Colin Brown

Postdoctoral Fellow · UBC Linguistics

✉ colin.brown@ubc.ca | ⌂ www.colinbrown.site

Academic Employment

University of British Columbia, Department of Linguistics *Vancouver, BC*
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow *2024–Present*
- Supervisor: Henry Davis

Education

University of California, Los Angeles *Los Angeles, CA*
PhD Linguistics *2024*
- 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*
MA Linguistics *2016*
- MA Thesis: Extraction restrictions in Gitksan
- Committee: Jessica Coon, Lisa Travis

University of British Columbia *Vancouver, BC*
BA Linguistics *2013*
- Capstone projects: Semantics of Gitksan clefts; Sluicing in Wolof

Publications

* peer reviewed

Published

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

Brown, Colin, 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.

Brown, Colin, 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.

Davis, Henry, **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.

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

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

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

Brown, Colin, 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.

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

To appear

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

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

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

Under revision

Brown, Colin. Bipartite question formation in Sm'algyax.

Other publications

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

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

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

Presentations

Invited Talks

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

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

Brown, Colin. 2024. Epistemic *la* in Mam: linearization and meaning contribution. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 7. UNAM. Mexico City, Mexico. February 22–23.

Brown, Colin, 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.

Brown, Colin. 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.

Elkins, Noah, **Brown, Colin**. 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.

Brown, Colin. 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.

Brown, Colin. 2022. Rhetorical questions two ways. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics, University of California, Los Angeles. May 6.

Brown, Colin. 2022. Information-seeking and non-information-seeking questions with conjectural evidentials. UBC Gitksan Lab: UBC Linguistics, Vancouver, BC. April 11.

Brown, Colin, 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.

Brown, Colin. 2021. Variable interrogative flip in evidential questions in Sm'algyax. Workshop on The Pragmatics of Evidentiality. Venice, Italy. June 19-21.

Brown, Colin, Harold Torrence. 2021. Analyzing predicate focus doubling in Dschang. 10th World Congress of African Linguistics. University of Leiden. June 7-12.

Brown, Colin, Harold Torrence. 2021. The syntax of predicate focus doubling in Dschang. Annual Conference of African Linguistics 51-52. University of Florida. April 8-10.

Brown, Colin, Harold Torrence. 2021. Predicate Focus Doubling in Dschang: Implications for Clausal Syntax. Linguistics Society of America 2021. Held virtually. January 7-10.

Brown, Colin. 2020. Interrogative mood marking in Sm'algyax. Linguistics Society of America 2020. New Orleans, LA. January 2-5.

Brown, Colin. 2019. Interrogatives at the interface: Sentential mood marking in Sm'algyax. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics 2019. University of Southern California. November 9-10.

Brown, Colin, 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.

Brown, Colin. 2016. Revisiting ergativity in Gitksan. The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2016. UQÁM Montréal, QC. April 1-3.

Brown, Colin. 2016. A structural account of split ergativity in Gitksan. Putting Fieldwork on Indigenous Languages to New Uses. Campinas, Brazil. March 21-April 2nd. (poster presentation)

Brown, Colin. 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.

Brown, Colin. 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)

Brown, Colin. 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 (Nisg̲a'a; Tsimshianic)**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
2018	**FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisg̲a'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
2018	**EDEE 223: Language Arts**, Listuguj/McGill B.Ed Program; Summer
2016	**FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisg̲a'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*
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

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