

Alexander Williams

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Employment

- 2009– Assistant Professor, University of Maryland
Departments of Linguistics (51%) and Philosophy (49%)
- 2008–2009 Assistant Professor, University of Georgia, Linguistics Program, Department of English
- 2005–2008 Postdoctoral fellow, University of Maryland, Department of Linguistics

Education

- 2005 University of Pennsylvania, PhD in Linguistics
Thesis title: Complex Causatives and Verbal Valence
Advisor: David Embick
- 1992 Princeton University, BA in Philosophy
summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Publications

Books

- 2015 (Jan.) *Arguments in Syntax and Semantics*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521151726

Refereed journal articles

- Accepted Williams, Alexander. Objects in resultatives. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, MP004: Accepted with minor revisions.
- 2009 Williams, Alexander. Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives: Remarks on Kratzer 2003. *Linguistic Inquiry* 40(4): 686–700.

Refereed book chapters

- In press Williams, Alexander. Agents in Mandarin and Igbo Resultatives. *Chinese Syntax in a Cross-Linguistic Perspective*, ed. A. Li, A. Simpson, and W.-T. D. Tsai, Oxford University Press.
- 2014 Williams, Alexander. Causal VVs in Mandarin. In *The Handbook of Chinese Linguistics*, 311–341, ed. C.-T. J. Huang, A. Li, and A. Simpson, Wiley-Blackwell.

- 2008 Williams, Alexander. Patients in Igbo and Mandarin. In *Event Structures in Linguistic Form and Interpretation*, 3–30, ed. J. Dölling, T. Heyde-Zybatow and M. Schäfer, Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2005 Lidz, Jeffrey and Alexander Williams. On the lack of reflexive benefactives in Kannada. In *Yearbook of South Asian Languages and Linguistics*, 237–254, ed. T. Battacharya, Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2002 Williams, Alexander. Predemonstrative modifiers. In *On the Formal Way to Chinese Lanugages*, 126–142, ed. S.-W. Tang and C.-S. L. Liu, CSLI.
- 2000 Williams, Alexander. Null subjects in Middle English existentials. In *Diachronic Syntax*, 164–185, ed. S. Pintzuk, G. Tsoulos and A. Warner, Oxford University Press.

Book reviews

- 2009 Lidz, Jeffrey and Alexander Williams. Constructions on holiday. Commentary on A. Goldberg, 2006, *Constructions at Work*. *Cognitive Linguistics* 29(1): 178–189

Conference proceedings

- 2012 Williams, Alexander. Null Complement Anaphors as definite descriptions. In *Proceedings of 22nd Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference*, 125–145, ed. A. Chereches.
- 2008 Williams, Alexander. Word order in resultatives. In *Proceedings of the 26th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 507–515, ed. H. Haynie and C. Chang, Cascadilla Press.
- 2004 Lidz, Jeffrey and Alexander Williams. C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada. In *Proceedings of NELS 34*, 389–404, ed. K. Moulton and M. Wolf, University of Massachusetts at Amherst GLSA.
- 2002 Lidz, Jeffrey and Alexander Williams. Reflexivity and resultatives. In *Proceedings of the 21st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 250–263, ed. L. Mikkelsen and C. Potts, Cascadilla Press.
- 2000 Williams, Alexander. Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements. In *Proceedings of the 19th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 574–587, ed. R. Billerey and B.D. Lillehaugen, Cascadilla Press.
- 1999 Williams, Alexander. Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives. In *CLS 34 Part I: Papers from the main session*, 407–420, ed. M. C. Gruber, D. Higgins, K. S. Olson and T. Wysocki, Chicago Linguistic Society.

Invited talks

- 2015 ‘Implicit agents and remote control,’ Rutgers University, linguistics colloquium
- 2012 ‘Agents of change,’ U. Pennsylvania Linguistics, linguistics colloquium
- 2012 ‘Verb grammar in philosophy and language acquisition,’ U. Maryland, Winter Storm
- 2011 ‘Agents and patients of change,’ Yale University Linguistics, syntax colloquium

- 2009 'Getting involved in change,' U. Maryland Linguistics and Philosophy, job talk
- 2008 'Patients in resultatives,' SUNY Stony Brook Linguistics, linguistics colloquium
- 2008 'Grammatical basics in resultatives,' MIT Linguistics, job talk
- 2008 'Arguments in complex causatives,' U. Georgia Linguistics Program, job talk
- 2007 'Verbs and arguments: Lessons from Mandarin,' UCLA Linguistics, job talk
- 2007 'Objects in causatives,' U. Maryland Linguistics, job talk
- 2006 'The simple story of complex causatives,' U. Delaware, linguistics colloquium
- 2005 'Complex causatives and verbal valence,' U. Maryland Linguistics
- 2004 'Valence and resultatives in Mandarin and Igbo,' U. Chicago Linguistics, job talk

Conference presentations

- 2015 'Syntax or discourse: Processing implicit control from passives,' M. McCourt, J. Green, E. Lau and A. Williams. CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing 27, talk
- 2014 'The role of grammar and extralinguistic cognition in verb learning,' A. He, A. Wellwood, J. Lidz and A. Williams. International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL) 13, talk
- 2014 'Thematic role assignment in Resultative Constructions in English- and Mandarin-learning children,' A. He, X. Meng, A. Williams and J. Lidz. International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL) 13, poster
- 2014 'Cross-linguistic variation and thematic interpretation: Evidence from English- and Mandarin-learning children', A. He, X. Meng, A. Williams and J. Lidz. International Conference on Infant Studies (ICIS) 9, talk
- 2014 'Interpreting objects of simple and complex predicates in the acquisition of Mandarin and English,' A. He, X. Meng, J. Lidz and A. Williams. International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) 22, talk
- 2014 'Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates,' A. Wellwood, A. He, J. Lidz and A. Williams. Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC) 38, talk
- 2014 'Implicit agents in short passives and remote control of reason clauses,' M. McCourt, A. Fazlipour, E. Lau and A. Williams. CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing 27, poster
- 2013 'Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping,' A. He, A. Wellwood, J. Lidz and A. Williams. Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 38, poster
- 2012 'Null Complement Anaphors as definite descriptions,' A. Williams. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 22, talk

- 2008 'Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives in Mandarin,' A. Williams. North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL) 20, talk
- 2007 'Word order in resultatives,' A. Williams. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 26, talk
- 2004 'Patients in Igbo and Mandarin,' A. Williams. Workshop on Event Structure in Linguistic Form and Interpretation, U. Leipzig, talk
- 2004 'Intransitive resultatives and Igbo,' A. Williams. Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 78th annual meeting, talk
- 2003 'C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives,' J. Lidz and A. Williams. North Eastern Linguistics Society (NELS) 34, talk
- 2003 'Reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada,' J. Lidz and A. Williams. South Asian Language Analysis (SALA) Roundtable 23, talk
- 2002 'Reflexivity and resultatives,' J. Lidz and A. Williams. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 21, talk
- 2002 'The causative structure of resultatives,' J. Lidz and A. Williams. Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 76th annual meeting, talk
- 2001 'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin,' A. Williams. International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) 10, talk
- 2001 'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin,' A. Williams. Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC) 25, talk
- 2000 'Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements,' A. Williams. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 19, talk
- 1999 'Null expletives in Early Middle English existentials,' A. Williams. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 18, talk
- 1998 'Null subjects in Early Middle English existentials,' A. Williams. Diachronic Issues in Generative Syntax (DIGS) 5, talk
- 1998 'Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives,' A. Williams. Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) 34, talk
- 1997 'Predemonstrative modifiers,' A. Williams. On the Formal Way to Chinese Languages (U.C. Irvine), talk

Awards

- 2013 \$500 in support from the U. Maryland College of Arts and Humanities for the Second Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium (PHLINC2), with V. Hacquard and E. Eaker
- 2012 \$2,000 in support from the U. Maryland College of Arts and Humanities for the Second Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (2nd MACSIM), with V. Hacquard
- 2010 \$10K summer research support, U. Maryland, Research and Scholarship Award (RASA)

Reviewing

Journal manuscripts	Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Linguistic Inquiry, Journal of Semantics, Lingua, Journal of East Asian Linguistics, Morphology, Canadian Review of Linguistics
Book chapters	Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Language, Routledge Complex Predicates, Cambridge University Press
Book proposals	Chinese Syntax in a Cross-Linguistic Perspective, Oxford University Press
Conference abstracts	Semantics and Linguistic Theory, West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, Penn Linguistics Colloquium, North American Conference in Chinese Linguistics

Teaching

2015 Spring	Phil. 879J, Seminar in Philosophy and Cognitive Studies: Context (new course, 7 participants) Ling. 410, Grammar and Meaning (25 students)
2014 Fall	Ling. 663, Pragmatics (6 participants) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (24 students)
2014 Spring	Phil. 408O, Topics in Contemporary Philosophy: Implicit Meaning (new course, 9 students) Ling. 410, Grammar and Meaning (25 students)
2013 Fall	Ling. 819A, Seminar in Syntactic Theory: Categorical, Tree-Adjoining, Type-Logical and Minimalist Grammars (new course, 10 participants) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (28 students)
2013 Spring	Phil. 808O, Seminar in the Problems of Philosophy: Implicit Content (new course, 12 participants) Ling. 410, Grammar and Meaning, co-taught with V. Hacquard (21 students)
2012 Fall	Ling. 663, Pragmatics (8 participants) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (27 students)
2012 Spring	Ling. 661, Issues in Semantics, co-taught with V. Hacquard (8 participants) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (30 students)
2011 Spring	Ling. 661, Issues in Semantics (7 participants) Phil. 408B, Natural Language and Metaphysics (new course, 23 students)
2010 Fall	Ling. 410, Grammar and Meaning (20 students) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (26 students)
2010 Spring	Ling. 689/889, Pragmatics, co-taught with V. Hacquard (new course, now biennial as Ling. 663, 14 participants) Phil. 408L, Events and Language (new course, 13 students)
2009 Fall	Ling. 879, Seminar in Semantic Theory: Verbs and Arguments (8 participants) Phil. 360, Philosophy of Language (25 students)

Advising

Undergraduate advising

2012 Sandy Wan, U. Maryland Linguistics, Baggett Summer Scholar

PhD Student Advisor

Jeffrey Green (co-advisor), Linguistics, PhD expected 2017

Allyson Ettinger (co-advisor), Linguistics, PhD expected 2017

Zoe Schlueter (co-advisor), Linguistics, PhD expected 2016

Michael McCourt, Philosophy, PhD expected 2016

Quinn Harr, Philosophy, PhD expected 2016

Deepak Mirchandani, Philosophy, 2011–13, withdrawn

Michaël Gagnon (co-advisor), Linguistics, 2010–2013, PhD 2013

PhD Chair

2013 Michaël Gagnon, 'Anaphors and the Missing Link,' U. Maryland Linguistics
Lecturer, U. Maryland Department of Linguistics, 2013–2014

PhD Committee Member

2015 Kaitlyn Harrigan, 'Children's Understanding of Attitude Verbs,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2015 Angela Xiaoxue He, 'The Role of Grammar and Extralinguistic Cognition in Verb Learning,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2014 Chris Vogel, 'Internalist Deflationism: The Limits of Ontological Investigation Through Language,' U. Maryland Philosophy

2014 Chris LaTerza, 'Distributivity and Plural Anaphora,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2014 Sol Lago, 'Memory and Prediction in Cross-Linguistic Sentence Processing,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2014 Alexis Wellwood 'Measuring Predicates,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2013 Bradley Larson, 'The Syntax of Non-syntactic Dependencies,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2011 Alex Drummond, 'Binding Phenomena Within a Reductionist Theory of Grammatical Dependencies,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2011 Yu Izumi, 'An Essay on the Semantics of Proper Names,' U. Maryland Philosophy

2010 Tim Hunter, 'Relating Movement and Adjunction in Syntax and Semantics,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2006 Scott Fults, 'The Structure of Comparatives: An Investigation of Gradable Adjectives,' U. Maryland Linguistics

Qualifying Committee Member

2015 Zoe Schlueter, 'Predicting Definiteness,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2013 Kaitlyn Harrigan, 'Children's Acquisition of Attitude Verbs,' U. Maryland Linguistics

2012 Alexis Wellwood, 'More,' U. Maryland Linguistics

- 2012 Andrew Knoll, U. Maryland Philosophy
2011 Chris LaTerza, 'Floating Reciprocals,' U. Maryland Linguistics
2011 Michaël Gagnon, 'Towards a semantic account of pronouns as descriptions,' U. Maryland Linguistics
2011 Chris Vogel, U. Maryland Philosophy

Graduate Student Groups

- 2010– Faculty advisor to PHLING, a graduate reading and research group comprising students from the Departments of Philosophy and Linguistics, and to its annual colloquia: PHLINC1 (2012), PHLINT1 (2013), PHLINC2 (2014)

Service

Professional

- 2014 Member, organizing committee, with E. Pacuit and V. Hacquard
North American Summer School in Logic, Language and Information
2013 Honors examiner for Swarthmore College Linguistics Department
2012 Co-organizer, with V. Hacquard
The Second Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (2nd MACSIM)
2010 Reviewed grant proposal for National Science Foundation

Departmental

- 2013–14 Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Syntax, U. Maryland Linguistics
2013–14 Graduate Affairs Committee, U. Maryland Philosophy
2012–14 Faculty Advisory Committee, U. Maryland Linguistics
2012 Redesigned Linguistics Department website, with Pedro Alcocer
2011 Oversaw remodeling of Linguistics Department office, with Margaret Antonisse

College

- 2009–11 Representative, Collegiate Council, College of Arts and Humanities, Maryland

Community

- 2013 Met with the Philosophy Club at Kenmoor Middle School, Landover, MD
2012 Met with the Linguistics Club at Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD