- 2023 **Myers, Willie.** Unpacking *-ish*: a bimorphemic account of Kirundi causatives. In *Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics*, 46(1), eds. Gregory Antono, Jessica Coon, Suzi Lima, and Claudia Raihert. doi:10.33137/twpl.v46i1.39254.

Proceedings papers

- To appear **Myers, Willie.** The partitive prefix in Kanien’kéha: support for a degree analysis of exclamation. *Proceedings of the 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society.*
- To appear **Myers, Willie.** Event repetition and objectless presupposition in Kanien’kéha. *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Conference on the Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas (SULA).*
- 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 23*, University of British Columbia Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2025 **Myers, Willie.** More *again* readings and more *again* morphemes: A structural analysis of Kanien’kéha *again*. *Proceedings of Sinn Und Bedeutung*, 29, 1122–1140.
- 2025 **Myers, Willie.** An operator-particle approach to again doubling in Kanien’kéha. *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society.*
- 2025 Benedict, Arihwí:saks Colin, Terrance Gatchalian, and **Willie Myers**. Repetitives, reversives, and ongoing telic events in Kanien’kéha. *Proceedings of the 2025 annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association*,.
- 2025 **Myers, Willie** and Wíshe Mittelstaedt. First, second, and third person imperatives in Kanien’kéha. *Proceedings of the 2025 annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association.*

Kanien'kéha language resources

- Accepted **Myers, Willie.** Adjectives and antonyms. In *Iakwarhihwí:saks 2026: Special Topics in Kanien'kéha*, ed. Jessica Coon. Published by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.
- In print **Myers, Willie.** Repetitive. In *Iakwarhihwí:saks 2025: Special Topics in Kanien'kéha*, eds. Jessica Coon and Ro'nikonhkátste Norton. Published by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.
- In print Benedict, Arihwí:saks Colin, Terrance Gatchalian, and **Willie Myers.** Patterns with present, reversive, and repetitive readings. In *Iakwarhihwí:saks 2025: Special Topics in Kanien'kéha*, eds. Jessica Coon and Ro'nikonhkátste Norton. Published by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.
- In print **Myers, Willie.** Niwakenehrakò:'on! How to exclaim in Kanien'kéha! In *Iakwarhihwí:saks 2025: Special Topics in Kanien'kéha*, eds. Jessica Coon and Ro'nikonhkátste Norton. Published by the Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.

Presentations

Refereed conference presentation

- 2025 Kanien'kéha exclamatives and the partitive prefix: support for a degree approach to exclaimativity. Talk presented at NELS 56, NYU. October 17-19.
- 2025 First, second, and third person imperatives in Kanien'kéha. With Wishe Mitchell Mittelstaedt. Talk presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association, McGill University. June 3-5, 2025.
- 2025 Reversives, repetitives, and on-going telic events in Kanien'kéha. With Arihwí:saks Colin Benedict and Terrance Gatchalian. Talk presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association, McGill University. June 3-5, 2025.
- 2024 The Repetitive Prefix and Argumentless Presupposition in Kanien'kéha. Talk 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 presented at North East Linguistics Society (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 Tehokwiráthe Cross, Terrance Gatchalian, Katya Morgunova, and Ro’nikonhkátse Norton). Talk presented at the Workshop on the Structure and Constituency 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-Ottawa-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-Ottawa-Montreal Workshop on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (TOMILLA) 3, University of Ottawa. December 3–4, 2021.

Local workshops

- 2026 Gradable predicates and antonyms in Kanien’kéha. Roti’nikonhrowá:nens Group. January 2026.
- 2025 Niwakenehrakò:’on! (or how to exclaim in Kanien’kéha). Iakwarihwí:saks at Kanien’kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center. May 2025.
- 2025 Reversives, Repetitives, and Present Tense in Kanien’kéha. With Arihwí:saks Colin Benedict, Terrance Gatchalian. Roti’nikonhrowá:nens Group. January 2025.
- 2024 Surprise in Kanien’kéha!. Roti’nikonhrowá:nens Group. November 2024.
- 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND DISTINCTIONS

External scholarships and awards

2025	<i>Jacobs Research Fund</i>	(\$8,568)
	Co-PI: Katya Morgunova	
2025	<i>Phillips Fund for Native American Research</i>	(\$3,500 USD)
	American Philosophical Society	
2024–2026	<i>Doctoral Fellowship</i>	\$100,000
	Fonds de recherche du Québec	
2024	<i>Travel Award</i>	(550 EUR)
	Bantu Syntax and Information Structure, Leiden University	

Internal grants and awards

2025–2026	<i>Graduate Excellence Award</i> Department of Linguistics, McGill University	(\$18,605)
2025–2026	<i>Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement Initiative Award</i> McGill University	(\$3,123)
2024–2025	<i>Graduate Excellence Award</i> Department of Linguistics, McGill University	(\$500)
2024–2025	<i>Indigenous Studies and Community Engagement Initiative Award</i> McGill University	(\$992)
2024	<i>GREAT Travel Award</i> McGill University	(\$500)
2024	<i>Graduate Travel Award</i> Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM)	(\$700)
2024	<i>Travel Award</i> McGill Post-Graduate Student Society	(\$750)
2023–2024	<i>Cremona Memorial Fellowship in Linguistics</i> McGill University	(\$11,000)
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	<i>Travel Award</i> McGill Post-Graduate Student Society	(\$750)
2022–2023	<i>Graduate Excellence Award</i> Department of Linguistics, McGill University	(\$11,000)
2009	<i>Fred Fox '39 Fund Award</i> Princeton University	(\$1,000 USD)
2009	<i>Peter B. Lewis Fund Award</i> Princeton University	(\$400 USD)
2008	<i>East Asian Studies Award</i> Princeton University	(\$1,100 USD)
2008	<i>Dean's Fund Award</i> Princeton University	(\$765 USD)

HONORS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- 2025 (joined) Member, Canadian Linguistics Association.
- 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.

TEACHING AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Lecturer

- F2025 LING488: Grassroots efforts in Indigenous language revitalization, McGill University.
- W2025 LING315: Languages of the World, McGill University.
- 2011-2012 English pronunciation, Kien Giang Community College, Kien Giang, Vietnam.
English conversation, Kien Giang Community College, Kien Giang, Vietnam.

Teaching assistant

- F2025 LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics, McGill University. Instructor: Alex Zhai.
- 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.

Research assistant

- 2021–2022 *Research assistant of Jessica Coon*
 McGill University
 Research on Mam, including elicitation and transcription
- 2021–2022 *Research assistant of Amy Borovoy*
 McGill University
 Research on topics in modern Japanese anthropology

Other work experience

- 2025– Partnership coordinator, Skáthne Tewarihwí:saks SSHRC Partnership Development Grant.
- 2022–2024 Co-organizer, Research Partnership between McGill and Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language and Cultural Center.
- 2024 Project Manager, Kanien'kéha Radio Transcription Project, Kahnawà:ke, QC.
- 2021 Operations Associate, CORE Response, Los Angeles, CA.
- 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.
- 2008–2011 Peer Tutor, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

FIELDWORK AND OTHER TRAINING

- 2022–present Fieldwork in Kahnawà:ke and Akwesàhsne
- 2023 First Nations Principles of OCAP Training
 Concordia University
- 2011 Certification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language
 Princeton University

SERVICE

Journal review

Reviewer for *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* (2026) and *Linguistic Inquiry* (2026).

Reviewer for volume chapters

Reviewer for *University of Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics* (2023).

Abstract review

Reviewer for (Ba-TOM 1, ACAL 55, WCCFL 44, and *SULA-TriplaA 2026*).

Service while at McGill

- Co-organizer, Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab, 2021–2023, 2024–present.
- President, Graduate Linguistics Association of McGill, 2022–2024.
- Grad Student Representative, McGill Linguistics Department, 2023–2023.
- Organizing committee of Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA) 26, 2023.
- Co-organizer, Tetewatatienawà:se Research Group, 2023.
- Co-organizer, Bantu Languages Reading Group, 2022.

Service while at Princeton

- Writing Coordinator and Director, Princeton Triangle Club, 2010–2011.
- Assistant Social Vice President, Princeton Tower Club, 2009–2011.
- Artistic and Managing Director, Quipfire! Comedy, 2009–2011.

Service at other institutions

- Organizational strategy and fundraising consultant, Ionkwahronkha'onhátie', 2023–present.
- Mentor, Village Capital, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020.
- Text Team Moderator, 2020 Victory (Biden) Campaign, 2020.
- Volunteer, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms Japan, 2010–2011.

LANGUAGES

- Native: English
- Working proficiency: French
- Intermediate: Japanese, Vietnamese
- Beginner: Spanish, German
- Research: Kanien'kéha (Mohawk), Kirundi/Kinyarwanda, Mam, Québec French