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WEBSITE bchap.ca

EDUCATION **McGill University**, Montréal, Canada

M.A., Linguistics 2023 – 2025
Thesis: *v-al-ency: Two sources of causation in the Wolof Causative-Benefactive syncretism*
Committee: [Martina Martinović](#) and [Luis Alonso-Ovalle](#)

B.A., Computer Science & Linguistics 2019 – 2022
Thesis: *A Negative Alternation: Negation Head Movement Allomorphy in Igala*
Supervisor: Martina Martinović

Vanier College, Montréal, Canada 2016 – 2019
D.C.S., Computer Science Technology

NON DEGREE **ESSLLI**, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany Jul – Aug 2025
[36th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information](#)

PAPERS In Press. A Negative Alternation: Negation Head Movement Allomorphy in Igala. *Selected papers from the 54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. Contemporary African Linguistics: Language Science Press, 12. [\[pre-pub\]](#)

2023. Unravelling the ‘not’: left peripheral blocking of negation in Kirundi. *Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics*, 46(1). [\[paper\]](#)

PRESENTATIONS **Conferences & Workshops**

2024. Irrealis mood enclosed negation in Igala. *Sentential Negation Across the Globe Workshop (SNAG 2024)*. Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, Université Paris Cité, Paris, France. September 5-6. [\[handout\]](#)

2023. A negative alternation: Negation head movement allomorphy in Igala. *54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 54)*. University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA. June 12-14. [\[handout\]](#)

2022. Focusing on Negation in Kirundi. *1st Toronto-Montreal Bantu Colloquium (Ba-ToM 1)*. University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. May 27-28. [\[handout\]](#)

Other

2022. Igala Sentence-Final Particles at the edge of *vP*. *Arts Undergraduate Research Event*. McGill University, Montreal, Canada. October 18. [\[poster\]](#)

2022. Genealogic Approach to Low-Resource Language Modelling. *Natural Language Understanding with Deep Learning (COMP 599) Poster Presentation*. [MILA \(Quebec AI Institute\)](#), Montreal, Canada. April 26.

AWARDS & PRIZES **Best Submission - Challenge 1: Unified Data Model**. *Designing a universal IGT (Interlinear Glossed Text) data model* at [Software for Endangered Language Science Hackathon](#). October 25, 2025.

Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel (GREAT) Award. *Travel funding for SNAG Workshop in Paris*. Funded by the Faculty of Arts at McGill University via the Department of Linguistics. September 5-6 2024. \$750 (CAD).

Canada Graduate Scholarship - Master’s (CGS-M). *Left-peripheral properties of Negation in Niger-Congo*. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). 2024–2025 (12 months). \$27,000 (CAD).

Graduate Mobility Award (GMA). *Travel funding for 5 weeks of Thesis-related fieldwork in Senegal.* Funded by the Government of Quebec via McGill University. Summer 2024. \$1,800 (CAD).

Undergraduate Arts Research Internship Award (ARIA). *Igala Sentence-Final Particles at the edge of vP.* Funded by the Faculty of Arts at McGill University. Summer 2022. \$5,000 (CAD).

EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Assistant, McGill University
LING 371 - Syntax 1 Winter 2025
LING 360 - Introduction to Semantics Fall 2024

Research Assistant, Martina Martinović, [MULL Lab](#) 2021 – 2023
Igala (Volta-Niger) and Wolof (Atlantic) elicitation and annotation
Build and maintain [Igala Wiki](#) and [MULL Lab Website](#)

FIELDWORK

Igala (Yoruboid; Volta-Niger), remotely (Nigeria & UK) May 2021 – Aug 2024
Supervision by Martina Martinović

Wolof (Senegambian; Atlantic), Saint-Louis & Dakar, Senegal
Fieldwork for collaborative project June 2025
M.A. thesis fieldwork Jun – Jul 2024
Research assistant for Martina Martinović Apr – May 2023

Kirundi (JD.62; Great Lakes Bantu), Montréal Jan – Jun, 2022
As part of [Jessica Coon's](#) Field Methods class ([LING 415](#))

SERVICES

Mentorship & Outreach
GitHub Website Workshop for Linguistics Graduate Students, McGill Winter 2025
Co-organizer

[NACLO](#) (NA Computational Linguistics Open Competition), Montreal 2024, 2025
Training session leader

[PURL](#) (Program for Undergraduate Research in Linguistics), McGill Winter 2024
[Emma Custer](#) (mentee): Syntax of Igala perfectives

Reading Groups & Labs
[Syn-Sem Reading Group](#), McGill 2023, 2024
Co-organizer

[MULL Lab](#) (Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab) 2023, 2024
(Co-)organizer

Conferences & Colloquia
[McGill Linguistics Colloquium Series](#) 2024, 2025
Co-organizer

[ACAL 55](#) (55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics), McGill 2023 – 2024
Organizing committee

Reviewing
[ACAL 55](#) (55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics), McGill 2023
Abstract reviewer

TECHNICAL
SKILLS

Systems/Software: ELAN, Praat, Git, Docker, Linux
Languages: Python, R, \LaTeX , Java/TypeScript, SQL, Bash, Kotlin, Java, PHP

NATURAL
LANGUAGES

Native: Français (Québec), English

Intermediate: 日本語

Elementary: Deutsch, Wolof, Русский, español

Passive: Kreyòl ayisyen

Fieldwork/Structure: Igala (Volta-Niger), Wolof (Atlantic-Congo), Kirundi (Bantu), Tseltal and Tsotsil (Mayan), Tlingit, Eyak, and Navajo (Na-Dene)