

# Samuel Akinbo

He/him/his

## Contact info



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## About me

I am a field linguist with interests in phonological theory and phonetics. I have deep experience doing community-based research on endangered and under-resourced languages of Sub-Saharan Africa. My approach to field linguistics considers various modes of human communication that are based on language, so my research also focuses on speech surrogates (e.g., talking drums), language-based cultural aesthetics, and digitisation and archiving of legacy materials on African languages.

## Language skills

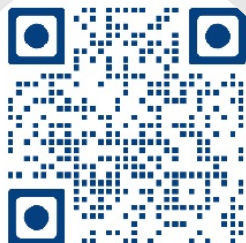
Yorùbá

Naija

English

Fungwa

Nigerian Sign Language



Scan to download



Last updated on Aug. 24, 2022

## Interests

Field linguistics, Phonological theory, Phonetics, Language-based music and African languages.

## Education

2014-2021 PhD Linguistics

*University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Thesis topic

Vowel Harmony and Some Related Processes in Fungwa

Supervisor: Douglas Pulleyblank

2009-2012 BA Linguistics

*University of Ibadan*

Honours thesis

Cerebral localisation of tone in Yorùbá

Supervisor: 'Demola Lewis

## Technical skills

- ☐ *Imaging*: Ultrasound tongue imaging
- ☐ *Speech Analysis*: Praat; Speech Analyzer
- ☐ *Annotation*: ELAN; FLex
- ☐ *Statistics*: R (Working knowledge)
- ☐ *Image Analysis*: EdgeTrak; ImageJ
- ☐ *Programming*: Python (Working knowledge)
- ☐ *Text*: Latex
- ☐ *Office*: Word; Excel; PowerPoint

## Grants

- 2016-2017 Documentation of Fungwa folktales, Endangered Language Development Program, SOAS, University of London (#SG0406), PI: Douglas Pulleyblank (Primary researcher: wrote proposal, conducted fieldwork, managed budget.).
- 2015 Documentation of tone system in Fungwa, Arts Graduate Research Awards, UBC, Vancouver, BC (#12R23797), PI: Douglas Pulleyblank (Primary researcher: wrote proposal, conducted fieldwork, managed budget.).

## Awards

- 2015-2021 International Partial Tuition Scholarship, UBC, Vancouver, BC
- 2014-2018 Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, UBC, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 Dr. Raymond Zard's Prize for the best Graduating student Linguistics, University of Ibadan
- 2012 University of Ibadan (UI), Linguistics' fund for best Graduating student

## Fieldwork Experience

- Ghana 2018 Ultrasound study of Dàgáárè vowels and velar tap
- " " Dàgáárè morphology and phonology, Music and folktales
- Nigeria 2018 Documented the representation of Yorùbá tone in talking drum
- Nigeria 2018 Ultrasound experiment on Yorùbá high vowels and velar
- Nigeria 2018 Documentation of Fungwa folktales
- Nigeria 2017 Documentation of Fungwa folktales
- Canada 2015 Gitxsan, for Field methods class at University of British Columbia
- Nigeria 2011 Idoma, for Field methods class at the University of Ibadan

## Publications

### PEER-REVIEW PAPERS

Akinbo, Samuel (under revision). *Reduplication and Sound symbolism in Fungwa*. Phonological Data & Analysis.

Akinbo, Samuel (2021). *Featural affixation and sound symbolism in Fungwa*. Phonology 38, 1–33.

Samuel Akinbo (2021). The Language of Gángan, a Yorùbá Talking Drum. *Frontiers in Communication*.

Angsongna, Alexander & Samuel Akinbo (2020). Dàgáàrè (Central). *Journal of International Phonetic Association*, 1–27.

Akinbo, Samuel. (2019). Representation of Yorùbá Tones by a Talking Drum: An Acoustic Analysis. *Linguistique et Langues Africaines*, 5, 11–23.

Lewis, Demola & Samuel Akinbo. (2014). EEG cerebral localization of tone. *Journal of West African Languages XLI*, 2, 118.

### PROCEEDINGS (peer-reviewed by abstract)

Akinbo, Samuel, Alexander Angsongna, Avery Ozburn, Murray Schellenberg & Douglas Pulleyblank. (2019). Velar Tap in Dàgáàrè. Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 49). Michigan.

Akinbo, Samuel (2019). Minimality and Onset Conditions Interact with Vowel Harmony in Fungwa. Hout, Katherine, Anna Mai, Adam McCollum, Sharon Rose & Matthew Zaslansky (eds), *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2018*, Linguistic Society of America.

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.

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).

### WORKS IN PROGRESS AND UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

Akinbo, Samuel, Avery Ozburn, Alexander Angsongna, Angelina Lloy & Douglas Pulleyblank (in prep). *Phonetics and Phonology of ATR harmony in Dàgáàrè*. Manuscript to be submitted to Phonology.

Akinbo, Samuel (in prep). *Reduplication and sound symbolism in Nigerian Pidgin*. Manuscript.

Akinbo, Samuel (submitted). *An acoustic study of vocal expression in two genres of Yoruba oral poetry*. *Frontiers in Communication*.

Akinbo, Samuel (2021). *Sound-Meaning mapping: Verbal imitation of Super Mario Music by Yorùbá Gamers*. Cambridge Open Engage. doi:10.33774/coe-2021-znrtz (This content is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed).

Akinbo, Samuel, Avery Ozburn, Gerald Nweya & Douglas Pulleyblank (in prep). *Imilike Igbo has eleven vowels with ATR and RTR schwa*. Unpublished Manuscript.

Akinbo, Samuel, Samuel Olanrewaju, Avery Ozburn, Demola Lewis & Douglas Pulleyblank (in prep). *Does Igede have nine or ten vowels*. Manuscript to be submitted to Studies in African Linguistics.

## CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

*Methodological challenges and successes in investigating ATR in African languages during Covid*, LabPhon 18, Online (June. 22–25, 2022)

*Rounding harmony and loanword epenthesis in Yoruba*, CLA conference, Online (June. 1–4, 2022).

*Evaluative and Noun-class in Fungwa*, Fieldwork Forum (FForum), UC Berkley (April 27, 2022).

*Perception of ATR in Dàgáàrè*, Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53, UC San Diego (Feb. 28–March 1, 2022).

*Non-Arbitrary Sound-Meaning Mapping in Language*, PPFP Spring Research Symposium, University of Minnesota (Feb. 28–March 1, 2022).

*Voicing Ìjálá: An acoustic analysis of vocal expression in Yorùbá oral poem*, PALA Conference, the University of Nottingham (July 7–9, 2021 (Online)).

*Evaluative morphology in Fungwa*, 51<sup>st</sup> Northwest Linguistics Conference, UBC Vancouver (May 14–16, 2021 (Online)).

*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).

*Featural affixation in Fungwa*, 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (May 21-24, 2020 but cancelled due to COVID-19).

*An Onset Condition on Multiple Reduplication in Fungwa*, Conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association at UBC (June, 2019).

*The representation of Yorùbá tone by talking drum: An acoustic analysis*, 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics at UBC (May, 2019).

*Dàgáárè [a] is not neutral to ATR harmony*, 176<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA)/the Acoustics Week in Canada, Victoria, BC (November, 2018).

*Backness harmony in Fungwa*, Annual Meeting of Phonology at the University of California, San Diego (October, 2018).

An earlier version of *Backness Harmony in Fungwa*, Research Seminar & Colloquia at the University of British Columbia (September, 2017).

*The syntax of ná: Focus, relative, and associative constructions in Cifungwa*, 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics at the University of California, Berkley (March, 2016).

*Labialization in Gitxsan*, Ling 531/532 (Field Methods) at UBC, Vancouver, BC (March, 2015).

*Cerebral localization of tone in Yorùbá*, Joint Conference of the West African Linguistic Society and the Linguistic Association of Nigeria, Ibadan, Nigeria (July, 2013).

## GUEST LECTURES

*Vowel harmony in Yorùbá*, Graduate Seminar at University of Ibadan. Instructor: Dr. Clement Odoje, (2021).

*Evaluative morphology in Fungwa and cross-linguistic comparison*, in LING530B : Syntax-phonology interface at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Rose-Marie Déchaine, (2021).

*Tone and talking drum in Africa*, in LING308: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Joash Gambarage (2021).

*Phonological Feature: Root-vowel mutations and Reduplication in Fungwa*, in LING101: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Strang Burton (2018).

*Endangered languages: Phonology of Fungwa*, in LING101: Languages of the World at UBC. Instructor: Dr. Amanda Cardoso (2017).

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

## LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Akinbo, Samuel. 2019. Documentation of CiFungwa Folktales. In *Endangered Languages Archive, (ELAR)*, <https://elar.soas.ac.uk>).

Oyeleke, Clement, Samuel Akinbo, Emeka Onwuegbuzia, 2019, Narratives in Ibadan Yorùbá. In *CoNila*, <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP2/VTGWQF>, Scholars Portal Dataverse, V3

*Fungwa Dictionary*. Creator and manager. URL: <http://fungwa.webonary.org/browse/browse-vernacular/> (August, 2018).

*Database on Dàgáárè language*. Contributor, database organisation at the West African Vowel Project Laboratory of Douglas Pulleyblank (2018-till date).

*Corpora of Nigerian languages*. Contributor, curator and database organisation, in *CoNila*, <https://doi.org/10.5683/SP2/VTGWQF>, Scholars Portal Dataverse, V3 (2019).

## SUPERVISORY & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

*Samuel Timothy*. *Documentation of Bassa (Kainji, Benue-Congo)*, University of Ibadan (On-going).

*Katie van Baarsen*. *Foot structure in Dàgáárè*, African Vowel Laboratory, organised by Douglas Pulleyblank at UBC (On-going).

*Musa Toyib*. *POS Labelled and text-aligned audio-visual corpus of Yorùbá narratives*, University of Lagos (On-going).

*Adele Kwok*. *Sound system of Hiligaynon*, (On-going).

Angelina Lloy. *Dàgáárè low vowels: a Possible tenth Vowel in the phonological inventory of an understudied language*, Multi-disciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC), UBC (March, 2019).

Angelina Lloy. *Dàgáárè low vowels: a Possible tenth Vowel in the phonological inventory of an understudied language*, Multi-disciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC), UBC (March, 2019).

Laura Griffin. *Fungwa orthography*, Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference (MURC), UBC (March, 2018).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### INSTRUCTOR

Fall	2022	LING LING 5105/8105 Field Methods in Linguistics, University of Minnesota (UMN)
Spring	2022	LING 1800 Topics in Linguistics: African Languages & Language-Based Music, University of Minnesota (UMN)

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Summer	2021	LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Eva Csipak)
Spring	2021	LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Oksana Tkachman & Danica Reid)
Fall	2020	LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Neda Todorovic)
Summer	2020	LING 101: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Zoe Lam)
Fall	2019	LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Amanda Cardoso)
Summer	2019	LING 101: Languages of the World, UBC (for Dr. Strang Burton)
Spring	2019	LING 311: Introduction to Phonological Analysis and Theory, UBC (for Dr. Douglas Pulleyblank)
Fall	2018	LING 311: Introduction to Phonological Analysis and Theory, UBC (for Dr. Douglas Pulleyblank)
Spring	2017	LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Neda Todorovic)
Fall	2016	LING100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Strang Burton)
Spring	2016	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Martina Wiltschko)
Fall	2015	LING100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Hotze Rullmann)
Spring	2015	LING100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics, UBC (for Dr. Hotze Rullmann)
Harmattan	2013	Acoustic Phonetics, University of Ilorin (Unilorin) (for Dr. Rafiu, K. Adewale)
Harmattan	2013	Lexicography, Unilorin (for Dr. Bolanle Arokoyo)
Harmattan	2010-12	Introduction to Yorùbá Grammar, University of Ibadan (volunteer tutor for adult learners)

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

2016–2021 Douglas Pulleyblank, UBC, Vancouver, BC, West African vowel systems: the emergence of phonological patterns, SSHRC Insight grant (#435-2016-0369). Lab. coordinator

2011–2012 Francis Egbokhare, UI, Ibadan, Nigeria, Management of Edoid database.

2009–2012 'Demola Lewis, UI, Ibadan, Nigeria, Management of Edoid database.

## LABS AND RESEARCH GROUP

2018 Dissertators Working Group, organised by Rose-Marie Déchaine.

2017-till date African Vowels Laboratory, organised by Douglas Pulleyblank

2019-till date UBC Language Sciences Initiative

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2019 Co-organiser, 50th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, UBC, Vancouver, BC, 22–25 May 2019

2008 A Co-Presenter on Teenage Rampage, a TV Program on African Magic, DSTV

2006-2007 Actor on Childrens' Court, produced by Kola Obadimu Playhouse, Nigeria

## Reference

Douglas Pulleyblank, Professor of Linguistics,  
Department of Linguistics,  
University of British Columbia,  
604-822-2063, douglas.pulleyblank@ubc.ca  
(Supervisor)

Gunnar Hansson, Associate Professor of Linguistics,  
Department of Linguistics,  
University of British Columbia,  
604-822-4658, [gunnar.hansson@ubc.ca](mailto:gunnar.hansson@ubc.ca)  
(Member of Dissertation Committee)

Rose-Marie Déchaine, Associate Professor of Linguistics,  
Department of Linguistics,  
University of British Columbia,  
604-822-6466, [rose-marie.dechaine@ubc.ca](mailto:rose-marie.dechaine@ubc.ca)  
(Member of Dissertation Committee)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2022-2023	Laboratory Phonology
2019	Canadian Linguistic Association
2018	Linguistic Society of America
2016-2022	Association of Contemporary African Linguistics
2013	West African Linguistic Society