

# ANDRÉ BATCHELDER-SCHWAB

## PHD STUDENT

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Boston, USA

I'm a student at Boston University pursuing a doctorate (PhD) in Linguistics. My academic interests include whistled languages, sociolinguistics, phonetics, phonology, migration studies, and grammaticalization of emotion. I am currently working on researching Southern Bantu syntax, documenting whistled languages in Africa, helping create a school curriculum for Northern Pomo revitalization efforts in California, and on documentation of Tshila in Botswana.

## EDUCATION

**PhD** from Boston University, Linguistics September 2019-Present  
Dissertation Title: "Topics in African Whistled Languages"  
Anticipated graduation: Spring 2025  
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Barnes

**MA** from Boston University, Linguistics May 2021  
QP 1: "Love is Possessive: an Alternate Way of Encoding Endearment"  
Advisor: Dr. Neil Myler  
QP 2: "Teaching Possession Splits to Anglophones: An Investigation"  
Advisor: Dr. Cathy O'Connor

**MA** from New York University, Comparative Politics May 2019  
Thesis: "Dialectal Priming Effects in Political Call Surveys:  
The Case of Dexter, Maine."  
Advisor: Dr. Gregory Guy

**BA** from New York University, Linguistics & German May 2018  
Minor in Arabic Language and Literature  
Minor in Politics

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **Khoe language workshop**

2023-2024

#### **Research Assistant**

Advisor: Dr. Christopher Collins

- NSF-funded training program for graduate students studying Khoe languages
- Completion of a 1400-word dictionary, phonological sketch and a grammatical sketch of Tshila, an undocumented, endangered Khoe language with 250 speakers in Kaudwane, Botswana.

### **Kinande Surrogate Language Project**

2023-present

#### **Primary Investigator**

Advisor: Dr. Philip Mutaka

- Collaborative work to document language surrogates of Kinande with researchers at ISP Muhangi and University of the Assumption in Congo.
- Fieldwork conducted in-situ in 2023 attested the existence of whistled, drummed, and fluted modalities of Kinande, with particular focus on phonological repertoire of the whistled language as well as its intelligibility.

### **ILIMA Institute**

#### **Research Assistant**

Advisor: Dr. Zoliswa Mali

- Research on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) of isiNtu cultures of Southern Africa, including documenting modern practices of traditional educational and cultural institutions
- Analysis of lexicography practices in southern Africa, particularly through the lens of second-language acquisition

### **Boston University Northern Pomo Lab**

2021-present

#### **Research Assistant**

Advisor: Dr. Cathy O'Connor

- Curriculum design and in-situ workshop for Northern Pomo revitalization effort
- Tonal and syntactic analysis of records and corpus

### **Boston University Prosody Lab**

2020

#### **Research Assistant**

Advisor: Dr. Jon Barnes

- Linguistic reconstruction of Khoe roots
- Historical phonology, syntax, and corpus work

### **New York University Sociolinguistics Lab**

2018

#### **Research Assistant**

Advisor: Dr. Gregory Guy

- Transcription utilizing Praat and ELAN of Brazilian Portuguese
- Identification of complex stress and phonological processes

## PUBLICATIONS

Julien Meyer, André Batchelder-Schwab, David Diaz & Bernard Gautheron. Forthcoming. “Whistled Speech and Whistled Languages.” *International Encyclopedia of Languages and Linguistics*, 3rd Edition. Elsevier.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. “Initiation Rites of the IsiXhosa Culture are Education Systems.” *Journal of the African Language Teachers Association*, 11. 147-163.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2023. “Truncation, Affection, and Pain in Southern Bantu.” *Linguistique et Langue Africaine*, 9(1).

## PRESENTATIONS

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2025. “Documenting Language Surrogates: How and Why.” *International Conference on Language Conservation and Development (ICLDC)*. March 8.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Vasileios Michos. 2025. “Green energy threatens a language’s vitality; the case study of whistled Greek.” *International Conference on Language Conservation and Development (ICLDC)*. March 7.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. “Undocumented Whistled Languages in Africa.” *Department Talk at MIT*. October 3.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. “Inkcubeko yesiNtu yokuncokola kude [The isiNtu culture of communicating at distance].” *Department Talk at Walter Sisulu University, eMthatha*. August 16.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. “African Whistled Languages.” *Department Talk at Rhodes University*. August 14.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. “Iilwimi ezithethwa ngokubetha umlozi ezingekachazwa [Whistled languages that have not yet been documented].” *Colloquium at the University of Fort Hare, eDikeni*. August 13.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. “The phonology and culture of whistled TshiVenḁa.” *11th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL)*. August 7.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. “Whistled language shows how /h/ is a sonorant: the case of whistled TshiVenḁa.” *CreteLing Summer School*. July 10.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Ying Gong. 2024. “Yuexi Ersu Sibilants.” *Conference on*

*the Endangered Languages of East Asia* (CELEA) 3. May 8.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Chris Collins. 2024. "The Classification of Tshila." *Annual Conference of African Linguistics* (ACAL) 55. May 2.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. "Iindlela ezahlukeneyo zokunxibelelana zesiNtu: amakhwelo nemilozi" [Different isiNtu ways of communicating: whistles]. *Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association* (ALTA) 27. April 13.

Zoliswa Mali & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Integrating Culture into Language Classroom: Learning Tone Through Whistling." *Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association* (ALTA) 27. April 12.

Zoliswa Mali & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Types of Change in the Custom of Ulwaluko: to Resist or Accept Commodification." *North-East Regional Consortium of Programs in African Languages* (NERCPAL) Conference. February 23.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Spoken, whistled, drummed, and fluted Kinande: An asymmetry for encoding pitch and rhythm." *North East Linguistics Society* (NELS) 54. January 26..

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "A Syntactic Explanation of Preverbal Particle Order Variation in Indonesian Corrective Speech Acts." *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* (LSA). January 7.

Dalila Gaoua & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2023. "Language Maintenance in Kabyle-Tamazight: Social Consensus and Policy Victories." *Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa* (ASMEA) 17. November 4.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Philip Ngessimo Mutaka. 2023. "Les langues sifflées. [Whistled languages]." *Colloquium at ISP Muhangi, Butembo, DRC*. August 3.

Jonathan Barnes, André Batchelder-Schwab & Okrah Oppong. 2023. "Phrase-level prosody of Akan-Twi in spoken and whistled modalities." *Phonetics and Phonology in Europe* (PaPE) 2023. June 3.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2023. "Indigenous Knowledge Systems: the Case of IsiXhosa Intonjane and Ulwaluko Rites." 26th Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA). April 14.

Cathy O'Connor, Buffie Schmidt, André Batchelder-Schwab & Brady Dailey. 2023. "Creating a High School Language Class in a Dormant Indigenous Language: Challenges and Opportunities." 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC). March 5.

- André Batchelder-Schwab, Buffie Schmidt & Cathy O'Connor. 2023. "Teaching Kinship in Northern Pomo." 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC). March 2.
- André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2022. "Using authentic materials and experiences as access points to some Indigenous Knowledge Systems and historic cultural information: sharing student experiences." Northeast Regional Consortium for Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL) Conference. November 11-12.
- André Batchelder-Schwab, Allison Smith & Zoliswa Mali. 2022. "Ukubaluleka kokusetyenziswa kwezixhobo zokwenene ekufundiseni ulwimi: sizekelisa ngesiXhosa." [The importance of using authentic teaching materials: examples in isiXhosa]. 25th Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA). April 16, 2022.
- André Batchelder-Schwab. 2021. "Inalienable kinship relations in colloquial isiXhosa: Towards a syntactic analysis." 51st-52nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL). April 10.
- André Batchelder-Schwab. 2021. "Alienability Distinctions in Southern Bantu." 10th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL). July 20.

## LANGUAGES

<b>French</b>	(native)
<b>English</b>	(native)
<b>German</b>	(fluent)
<b>IsiXhosa</b>	(fluent)
<b>Fribourg Arpitan</b>	(heritage)
<b>Latin</b>	(advanced)
<b>Arabic</b>	(intermediate)
<b>Spanish</b>	(intermediate)
<b>Northern Pomo</b>	(elementary)
<b>Setswana</b>	(elementary)
<b>Kiswahili</b>	(elementary)
<b>Tshila</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Kabyle (Tamazight)</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>TshiVenda</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Sesotho</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Xitsonga</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Jakarta Indonesian</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Damara Khoekhoe</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Akan-Twi</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Kinande</b>	(fieldwork)

<b>Yorùbá</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Hawaiian</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Bengali</b>	(fieldwork)
<b>Shekgalagadi</b>	(fieldwork)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Boston University** Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023  
**Teaching Fellow**, Department of Linguistics

- Taught discussion sections of Introduction to Linguistics, covering phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics
- Developed quizzes, exams, and homework
- Coordinated grading and labs with a team of two other teaching assistants and Dr. Kate Lindsey and Dr. Jonathan Barnes

**Boston University** Fall 2020  
**Guest Lecturer**, Department of Linguistics

- Lectured in the Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology, taught by Dr. Kate Lindsey; Click phonetics, typology, and phonology.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Database Management, Optical Character Recognition, SPSS, RStudio, ArcGIS, Praat, ELAN, Transcription following Leipzig Conventions, MS Office, Translation

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- \$22,500. Graduate Dissertation Fellowship. 2025. *Boston University Center for the Humanities*.
- \$3500. Lewis and Clark Fund. 2025. *American Philosophical Society*. “Trilingual whistlers in Butembo, DRC.”
- \$2000. Language Revitalization Accelerator Grant. 2025. *Wikitongues*. “Starting a Tshila Language Nest in Kaudwane, Botswana.”
- \$5000. Learn More Research Grant. 2024. *Boston University Office of Diversity & Inclusion*. “Supporting Northern Pomo Community Efforts in Language Reclamation.”
- \$16159. Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (GRAF). 2024. *Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*. “Topics in Whistled Languages.”
- \$6000. Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship, with Travel Award. 2024. *Boston University African Studies Center*.

- \$5000. Accelerating Classroom Transformation (ACT) Grant. 2023. *Shipley Center for Digital Learning and Innovation*. “Ultrasound equipment to improve teaching of linguistics and African languages” with Dr. Zoliswa Mali.
- \$2500. Research Grant. 2023. *Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)*. “Language Maintenance in indigenous Kabyle-Tamazight language” with Dalila Gaoua.
- \$500. Professional Development Grant. 2023. *Boston University Office of the Associate Provost*. “Linguistic fieldwork training program in Botswana.”
- \$3800. Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (GRAF). 2023. *Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*. “Documenting Whistled Kinande in the DRC.”
- \$6000. Summer in the Field Fellowship. 2023. *Boston University Global Development Policy Center*. “Documenting Whistled TshiVenda in South Africa.”
- \$1000. GSO Travel Grant. 2023. *Boston University Graduate Student Organization*.
- \$2000. East and Inner Asia Council Small Grant. 2022. *Association for Asian Studies*. “Fieldwork on Ersu and Yi in Southwest China” with Ying Gong.
- \$25,134. Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship. 2022. *Boston African Studies Center*.
- \$2600. Pellegrini Scholarship. 2018. *Swiss Benevolent Society of New York*.
- \$15,000. Watson-Brown Scholarship. 2014-2018. *Watson Brown Foundation*.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Boston University Global House**

2023-2024

- Organized cultural programming for a living and learning community
- Used Canva to design publicity materials for events and programs offered to students

### **Northern Pomo Revitalization Project.**

2021-present

- Helped create a website with learning materials
- Designed lesson plans for a high school class
- Helped write a pocket dictionary, picturebooks, and other learning materials

### **Boston University Conference on Language Development Organizing Committee & Hospitality Chair**

2020

- Engaged in moving the conference to a virtual platform
- Ensured various accommodations such as for nursing mothers, disability, and translation services

### **Boston University Conference on Language Development Organizing Committee & Hospitality Chair**

2019

- Oversaw catering, event planning, poster session organization
- Ensured accommodations for nursing mothers, disabilities, and ASL interpreters

### **New York University Bobst Library Librarian Assistant**

2018

- Organizational database management, administrative responsibilities
- Customer service, cataloging, inter-departmental communications
- Formal training in archival research materials, such as microfilm



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### **Boston University – Department of linguistics**

#### **Colloquium committee 2022-2023**

Helped organize logistics for a series of colloquia by renowned academics invited to present their work at BU.

### **RISE – Fresh Start,**

#### **Curriculum developer 2022-2023**

Refugee education initiative for refugees learning English. Designed and workshopped hour-long lesson plans for volunteer tutors to use in their online sessions with refugee students both in the United States and in Afghanistan.

### **Tarjimly**

#### **Translator 2020**

Online service connecting volunteer translators to refugees in immediate need of legal documents, testimonials, and day-to-day activities; primarily translating between English and French.

### **New York University Linguistics Club**

#### **President 2017-2018**

Organized a series of conference talks on various topics of interest, including professional development, graduate applications, and faculty research.