

Robert David Borges

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Research Interests

Contact linguistics, anthropological linguistics, variationist linguistics, language description and typology, multilingualism, creole languages, Minority languages, cultural anthropology, religion, language revitalization

Education

PhD - Linguistics

Dissertation: *The Life of Language: dynamics of language contact in Suriname*. Utrecht: LOT Publications. Available at: http://www.lotpublications.nl/Documents/348_fulltext.pdf
Defense: January 31, 2014

MA - African Linguistics

2009 Leiden University
Thesis: *Prosodic features of Soninke of Gambia*

BA - Anthropology and African & African American studies (double major)

2006 Rhode Island College

Publications

Rapid Automated Picture Naming as a Proficiency Assessment for Endangered Language Contexts:
Results from Wilamowice
(Submitted) *Journal of Communication and Cultural Trends*

Convergence as the driving force of typological change in Nahuatl (Olko, Borges & Sullivan)
2018 *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung / Language Typology and Universals*
71(3):467–507.

The people and languages of Suriname

2017 *Boundaries and Bridges: Multilingual ecologies in the Guyanas*, 21–54. Yakpo, Kofi and Pieter Muysken (eds). Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

The Maroon Creoles of the Guyanas: Expansion, contact, hybridization

2017 *Boundaries and Bridges: Multilingual ecologies in the Guyanas*, 87–128. Yakpo, Kofi and Pieter Muysken (eds). Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

Tense, mood, and aspect systems in the Languages of Suriname (Borges, Muysken, Villerius, and Yakpo)

2017 *Boundaries and Bridges: Multilingual ecologies in the Guyanas*, 311–362. Yakpo, Kofi and Pieter Muysken (eds). Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

Ritual language formation and African retentions in Suriname: the case of Kumanti

2016 *OSO — tijdschrift voor de Surinamistiek en het Caraïbisch gebied* [Journal for the study of Suriname and the Caribbean region] 35(1–2):225–245.

Language Shift among the Coppename Kwinti: the Role of Social Factors and Adstrate Languages

2016 *Integral Strategies for Language Revitalization*, 483–522. Olko, Justyna, Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, and Robert Borges (eds). Warsaw: University of Warsaw.

Integral Strategies for Language Revitalization

2016 Olko, Justyna, Tomasz Wicherkiewicz, and Robert Borges (eds). Warsaw: University of Warsaw.

Amerindian–Maroon interactions in Suriname and the Linguistic consequences
 2015 *Languages in contact*, 99–115. Chruszczewski, Piotr, John Rickford, and Richard Lanigan (eds). Wrocław: Prace Komisji Nauk Filologicznych Oddziału PAN we Wrocławiu [Philological Sciences Commission of the Polish Academy of Science in Wrocław Press].

Surviving the Middle Passage: The West Africa–Surinam Sprachbund
 2015 Muysken, Pieter and Norval Smith, with Robert Borges (eds). Berlin: de Gruyter.

On the linguistic consequences of language contact in Suriname: The case of convergence (Yakpo, van den Berg, and Borges)
 2015 *In and out of Suriname*, 164–195. Carlin, Eithne, Isabelle Léglise, Bettina Migge, and Paul Tjon Sie Fat (eds). Leiden: Brill.

The role of extralinguistic factors in linguistic variation and contact induced language change among Suriname’s Kwinti and Ndyuka Maroons
 2014. *Acta Linguistica Hafniensia* 45(2):1–19.

Particle verbs in Suriname’s creole languages
 2014. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 26(3):223–247.

Linguistic Archaeology, Kinship Terms, and Language contact in Suriname
 2013. *Anthropological Linguistics* 55(1):1–35.

In preparation:

From language acquisition to language change: case and gender in New Speaker varieties of Wymysorys
 target: *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*

From Attitudes to Proficiency and Use: Identity and Language Practices among New Speakers of Wymysorys
 target: *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*

Contact-Induced Language Change in Nahuatl. Five Centuries of Language Change in Nahuatl: An Interdisciplinary Perspective (Olko, Sullivan, and Borges)
 target: Brill Publishers: Brill Studies in Language Contact and Dynamics of Language (proposal accepted by editorial board)

The Songhay Languages: a phylogenetic approach to language contact and genetic affiliations (Borges, Bøegh, and Bakker)
 target: *Journal of Language Contact*

Scientific Experience

Research (current) project *The new speakers of Wymysorys: the reconstitution of the local language and sociolinguistic identity in Wilamowice* at Uppsala University, Hugo Valentin Cernire
 2017–2019 - 1fte. design and execution of project

External Reviewer - 2018. Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek [Dutch Organization for Scientific research], project application

External Reviewer - 2018. *Adeptus*, two journal articles

External Reviewer - 2018. Anonymous peer review in edited volume on Surinamese creole linguistics (Aboh, E.A, N. Smith, & T. Veenstra [eds]), one Chapter

External Reviewer - 2017. *Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics*, journal Article

Research / Scientific Supervision in the project *Engaged Humanities in Europe: capacity building for participatory research in linguistic-cultural heritage* (ENGHUM) at University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”
 2016–2017 - 0.5fte. main responsibilities include: ensuring a high quality, rigorous scientific component in all aspects of the project; organization of thematic workshops; preparation of publications for public consumption and overseeing funding agency deliverables

Research in the project *Europe and America in contact: a multidisciplinary study of cross-cultural transfer in the New World across time* at University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

2016–2017 - 0.5fte. Linguistic analysis, esp. relating to the role of Spanish in diachronic change among the Nahuatl languages

Scientific collaboration in *Endangered languages. Comprehensive models for research and revitalization* at University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

2015 - contract work. Reviewing and editing material for the publication *Integral Strategies for language revitalization*

External reviewer - 2016. Creolistics (University of Giessen) XI conference (10–15 abstracts)

Research assistance with the GramBank project at the Max-Planck institute in Jena

Fall 2015 - Completing typological surveys of ca. 200 features for the Songhay family and the Surinamese Creoles

Research in connection with the project *Europe and America in contact: a multidisciplinary study of cross-cultural transfer in the New World across time* in the University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

Summer/Fall 2015 - contract work. Providing scientific support, especially relating to contact induced language change, in an interdisciplinary project on Nahuatl languages in diachrony

Research in connection with the *Cognitive Creolistics* group, Aarhus University

Spring 2015 - 0.6fte. Research project: ‘The problem of Songhay classification as a (post)creole language family revisited.’ The research entails using structural characteristics and phylogenetic methods to adduce evidence about the Songhay languages’ relationship to other language families.

External Reviewer - 2015. Prace Komisji Nauk Filologicznych Oddziału Polskiej Akademii Nauk we Wrocławiu [Polish Academy of Science, Wrocław Philological Branch], two chapters in an edited volume

Research assistance for the *Cognitive Creolistics* project at Aarhus University

Fall 2014 - contract work. Task - to double check coded scores for a set of 30 typological features in a set of pidgin and creole languages, their superstrates, suspected substrates, and a number of unrelated African languages

Editorial work in Warsaw, Poland & Nijmegen, The Netherlands

2014 - contract work. copy editing & typesetting the manuscript *Surviving the Middle Passage* (see publications), in addition to editorial and content related contributions

PhD Research - Radboud University Nijmegen.

2009–2013 - 1fte. *Dynamics of language contact in Suriname*, a field-based investigation in contact linguistics

Copy Editor - Leiden, The Netherlands

2011 - contract work. Brill Publishers

Student Editorial Assistant - Leiden, The Netherlands

2008 - 0.1fte. Journal of African Languages and Linguistics

Teaching Experience

Fieldwork in Sociolinguistics - individual lecture

December 3, 2018 - Språket, individen och samhället [The individual, Language and Society]. Department of Linguistics and Philology, Uppsala University

Language Contact: Endangerment, Revitalization, and New Speakers - course design, main instructor

Spring semester 2019 - Current Trends in Linguistics, Uppsala University

What is Sociolinguistics? individual lecture: introduction to the concepts, goals, and methods of sociolinguistics

October 2018 - Polish Academy of Science, Institute of Slavic Studies, Warsaw

Language Contact: Endangerment, Revitalization, and New Speakers - course design, main instructor

Spring semester 2018 - Current Trends in Linguistics, Uppsala University

Flerspråkighet och språkkontakt i svenskt och internationellt perspektiv [Multilingualism and language contact in Swedish and International perspectives] - individual lectures

April 2018 - *Structural changes in three unrelated cases: Maroon Creoles, Nahuatl, and Wymysorys*
 May 2018 - *Language revitalization: the case of Wymysorys*
 Uppsala University

Toward a world of cultural abundance: reaching globally to revitalize endangered languages - individual lecture

March 2016 - *A survey of the Coppename Kwinti: code-mixing, language variation, and/or language shift*
 University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

Contact Linguistics - 3 full day “crash course” in contact linguistics for graduate students and post-docs affiliated with the project *Europe and America in contact: a multidisciplinary study of cross-cultural transfer in the New World across time*.
 June 2015 - University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

Language, Culture, and Society - course design, main instructor
 Spring semester 2015 - Aarhus University

Master research workshop “Contact Linguistics” - course design, main instructor
 2015, spring semester - Aarhus University

Taal en Cultuur [Language and Culture] - individual lecture
 2012 - *Anthropological Linguistics, Perspectives on Kinship systems*
 Radboud University Nijmegen

Taal en Cultuur [Language and Culture] - individual lecture
 2011 - *Language Maintenance and Death: the case of Kwinti*
 Radboud University Nijmegen

Introduction to linguistics - individual lecture
 2011 - *Fieldwork in Suriname: practicalities, challenges, and language contact*
 Radboud University Nijmegen

Arabic tutor
 2005/6 - Arabic orthography and pronunciation
 Rhode Island College

Talks and Lectures

December 2018 - Uppsala University, Hugo Valentin Centre, Hugo Valentin Advanced Seminar Series
 Rapid Automatized Picture Naming as a Proficiency Assessment for Endangered Language Contexts: Results from Wilamowice

December 2018 - Uppsala University, Department of Linguistics and Philology, Empirical Linguistics group seminar
 Rapid Automatized Picture Naming as a Proficiency Assessment for Endangered Language Contexts: Results from Wilamowice

November 2018 - Uppsala University, Department of Linguistics and Philology. Uppsala Language Documentation group (Uppladoc) kickoff workshop
 “New Speaker” varieties: documenting language change

October 2018 - Polish Academy of Science, Institute of Slavic Studies Lecture Series
Language acquisition or change...or both?: Gender and case in new speaker varieties of Wymysorys

June 2018 - Workshop on language contact, Uppsala University
Language contact, proficiency, or “normal” language change: case and gender in New Speaker varieties of Wymysorys

May 2018 - Hugo Valentin Open Lecture Series: Combatting Language Endangerment and Death
 Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University
From Attitudes to Proficiency and Use: Identity and Language Practices among New Speakers of Wymysorys.

November 2017 - Engaged Humanities in Europe: preserving and revitalizing endangered languages and cultural heritage. University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”

New Speakers and methodological approaches to measuring the success of revitalization in Wilamowice

November 2017 - ENAHUATL2017. University of Warsaw, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”
Methodological approaches to the study of five centuries of language change in Nahuatl

September 2017 - Hugo Valentin Seminar Series
The new speakers of Wymysorys: the reconstitution of the local language and sociolinguistic identity in Wilamowice

May 2017 - Minor Cultures in Dialogue: Resisting Homogenization through Exchanging Experiences and Collaboration, Katowice.
Field School in Wilamowice: seeking a model of collaboration between academia, minority cultures and local communities in support of the revitalization of endangered languages (Chromik, Borges, Olko, & Król)

May 2017 - Chicago Linguistics Society annual conference
Locus of Marking in Nahuatl and Spanish: contact-induced morphological change (Borges & Olko)

May 2017 - Conference for Nahuatl studies. Yale University.
Head and Dependent marking in Nahuatl: the influence of Spanish on the morphosyntactic profile of Nahuatl (Borges & Olko)

December 2016 - SOAS, University of London. 'Language documentation and linguistic diversity', pre-conference session on small-scale multilingualism and linguistic diversity
Maroon multilingualism in the Guianas: formation of social and geographic language spaces

November 2016 - University of Warsaw. Europe and America: Multiples faces of contact
Typological Change in Nahuatl (Olko & Borges)

September 2016 - Wilamowice. ENGHUM fieldschool
Cultural contact and fieldworker considerations: anecdotes from fieldwork in Suriname

September 2016 - Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań. Poznań Linguistics meeting
Structural convergence and typological change in Nahuatl (Olko & Borges)

May 2016 - Higher School of Philology in Wrocław. Languages in Contact
Beyond words: structural and distributional effects of language contact (plenary)

July 2015 - Graz University, Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics conference
The problem of Songhay classification as a (post)creole revisited

May 2015 - Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, guest lecture
Songhay languages: a post-Creole language family or a genetic explanation?

April 2015 - Aarhus University, Creolistics X.
Songhay languages: a post-Creole language family?

October 2014 - Wrocław Higher School of Philology. Guest Lecture
Creolization and language contact in Suriname

September 2014 - Opole University of Technology. Język Kultura Komunikacja [Language, culture and communication]
Amerindian-Maroon interactions in Suriname and the linguistic consequences

June 2014 - CNRS Paris, guest lecture
Kumanti in contact: creation of a ritual vernacular

May 2014 - University of Wrocław, Languages in Contact
Ritual Language formation and African Retentions in Suriname: the case of Kumanti

August 2013 - Radboud University Nijmegen, Special workshop on Creole languages
Creoles and beyond: agents and directionality in the Surinamese contact setting

December 2012 - Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie Van Wetenschappen [Dutch Royal Institute of Science] Amsterdam, Secret and Ritual Language Workshop
Kumanti: a ritual / spirit language among Suriname's Ndyuka maroons

- November 2012** - Free University of Brussels, Towards a Social Typology of Language Contact and Genesis in the (post-)Colonial Context Using the Example of Overseas Dutch-based Varieties.
The Dutch Influence on Suriname's creole languages
- October 2012** - Radboud University Nijmegen (in Amsterdam), Contact and Convergence in Suriname: Theoretical Approaches and Case Studies
The role of extralinguistic factors in contact induced language change among Suriname's maroons
- April 2012** - Aarhus University, Creolistics IX
Recreolization of Coppename Kwinti: the influence of adstrate languages on a Surinamese Maroon Creole
- February 2012** - Radboud University Nijmegen, Language in time and space (LiTS) lecture series.
Recreolization of Coppename Kwinti: the influence of adstrate languages on a Surinamese Maroon Creole
- September 2011** - Radboud University Nijmegen, Languages in Contact (LinC) Colloquium.
Fieldwork in Suriname (Borges, Yakpo, and Hannenberg)
- August 2011** - University of Ghana, Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics annual conference
Ritual Language formation and African Retentions in Suriname
- June 2011** - Leiden University, Rethinking Contact Induced Change
Structural (dis)similarity and recipient language agentivity in Suriname (poster)
- May 2011** - Radboud University Nijmegen, Languages in Contact (LinC) Colloquium
Field report: data collection in Suriname
- August 2010** - Radboud University Nijmegen (in Groesbeek), Kréyòl: graduate seminar on pidgin and creole linguistics.
Working with a ritual language: Kumanti
- March 2010** - Radboud University, Nijmegen. Language in time and space (LiTS) lecture series
Working with a ritual language: Kumanti
- November 2009** - Radboud University, Nijmegen. Language in time and space (LiTS) lecture series.
Kinship semantics and linguistic archaeology: Digging for traces of contact in Suriname
- July 2009** - Radboud University, Berg en Daal. Amazon fringe workshop.
Kinship semantics and linguistic archaeology: Digging for traces of contact in Suriname
- November 2008** - Leiden University, Friday lecture series in linguistics
The Songhay problem: contact or misclassification?

Organizational Tasks

- April-May 2018** - Scientific organizer: Hugo Valentin Open Lecture Series. Theme: Combating Language Endangerment and Death
- March 2017** - Scientific organizer: ENGHUM workshop. Theme: Developing practical skills for transforming documentation into multi-dimensional materials for transdisciplinary humanistic research
- December 2016** - Scientific organizer: ENGHUM workshop. Theme: applicability of results of research on language and culture and the models of practical applications, understanding societal and cultural challenges
- September 2016** - Assistant organizer: Fieldschool for the documentation of endangered languages and cultures in Wilamowice, part of the ENGHUM project
- September 2016** - Scientific organizer: Thematic session at Poznań Linguistics Meeting *A fresh look at contact-induced changes in language structure: the role of large scale corpora in contact linguistics*
- May 2016** - Scientific organizer: ENGHUM Workshop. Themes: *Practical applications, understanding societal and cultural challenges* and *Teaching minority languages, methodology and curriculum development*

March 2016 - Scientific organizer: ENGHUM Workshop. Themes: *Capacity-building in methodology and theory of transdisciplinary research on cultural and linguistic heritage and Applicability of results of research on language and culture*

September 2012 - Assistant organizer: Contact and Convergence in Suriname: theoretical approaches and case studies. Amsterdam, The Netherlands

August 2010 - Scientific/practical organizer: Kréyòl: graduate seminar on pidgin and creole linguistics. Groesbeek, The Netherlands

Language Competence

English	Mother tongue: Excellent written and oral skills
Dutch	NT2 level. Good written and oral skills
Ndyuka	Learned in the field. Good oral skills. Competence in Ndyuka allows interaction with other mutually intelligible Surinamese languages, such as Sranan, Pamaka, Kwinti and Aluku.
Polish	Home language. Intermediate conversational skills
Arabic	Four semesters of formal study during BA
Crioulo	Self study through texts and with the assistance of Cape Verdean friends and colleagues. Reading Knowledge
French	Intermediate course. Reading Knowledge
Nahuatl	Introductory course
Papiamentu	Self study through texts, basic literature and travel to Aruba and Curaçao. Reading Knowledge
Portuguese	Three semesters of formal study during BA. Reading knowledge
Spanish	Three years of high school level Spanish. Reading Knowledge
Wymysorys	Intermediate course

Grants and Educational Awards

Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien [The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiques]
nomination for research exchange with Polish Academy of Science
 2018 Short exchange for the purpose of collaborative research relating to endangered / minority language activism

Polish Science Foundation I was a contributing co-author to the Language as a cure project, now hosted at the Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity, University of Warsaw.

EU TEAM Horizon2020 I was a contributing co-author to the Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative Educational Tools (COLING) project.

Fund for Endangered Languages

2010 Grant for the study of Kumanti, an endangered Ritual language spoken among Suriname's Maroons.

Richard A. Lobban Award

2006 Awarded to the student with the highest GPA in the graduating class of African and African American Studies Majors.

Technical skills

Operating systems (Windows, Mac OSX), word processing (LaTeX, Ms Word, Pages, Acrobat), presenting (MS Powerpoint, Keynote), database (Excel, Numbers, File Maker, QDA Miner, RQDA, TAMS analyzer), linguistic analysis (Praat, Elan, FLEEx, SplitsTree), statistics (R), audio engineering and sound manipulation (Audacity, LogicPro, Live, Mainstage, array of microphones and other analogue equipment, and ample recording experience in field linguistics and music production)