

Colin Brown

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · UBC LINGUISTICS

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Academic Employment

University of British Columbia, Department of Linguistics

Vancouver, BC

2024–Present

SSHRC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

- Supervisor: Henry Davis

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

2024

PHD LINGUISTICS

- PhD Dissertation: The form and function of interrogatives in Sm'algyax
- Committee: Yael Sharvit, Harold Torrence (co-chairs), Ethan Poole, Lisa Matthewson (UBC)

McGill University

Montreal, QC

2016

MA LINGUISTICS

- MA Thesis: Extraction restrictions in Gitksan
- Committee: Jessica Coon, Lisa Travis

University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC

2013

BA LINGUISTICS

- Capstone projects: Semantics of Gitksan clefts; Sluicing in Wolof

Publications

* peer reviewed

PUBLISHED

***Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. 2025. On the clausal syntax of Dschang predicate focus doubling. In Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Sampson Korsah, Sharon Rose & Abdul-Razak Sulemana (eds.), *Cross-disciplinary approaches to Information Structure in Niger-Congo languages*, 215–243. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.16875466

Colin Brown. 2025. Clause typing and clitic linearization in Gitksan. In Papers for the 60th International Conference of Salish and Neighbouring Languages. UBCWPL.

Colin Brown, Henry Davis. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax (Coast Tsimshian). Proceedings from the 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 54). University of Massachusetts GLSA.

Colin Brown, Henry Davis. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax: the puzzle. *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Occasional Papers in Linguistics, Volume 9.

Henry Davis, **Colin Brown**. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax: a solution. *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Occasional Papers in Linguistics, Volume 9.

***Colin Brown**. 2024. Questions and their relatives in Sm'algyax. *The International Journal of American Linguistics*. vol. 90, no. 3.

***Colin Brown**. 2024. Conjectural questions in Sm'algyax. *Folia Linguistica*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/flin-2023-2051>

***Colin Brown**. 2023. Irrealis-marked interrogatives as negative rhetorical questions. *vol. 9, no. 1. Open Linguistics*.

Colin Brown, Clarissa Forbes, Michael Schwan. 2020. Clause-type, transitivity, and the transitive vowel in Tsimshianic. In Papers for the 55th International Conference of Salish and Neighbouring Languages. UBCWPL.

Colin Brown. 2017. Syntactic ergativity in Gitksan. Proceedings from the 21st annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

TO APPEAR

Colin Brown, Starr Sandoval. *What to do about what to do? Wh-in infinitives as topic-setting questions*. Proceedings from the 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 54). University of Massachusetts GLSA.

Colin Brown, Harold Torrence. Predicate focus in Dschang. Proceedings from the 10th World Congress of African Linguistics

Noah Elkins, **Colin Brown**. Free relative clauses in Mam. Proceedings from the annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

Colin Brown. Polar questions in Sm'algyax. Proceedings from the annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

UNDER REVISION

Noah Elkins, Harold Torrence, **Colin Brown**. Wh-movement paths and oblique extraction in Mam (Mayan).

Colin Brown. Bipartite question formation in Sm'algyax (Resubmitted).

IN PREP

Colin Brown, Henry Davis. Final and penultimate position clitics in Tsimshianic. (Manuscript.)

Colin Brown. Local and long-distance wh-paths in Sm'algyax. (Manuscript.)

Colin Brown. Correlates of clausal complementation in Gitksan. (Manuscript.)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Colin Brown. 2024. The form and function of interrogatives in Sm'algyax. Doctoral Dissertation. UCLA.

Colin Brown. 2020. Illocutionary mood marking in Sm'algyax. Qualifying Paper. UCLA.

Colin Brown. 2016. Extraction restrictions in Gitksan. Master's Thesis. McGill University.

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

April 10, 2026. *tba*. UBC Linguistics Research Seminar. Vancouver, BC.

May 1, 2025. *Clause typing and clitic linearization in Gitksan*. Simon Fraser University Indigenous Languages Colloquium. Burnaby, BC.

March 3, 2025. *Critic linearization and morphology*. Guest lecture: Clitics: a View from the Pacific Northwest (Prof. Henry Davis) University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC.

November 28, 2022. *Interrogative particles in Sm'algyax*. Guest lecture: Advanced Syntax I (Prof. Neda Todorovic) University of Toronto. Toronto, ON.

April 1, 2022. *Variable interrogative flip in Sm'algyax evidential questions*. Invited talk: UC Berkeley Syntax and Semantics Circle. Berkeley, CA.

PRESENTATIONS

Henry Davis, **Colin Brown**. 2026. Wh-questions and focus in predicate-initial languages: evidence from Tsimshianic. Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas (SULA) and Semantics of Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania (TripleA) 2026. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC. May 12-15.

Colin Brown. 2026. Wh-questions and focus in predicate-initial languages: evidence from Tsimshianic. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 44. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico. May 6-7.

Colin Brown, Starr Sandoval. 2025. What to do about *what to do?* Root wh-in infinitives as deliberative non-canonical questions. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 56. New York University. New York, NY. October 17-19. (Poster presentation)

- Colin Brown.** 2024. Epistemic *la* in Mam: linearization and meaning contribution. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 7. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico. February 22–23.
- Colin Brown**, Henry Davis. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 54. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. January 26–27.
- Colin Brown.** 2023. Polar questions in Sm'algyax. The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2023. McGill University. Montréal, QC. April 28–30.
- Noah Elkins, **Colin Brown.** 2023. Headless relative clauses in Mam. The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2023. McGill University. Montréal, QC. April 28–30.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Irrealis-marked interrogatives as negative rhetorical questions. Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity in Language and Culture. Workshop “Non-canonical interrogatives across languages: prosody, semantics, pragmatics”, Tartu, Estonia. May 12–13.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Rhetorical questions two ways. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics, University of California, Los Angeles. May 6.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Information-seeking and non-information-seeking questions with conjectural evidentials. UBC Gitksan Lab: UBC Linguistics, Vancouver, BC. April 11.
- Colin Brown**, Zhuo Chen, Matthew Czuba, Blake Lehman, Harold Torrence. 2022. The Inventory of Polar Question Types in Dschang. The Annual Conference on African Linguistics 53. University of California, San Diego. April 7–9.
- Colin Brown.** 2021. Variable interrogative flip in evidential questions in Sm'algyax. Workshop on The Pragmatics of Evidentiality. Venice, Italy. June 19–21.
- Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. 2021. Analyzing predicate focus doubling in Dschang. 10th World Congress of African Linguistics. University of Leiden. June 7–12.
- Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. 2021. The syntax of predicate focus doubling in Dschang. Annual Conference of African Linguistics 51–52. University of Florida. April 8–10.
- Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. 2021. Predicate Focus Doubling in Dschang: Implications for Clausal Syntax. Linguistics Society of America 2021. Held virtually. January 7–10.
- Colin Brown.** 2020. Interrogative mood marking in Sm'algyax. Linguistics Society of America 2020. New Orleans, LA. January 2–5.
- Colin Brown.** 2019. Interrogatives at the interface: Sentential mood marking in Sm'algyax. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics 2019. University of Southern California. November 9–10.
- Colin Brown**, Clarissa Forbes. 2018. Three (hidden) obliques in Gitksan. The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2018. Salt Lake City, UT. January 4–7.
- Colin Brown.** 2016. Revisiting ergativity in Gitksan. The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2016. UQAM. Montréal, QC. April 1–3.
- Colin Brown.** 2016. A structural account of split ergativity in Gitksan. Putting Fieldwork on Indigenous Languages to New Uses. Campinas, Brazil. March 21–April 2. (Poster presentation)
- Colin Brown.** 2016. Absolutive in Tsimshianic. The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2016. Washington, DC. January 7–10.
- Henry Davis, **Colin Brown.** 2014. Focus and Negative Ellipsis in Gitksan. International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages 48. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. August 2–3.
- Colin Brown.** 2014. Towards a unified semantics of clefts and determiners in Tlingit. Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas 8. UBC. Vancouver, BC. May 16–18. (Poster presentation)
- Colin Brown.** 2014. Clefts without Presuppositions? Some evidence from Gitksan. Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas 8. UBC. Vancouver, BC. May 16–18.

Teaching/Academic Experience

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- 2023 **LING120C: Semantics I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
 2022 **LING120B: Syntax I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
 2021 **LING120C: Semantics I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
 2020 **LING160: Field Methods (Cotaught with Blake Lehman)**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
 2018 **FNST320-3: The Structure of a First Nations Language (Nisga'a; Tsimshianic)**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
 2018 **FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
 2018 **EDEE 223: Language Arts**, Listuguj/McGill B.Ed Program; Summer
 2016 **FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Winter

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

- 2024 **LING1: Introduction to Study of Language (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Spring
 2024 **LING1: Introduction to Study of Language (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
 2022 **LING120C: Semantics I (Instructor: Yael Sharvit)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
 2021 **LING120B: Syntax I (Instructor: Nicoletta Loccioni)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
 2020 **LING127C: Linguistic Typology and Universals (Instructor: Hilda Koopman)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
 2020 **LING127C: Linguistic Typology and Universals (Instructor: Anoop Mahajan)**, UCLA Linguistics, Fall
 2019 **LING20: Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Fall
 2019 **LING20: Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Instructor: Thomas Motter)**, UCLA Linguistics, Summer
 2016 **LING200: Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Hadas Kotek)**, McGill Linguistics, Spring
 2016 **LING200: Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Meagan Fowlie)**, McGill Linguistics, Fall

OTHER

- 2023 **Research Assistant: Speech Errors Corpus Website**, UCLA Linguistics
 2021 **Workshop Co-organizer: Sm'algyax Grammar Workshop (with Margaret Anderson and Mique'l Dangeli)**, Juneau, Alaska. June 7-18
 2018 **Workshop Organizer: Grammar, writing, and academic success. Listuguj/McGill B.Ed Program**, Listuguj, QC. March 20-23.
 2016-2017 **Research Assistant: McGill Ergativity Lab**, McGill Linguistics
 2013 **Research Assistant: Gitksan Research Lab**, UBC Linguistics

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2024-2026	Postdoctoral Fellowship , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 140,000 CAD
2024	Jacobs Research Funds , Whatcom Museum/University of Washington Libraries	\$ 3000 USD
2023	Ladefoged Scholarship , UCLA	\$ 1,500 USD
2022-2023	Dissertation Year Fellowship , UCLA	\$ 37,000 USD
2022-2023	Harry and Yvonne Lenart Graduate Travel Fellowship , UCLA	\$ 8,000 USD
2022	Ladefoged Scholarship , UCLA	\$ 1,500 USD
2019	Canadian Studies Award , UCLA	\$ 1,000 USD
2018-2022	Doctoral Fellowship , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 80,000 CAD
2018-2021	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral , Declined for SSHRC above	\$ 105,000 CAD
2018-2022	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship , UCLA	\$ 34,000 USD
2018-2019	Graduate Dean Scholar's Award , UCLA	\$ 14,500 USD
2015	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 17,500 CAD
2014	Grad Excellence Award in Linguistics , McGill University	\$ 7,000 CAD
2010	Leon Fus Memorial Prize , UBC	\$ 700 CAD

Outreach & Professional Development

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- 2026 SSHRC Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral program, Committee Member
2022 Fieldwork Job Search Committee UCLA Linguistics Department, Committee Member
2020-2021 UCLA Graduate Linguistics Council, President

PEER REVIEW

Oxford University Press

Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique

Language Science Press

The Annual Conference on African Linguistics

Languages

English — Native

French — Intermediate

Spanish — Intermediate

Polish — Pre-intermediate

Sm'algyax — Research

Gitksan — Research

Mam — Research

Dschang — Research