

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Samuel Kayode Akinbo
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DEGREES

Ph.D. | 2021 – Linguistics. University of British Columbia
Vowel Harmony and Some Related Processes in Fungwa
Douglas Pulleyblank (Supervisor)

EMPLOYMENT

July 2023 | Assistant Professor (Tenure Stream)
Department of Linguistics
Date of appointment to graduate school – 2023/2024

2021-2023 | Postdoctoral Associate Professor
Institute of Linguistics
University of Minnesota
Claire Halpert (Mentor)

2015-2021 | Teaching Assistant
Department of Linguistics
University of British Columbia
Douglas Pulleyblank (Supervisor)

2014-2021 | Research Assistant
Department of Linguistics
University of British Columbia
Douglas Pulleyblank (Supervisor)

2014-2021 | Research Assistant
Department of Linguistics
University of Ilorin
Bolanle Arokoyo (Supervisor)

RESEARCH AWARDS

2024-2026 | Connaught New Researcher Award
Non-Arbitrary Form-Meaning Mapping in African Languages (\$24,730.94 CAD).

2024-2026 | Faculty of Arts & Science Collaborative Research Fund, U of T
Ecology and Oral Narrativization in African Indigenous Communities
(with Comfort Azubuko-Udah and Kariuki Kirigia) (\$70,000 CAD).

2023 | Ignite Grant, Black Research Network, U of T
 Counting and measuring in Gã and Yoruba: evidence from the
 documentation of food culture in Ghana, Nigeria and African diaspora in
 the GTA (with Suzi Lima) (\$10,000 CAD).

2016-2017 | Endangered Language Development Funds, University of London
 Documentation of Fungwa folktales.

2016-2017 | Documentation of tone system in Fungwa,
 Arts Graduate Research Awards, University of British Columbia (UBC)

2015-2021 | Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, UBC

2014-2021 | International Partial Tuition Scholarship, UBC

2012 | Dr. Raymond Zard's Prize for the best Graduating student in Linguistics,
 University of Ibadan

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Laboratory Phonology
 Canadian Linguistic Association
 Linguistic Society of America
 Association of Contemporary African Linguistics
 West African Linguistic Society

SCHOLARLY, CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

Refereed Publications

Akinbo, Samuel & Ukaegbu, Nkechi. (submitted). Acoustics of Tongue-Root Feature in the Enugu Ezike variety of Igbo. *Laboratory Phonology* (first author)

Akinbo, Samuel & Ebitare F. Obikudo. (submitted). Tone Alternation in the Associative Construction of Nkọrọọ [ṛkórô:] (Kirika). *Studies in African Linguistics* (first author)

Akinbo, Samuel & Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar. (submitted). Iconicity of grammatical tones and grammatical integration of ideophones in Mwaghavul. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* (first author).

Akinbo, Samuel & Chiemezie, Onyinye Anulika. (submitted). Iconicity as the source and motivation for the realisation of grammatical tonal polarity. *Linguistics* (first author).

Ozburn, Avery & Akinbo, Samuel. (second review). Rounding harmony and loanword epenthesis in Yoruba. *Phonology* (joint author).

Akinbo, Samuel. (2025). Iconicity of grammatical tone and reduplication in Naija, aka Nigerian Pidgin. *Journal of Linguistics* (single-authored).

- Akinbo, Samuel & Ekiugbo, Phillip. (2024). Iconicity as the motivation for morphophonological metathesis and truncation in Nigerian Pidgin. *Open Linguistics* 10: 20240013 (first author).
- Ozburn, Avery, Samuel Akinbo & Murray Schellenberg. (2024). Ènà: An iterative affixation game in Yorùbá. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 9(1). (second author).
- Akinbo, Samuel & Bulkaam Michael. (2024). Iconicity as the motivation for the signification and locality of deictic grammatical tones in Tal. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*. (primary author).
- Akinbo, Samuel, Avery Ozburn, Gerald Nweya & Douglas Pulleyblank. (2023). Imilike Igbo as Eleven Vowels with ATR and RTR Schwa. *Journal of International Phonetic Association*. (primary author).
- Ozburn, Avery, Gianna Francesca Giovio Canavesi & Samuel Akinbo. (2023). Perception of ATR in Dàgáárè [dàgáàrì]. *Laboratory Phonology*. (third author).
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2023). Reduplication and sound symbolism in Fungwa. *Phonological Data & Analysis*. (primary author).
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2023). Sound-Meaning mapping: Verbal imitation of Super Mario Music by Yorùbá Gamers. *Language Sciences*, 98, 101553. (primary author)
- Akinbo, Samuel, Olanrewaju Samuel, Iyabo Alaga & Olawale Akingbade. (2022). An acoustic study of vocal expression in two genres of Yoruba oral poetry. *Frontiers in Communication*.
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2021). Featural affixation and sound symbolism in Fungwa. *Phonology* 38, 1–33. (primary author).
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2021). The Language of Gángan, a Yorùbá Talking Drum. *Frontiers in Communication*. (primary author).
- Angsongna, Alexander & Samuel Akinbo. (2020). Dàgáárè (Central). *Journal of International Phonetic Association*, 1-27. (co-authored).
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2019). Representation of Yorùbá Tones by a Talking Drum: An Acoustic Analysis. *Linguistique et Langues Africaines*, 5, 11-23.
- Akinbo, Samuel, Alexander Angsongna, Avery Ozburn, Murray Schellenberg & Douglas Pulleyblank. Velar Tap in Dàgáárè. (2019). In *Descriptive and theoretical approaches to African linguistics: Selected papers from the 49th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, eds. Galen Sibanda, Deo Ngonyani, Jonathan Choti and Ann Biersteker, 1-7. Berlin: Language Science Press. (first author).
- Lewis, Demola & Samuel Akinbo. (2014). EEG cerebral localization of tone. *Journal of West African Languages* XLI, 2, 118. (joint author).

Non-Referred Publications

- Akinbo, Samuel, and Avery Ozburn. (2023). Yoruba. In Ozburn, Avery (ed.), *The Language Profiles Project*. Available online at <https://languageprofiles.ca/home/yoruba/>.
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2019). Documentation of CiFungwa Folktales. In *Endangered Languages Archive*, (ELAR), <https://elar.soas.ac.uk>. (database).
- Akinbo, Samuel. (2019). Minimality and Onset Conditions Interact with Vowel Harmony in Fungwa. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2018*, eds.

- Hout, Katherine, Anna Mai, Adam McCollum, Sharon Rose & Matthew Zaslansky, 1-12, Linguistic Society of America. (first author).
- Ozburn, Avery, Samuel Akinbo, Alexander Angsongna, Murray Schellenberg & Douglas Pulleyblank. (2019). Dàgáàrè [a] is not neutral to atr harmony. Canadian Acoustics, 46(4), 36-37. (second author).
- Ozburn, Avery, Samuel Akinbo, Alexander Angsongna, Murray Schellenberg & Douglas Pulleyblank. Dàgáàrè [a] is Not Neutral To ATR Harmony. Canadian Acoustics, 46(4), 36-37. (second author).
- Keough, Meagan, Avery Ozburn, Elise McClay, Michael Schwan, Murray Schellenberg, Samuel Akinbo & Bryan Gick. (2015). Acoustic and articulatory qualities of smiled speech. Canadian Acoustics, 43(3). (sixth author).

Conference & Symposia Presentations

- 2025 | (Talk) Acoustics and Phonology of Gbagyi Tones at LSA, at Marriot, Downtown Philadelphia (January 9-12) with Abigail Dalhatu.
- 2025 | (Talk) Tonal Alternations in Mwaghavul Associative Constructions at LSA, at Marriot, Downtown Philadelphia (January 9-12) with Laura Griffin (student), Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar and Avery Ozburn.
- 2024 | (Talk) Grammaticalisation of Iconic Tone Polarity at CLA/ACL, 21st International Congress of Linguists, Poznań, Poland (Sept 8-14) with Onyinye Anulika Chiemezie.
- 2024 | (Poster) Morphophonological Polarity in West Chadic Languages at CLA/ACL, Carleton University (June 17-19) with Michael Bulkaam and Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar.
- 2024 | (Poster) Language mapping for linguists at CLA/ACL, Carleton University (June 17-19) with Liam McFadden and Avery Ozburn.
- 2024 | (Talk) Grammatical tones in the Derivation of Verbs from Ideophones in Mwaghavul at ACAL55, McGill University (May 2-4, 2024) with Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar.
- 2024 | (Poster) Mapping African languages at ACAL55, McGill University (May 2-4, 2024) with Liam McFadden, Gregory Antono, Yi-Ting Deng, Avery Ozburn.
- 2024 | (Keynote) Morphophonological Exchange as Grammaticalised Iconicity in Naijá, aka Nigerian Pidgin at TULCON 17, Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUG), the University of Toronto (March 9-10, 2024).
- 2023 | (Poster) Grammaticalised Iconicity, Deixis and Phonological Locality in Tal with Michael Bulkaam, Annual Meeting of Phonology, Johns Hopkins University (Oct 20-22, 2023).
- 2023 | (Talk) Integrating iconic tone polarity into grammar with Onyinye Anulika Chiemezie, SPF Workshop, University of Toronto (July 5, 2023).
- 2023 | (Talk) Ènà: An iterative affixation game in Yoruba with Avery Ozburn, CLA Conference, York University (May 31, 2023).
- 2023 | (Talk) Climate Change and its Impacts on Indigenous peoples of North America and Africa with Mskwaankwad Rice, Environmental Studies, Macalester College (March 23, 2023).

- 2023 | (Talk) Sound-Meaning Mapping: Verbal Imitation of Super Mario Music by Yorùbá Gamers, Séminaires de Recherches en Phonétique et Phonologie, Sorbonne- Nouvelle University, (Online on Feb. 3, 2023).
- 2022 | (Talk) Methodological challenges and successes in investigating ATR in African languages during Covid, LabPhon 18, Online (June. 22-25, 2022)
- 2022 | (Talk) Rounding harmony and loanword epenthesis in Yoruba, CLA conference, Online (June. 1-4, 2022).
- 2022 | (Talk) Evaluative and Noun-class in Fungwa, Fieldwork Forum (FForum), UC Berkley (April 27, 2022).
- 2022 | (Talk) Perception of ATR in Dàgáárè, Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53, UC San Diego (Feb. 28-March 1, 2022).
- 2022 | (Talk) Non-Arbitrary Sound-Meaning Mapping in Language, PFP Spring Research Symposium, University of Minnesota (Feb. 28-March 1, 2022).
- 2021 | (Talk) Voicing Ijálá: An acoustic analysis of vocal expression in Yorùbá oral poem, PALA Conference, the University of Nottingham (July 7-9, 2021 (Online)).
- 2021 | (Talk) Evaluative morphology in Fungwa, 51st Northwest Linguistics Conference, UBC Vancouver (May 14-16, 2021 (Online)).
- 2021 | (Talk) Linguistic Imitation of Super Mario Theme Songs by Yorùbá Gamers, Expression, Language, and Music at UConn (May 13-15, 2021, but cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 | (Talk) Featural affixation in Fungwa, 51st Annual Conference on African Linguistics at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (May 21-24, 2020), but cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 | (Poster) An Onset Condition on Multiple Reduplication in Fungwa, Conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association at UBC (June, 2019).
- 2019 | (Talk) The representation of Yorùbá tone by talking drum: An acoustic analysis, 50th Annual Conference on African Linguistics at UBC (May, 2019).
- 2018 | (Talk) Dàgáárè [a] is not neutral to ATR harmony, 176th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)/the Acoustics Week in Canada, Victoria, BC (November, 2018)
- 2018 | (Talk) Backness harmony in Fungwa, Annual Meeting of Phonology at the University of California, San Diego (October, 2018).
- 2017 | (Talk) An earlier version of Backness Harmony in Fungwa, Research Seminar & Colloquia at the University of British Columbia (September, 2017).
- 2016 | (Talk) The syntax of ná: Focus, relative, and associative constructions in Cifungwa, 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics at the University of California, Berkley (March, 2016).
- 2015 | (Poster) Labialization in Gitxsan, Ling 531/532 (Field Methods) at UBC, Vancouver, BC (March, 2015).
- 2013 | (Talk) Cerebral localization of tone in Yorùbá, Joint Conference of the West African Linguistic Society and the Linguistic Association of Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigeria (July, 2013).

Invited Lectures

- 2024 | (Institutional Lecture) Iconicity as an aspect of phonological grammar, Department of Linguistics & Languages, McMaster University. (November 12, 2024)

- 2023 | (Institutional Lecture) Iconicity and Sound-Meaning Mapping in Music, Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo. (December 1, 2023)
- 2023 | (Institutional Lecture) Sound-Meaning Mapping in Music, at Department of Linguistics, Reed College. (November 9, 2023)
- 2023 | (Institutional Lecture). Morphophonological Exchange as Grammaticalised Iconicity in Naijá, aka Nigerian Pidgin with Phillip Ekiugbo, Linguistics Lecture Series at York University (September 28, 2023).
- 2023 | (Institutional Lecture). Grammaticalised sound symbolism in Naijá, aka Nigerian Pidgin at Paris 8 University and the CNRS lab: Structures Formelles du Langage (February 15, 2023).

LIST OF COURSES

Undergraduate Courses

- LIN229H: Phonological Patterns in Language, University of Toronto (U of T).
- LIN322H: Phonological Theory (U of T).
- LIN299Y: Research Opportunity: Counting and measuring (U of T).
- LIN229H: Phonological Patterns in Language, University of Toronto (U of T).
- LING5105/8105: Field Methods in Linguistics, University of Minnesota (UMN).
- LING1800: Topics in Linguistics–African Languages & Language-Based Music, UMN.

Graduate Courses

- LIN1221H: Advanced Phonology I: Non-segmental Morphemes at U of T.
- LIN12221H: Advanced Phonology II: Tones at U of T.

Other Teaching and Course

- 2024 | (Guest Lecture). Tone, Undergraduate Course on African languages at the University of British Columbia. Instructor: Dr. Joash Gambarage.
- 2024 | (Guest Lecture). Tone, Undergraduate Course on Field Methods in Linguistics at U of T. Instructor: Dr. Suzi Lima.
- 2021 | (Guest Lecture). Vowel harmony in Yorùbá, Graduate Seminar at the University of Ibadan. Instructor: Dr. Clement Odoje.
- 2021 | (Guest Lecture). Evaluative morphology in Fungwa and cross-linguistic comparison, in LING530B: Syntax-phonology interface at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Rose-Marie Déchaine, (2021).
- 2021 | (Guest Lecture) Tone and talking drum in Africa, in LING308: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Joash Gambarage.
- 2018 |(Guest Lecture). Phonological Feature: Root-vowel mutations and Reduplication in Fungwa, in LING101: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Strang Burton.
- 2017 | (Guest Lecture) Endangered languages: Phonology of Fungwa, in LING101: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Amanda Cardoso (2017).

2015 | (Guest Lecture) Morphology of Nigerian Pidgin, in LING410: Advanced Phonology at UBC. Instructor: Prof. Douglas Pulleyblank.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

2023-2024 | Member, Racial Justice Committee, Department of Linguistics, U of T.
2023-2024 | Member, Junior Forum, Department of Linguistics, U of T.
2019 | Member of the organizing committee, 50th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, UBC

OTHER RELEVANT SCHOLARLY, CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL WORK

Resource Creation for Linguistic Research

2024-Till Date | Compilation and recording of Igbo proverbs in different dialects with Ukaegbu Nkechi
2023-Till Date | Documentation of Lijili grammar and folktales with Agwadu Kenneth Kunza
2023-Till Date | Documentation of Mwaghavul grammar and folktales about animals as spirit doubles with Tongpan Rabo Fwangwar
2023-Till Date | Documentation of Tal folktales about animals as spirit doubles with Michael Bulkaam
2020-Till Date | Digitization of thesis and research materials at the University of Ibadan, <https://zenodo.org/communities/ibadan-linguistics-library>

Journal Reviewer

2024 | Natural Language and Linguistic Theory
2024 | Music Perception
2023 | Music Perception
2023 | Linguistics and Language Compass
2023 | Studies in African Linguistics
2023 | Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
2023 | Journal of Linguistics
2023 | Phonology
2023 | Frontiers in Communication

Travels for Community-Engaged Research

2024 | Nigeria: Ultrasound study of Yoruba labial-velar plosive
Documentation of musical speech surrogates in Yoruba and Tal
Econaratology in Mwaghavul and Tal
Aspirated fricatives in Mwaghavul
2024 | Ghana: Ultrasound study of Dàgáàrè vowels
Documentation of drum and xylophone language
Dagbani labial-velar plosive and vowels
2018 | Ghana: Ultrasound study of Dàgáàrè vowels and velar tap
Documentation of Dàgáàrè morphology and phonology, Music and folktales

2018 | Nigeria: Documented the representation of Yorùbá tone in talking drum
2018 | Nigeria: Ultrasound experiment on Yorùbá high vowels and velar
2015 | Nigeria, Documentation of Fungwa tones
2017 | Nigeria, Documentation of Fungwa folktales
2018 | Nigeria, Documentation of backness harmony in Fungwa
2011 | Benue, Nigeria Documentation of Idoma language