

Alexander Williams

Assistant Professor
Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy, University of Maryland
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Education

University of Pennsylvania PhD 2005 Linguistics
Princeton University BA 1992 Philosophy summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Positions

Assistant Professor	Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy, University of Maryland	2009–
Assistant Professor	Linguistics Program, University of Georgia	2008–2009
Faculty Fellow	Institute for Artificial Intelligence, University of Georgia	
Postdoctoral Fellow	Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland	2005–2008
Instructor	Department of Linguistics, Swarthmore College	Spring 2005
Instructor	English Department, Temple University	Fall 2004

Research areas

The semantic composition of verb phrases	Causative complex predicates cross-linguistically
Mandarin, Igbo	Tibeto-Burman languages, Turkic languages
Categorial and Tree-Adjoining Grammars	English historical syntax
The semantics of interrogatives	Copular sentences

Dissertation

Title	Complex causatives and verbal valence
Advisor	David Embick
Committee	Robin Clark, Maribel Romero

Fellowships and honors

2003–2004	Dissertation year fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2000–2002	William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
1997–2000	Dolores Zohrab Liebmann fellowship
1996–1997	Andrew W. Mellon fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation
1992	Prize for best senior thesis in logic and epistemology, and half prize for best senior thesis in philosophy overall, Princeton University
1992	Phi Beta Kappa

Teaching

Spring 2009	Pragmatics, Ling. 689A Events and language, Phil. 408L	University of Maryland
Fall 2009	Philosophy of Language, Phil. 360 Verbs and Arguments, Ling. 879	University of Maryland
Spring 2009	Compositional Semantics, Ling. 8080 Generative Syntax, Ling. 8150	University of Georgia
Fall 2008	Generative Syntax, Ling. 3150	University of Georgia
Spring 2008	Categorial and Tree Adjoining Grammars, Ling. 819 Comparative Syntax, Ling. 411	University of Maryland
Spring 2006, Spring 2007	Issues in Semantics, Ling. 661	University of Maryland
Fall 2005	Verbs and Arguments, Ling. 879 Syntax 1, Ling. 311	University of Maryland
Spring 2005	Semantics, Ling. 40 Syntax, Ling. 50	Swarthmore College
Fall 2004	Introduction to Linguistics, Eng. 111	Temple University
Fall 2001, Summer 2002	Introduction to Formal Linguistics, Ling. 106	University of Pennsylvania College of General Studies

Advising

2008–9	Member of MS thesis committee, University of Georgia, Computer Science Jiayun Han
2006	Member of PhD thesis committee, University of Maryland, Linguistics Scott Fults, <i>The structure of comparatives: An investigation of gradable adjectives</i>

Service

Reviewing	Journals: Linguistics and Philosophy, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Journal of Semantics, Lingua, Morphology, Journal of East Asian Linguistics Books: Complex Predicates: A cross-linguistic perspective (Cambridge) Conferences: Penn Linguistics Colloquium, N. Amer. Conf. in Chinese Linguistics
Editing	Chief editor, University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics, 1999–2003

Committees Collegiate Council, College of Arts and Humanities, U. Maryland, 2009
 Advisory committee, Linguistics Program, U. Georgia, 2008
 Undergraduate curriculum committee, Linguistics Program, U. Georgia, 2008
 Syntax job search committee, Department of Linguistics, U. Pennsylvania, 2000

Assistantships

Summer 2004 Expedition assistant to Prof. K.D. Harrison, Swarthmore College
 Assisted in field work on Tuvan in western Mongolia
 ‘Altai-Sayan Language and Ethnography Project,’ Volkswagen-Stiftung

2002–2003 Research assistant to Prof. A. Lloyd, University of Pennsylvania
 ‘Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Althochdeutschen’
 (Etymological dictionary of Old High German)

Summer 2002 Research assistant to Prof. D. Embick, University of Pennsylvania
 ‘Syntax and Verb Meaning: A study of causation in Igbo verbal alternations’
 University of Pennsylvania University Research Foundation grant

Summer 1998 Uyghur and Mandarin translator for Prof. C. Chang, Sweet Briar College
 Chang’s NSF grant #9603661: “The Social Evolution of Eurasian Steppe
 Communities in Southeastern Kazakhstan and the Rise of Ancient Civilizations.”

Books

In progress *The Analysis of Argument Structure*
 Cambridge University Press, “Key Topics in Syntax” series

Papers

2009 Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives. *Linguistic Inquiry* 40.4

2009 Constructions on holiday (with J. Lidz). *Cognitive Linguistics* 20.1.

In review Objects in resultatives. (MP004, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory)

In prep. Igbo verb compounds and the syntax.

In prep. Arguments and acquisition (with D. Embick and J. Lidz).

2008 Word order in resultatives. In H. Haynie and C. Chang (eds.), *WCCFL 26 Proceedings*. Somerville: Cascadilla Press.

2008 Patients in Igbo and Mandarin. In J. Dölling et al. (eds.), *Event Structures in Linguistic Form and Interpretation*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

- 2006 On the lack of reflexive benefactives in Kannada (with J. Lidz). In T. Battacharya (ed.), *Yearbook of South Asian Languages and Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2004 C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada (with J. Lidz), *Proceedings of NELS 34*.
- 2002 Predemonstrative modifiers. In S.-W. Tang and C.-S. L. Liu (eds.), *On the Formal Way to Chinese Languages*. Stanford, CA: CSLI.
- 2002 Reflexivity and resultatives (with J. Lidz). In L. Mikkelsen and C. Potts (eds.), *Proceedings of the 21st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2000 Null subjects in Middle English existentials. In S. Pintzuk et al. (eds.), *Diachronic Syntax: Models and Mechanisms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2000 Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements. In R. Billerey and B.D. Lillehaugen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 19th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 1999 Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives. In M.C. Gruber et al. (eds.), *CLS 34 Part 1: Papers from the main session*. Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society.

Presentations

- February 2009 University of Maryland, job talk
'Getting involved in change'
- November 2008 SUNY Stony Brook linguistics colloquium, invited talk
'Patients in resultatives'
- April 2008 North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL) 20
'Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives in Mandarin'
- February 2008 MIT Department of Linguistics, job talk
'Grammatical basics in resultatives'
- February 2008 University of Georgia Linguistics Program, job talk
'Arguments in complex causatives'
- April 2007 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 26
'Word order in resultatives'
- February 2007 UCLA Department of Linguistics, job talk
'Verbs and arguments: lessons from Mandarin'
- February 2007 University of Maryland Department of Linguistics, job talk
'Objects in causatives'
- March 2006 University of Delaware Department of Linguistics, invited talk
'The simple story of complex causatives'

- April 2005 University of Maryland Department of Linguistics, invited talk
'Complex causatives and verbal valence'
- March 2004 Workshop on Event Structure in Linguistic Form and Interpretation, U. Leipzig
'Patients in Igbo and Mandarin'
- February 2004 University of Chicago Department of Linguistics, job talk
'Valence and resultatives in Mandarin and Igbo'
- January 2004 Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 78th annual meeting
'Intransitive resultatives and Igbo'
- November 2003 North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS), 34th annual meeting
'C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives' (with J. Lidz)
- October 2003 South Asian Language Analysis (SALA) Roundtable 23
'Reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada' (with J. Lidz)
- April 2002 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 21
'Reflexivity and resultatives' (with J. Lidz)
- January 2002 Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 76th annual meeting
'The causative structure of resultatives' (with J. Lidz)
- June 2001 International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL), 10th annual conference
'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin'
- March 2001 Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), 25th annual
'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin'
- February 2000 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 19
'Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements'
- April 1999 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 18
'Null expletives in Early Middle English existentials'
- June 1998 Diachronic Issues in Generative Syntax (DIGS) 5
'Null subjects in Early Middle English existentials'
- March 1998 Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS), 34th annual meeting
'Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives'
- December 1997 On the Formal Way to Chinese Languages
'Predemonstrative modifiers'