

Josiah Nyarega





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## Basic Info

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 : [luke@lukesmith.xyz](mailto:luke@lukesmith.xyz)  
 : <https://lukesmith.xyz>

 : [github.com/LukeSmithxyz](https://github.com/LukeSmithxyz)  
 : [youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz](https://youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz)

- Maintainer and developer of an Arch Linux-based metadistribution at <https://larbs.xyz> .
- Doctoral student in linguistics at the [University of Arizona](#) , focusing mostly on deriving linguistic traits and tendencies from non-linguistic externals and theoretical reform.  
For more information, go here: <https://lukesmith.xyz/linguistics> .
- Since late 2016, I run a [YouTube channel](#)  mostly on technology tutorials and Linux configuration and system management.


## Institutions

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2015–2018	<b>Ph.D. in Linguistics</b> <i>University of Arizona, Tucson</i> Focusing on biolinguistics, syntax and human language technology. Advisors: <a href="#">Tom Bever</a> , <a href="#">Mike Hammond</a> .
2013–2015	<b>M.A. in Linguistics</b> <i>University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia</i> Major in Syntax; minor in <b>Romance Languages</b> . Thesis: <i>External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics</i>  . Advisor: <a href="#">Vera Lee-Schoenfeld</a> .
2012	<b>Exchange Program, Zhèngzhōu University ( Zhengzhou, China</b> Studying Chinese history.
2009–2012	<b>B.A. in International Economics and Modern Languages</b> <i>Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta</i> Specializations in Spanish and Chinese. Certificates in Economic History and International Trade.

## Classes Taught

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More teaching information, along with my **teaching evaluations** and some materials can be found on my website at [lukesmith.xyz/classes](https://lukesmith.xyz/classes) .





2018	<b>LING150 – “Language” Online Class</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> With <a href="#">Amy Fountain</a> .
2017–2018	<b>ESOC210 – “The History of Hacking and Open Source Culture” – Graduate Assistant</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> Under David Seng. Grader.
2016	<b>LING300 – “Introduction to Syntax” – Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> Under <a href="#">Simin Karimi</a> . Helped introduce undergraduates to the Gospel of Chomsky. Served as a substitute for main professor when gone, graded work and did administria.

2015–2017	<b>LING150 – “Language” – Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> With <a href="#">Amy Fountain</a> . I teach Friday sessions and conduct recitations for a break-out section of an auditorium classroom. I conduct my own activities and lectures off of my own syllabus.
2014–2015	<b>LING2100 – “Study of Language” – Instructor</b>   <i>University of Georgia</i> I worked through my own syllabus and class plan and focus mainly on how language relates to wider issues in cognitive science. Also focused on the philosophy of language and historical linguistics.
2014	<b>LING3150 – “Generative Syntax” – Co-teacher</b> <i>University of Georgia</i> Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course. Taught with <a href="#">Jennimaria Palomäki</a> .
2014	<b>Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant</b> <i>University of Georgia</i> Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

## Presentations


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Current projects and other information can be found on <https://lukesmith.xyz/linguistics> .

SOON	<b>“The Evolution of the Ibero-Romance Irregular Imperfect: A Constraint-based Analysis”</b> <i>28th Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language and Culture</i>
2017	<b>“Scope without Syntax: Towards a Game Theoretic Approach”</b>  <i>University of Arizona Synsalon</i>
2017	<b>“Language as Synesthesia”</b>   <i>Seminar on language and consciousness</i> Clarification of some points from <a href="#">my qualifying paper</a> .
2015	<b>“Towards Biolinguistic Clarity in Generative Syntax”</b>  <i>The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, 2015</i>
2015	<b>“Syntax is for Real! – Parameterization of Head Movement in Korean and its Effects on Scope and Alternations”</b> <i>LSUGA Tiny Talks</i>
2015	<b>“External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics”</b> <i>University of Georgia Linguistics Program Spring Colloquium</i>
2013	<b>“The acquisition of <i>tú</i> and <i>usted</i> by English speakers: A study of non-native knowledge and usage of forms of address”</b> <i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i>
2012	<b>“Theories of contraction: A survey of macroeconomic theories of depression”</b> <i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i>

## Guest Lectures

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SOON	<b>Linguistics Isn’t 60 Years Old!</b> <i>Guest Lecture</i> For <a href="#">Simin Karimi</a> ’s class <i>Major Works in Syntax</i>
SOON	<b>Quantifier Scope is Just All Fun and Games!</b> <i>Linguistics Department Graduate Student Showcase</i>
2017	<b>“The Origins and Mechanics of the Greek Alphabet”</b>  <i>Guest Lecture</i> For Shannon Grippando’s class <i>The Psychology of Writing Systems</i>
2016	<b>“The Phonetics of Language”</b> <i>Guest Lecture</i> For Amy Fountain’s class <i>Language</i>
2016	<b>“Constituent Structure—What is it and where does it come from?”</b> <i>Guest Lecture (series of 3)</i> For <a href="#">Simin Karimi</a> ’s class <i>Introduction to Syntax</i>

2016	<a href="#">“An Introduction to Minimalism” PDF</a> & <a href="#">“Optimizing Structure” PDF</a> <i>Guest Lectures</i> For Doug Merchant’s class <i>Generative Syntax</i>
2015	<a href="#">“Syntactic Theory and Psycholinguistics” PDF</a> <i>Guest lecture</i> For Doug Merchant’s class <i>Psychology of Language</i>


## Languages

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HUMAN	Spanish, Mandarin, Latin, some Persian and French, reading knowledge of classical Greek and most Romance languages. Grammatical knowledge of a many Indo-European languages, Korean and others.
MACHINE	Python, Perl, R, PHP, Matlab/GNU Octave, bash/shell, some superficial knowledge of C, common LISP and Haskell; markup languages including $\text{\LaTeX}$ / $\text{\XeTeX}$ , R Markdown, HTML, CSS.

## Tools I Use

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I have lots of tutorials on many of these programs and tools on my [my YouTube channel](#) .

### Usual Workflow






I use a **vim**-based setup in a tiling window manager (**i3-gaps**). I compile documents using **R Markdown** or  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , and **biber** for references. I prefer to do multimedia manipulation in the terminal with tools like **imagemagick** and **ffmpeg** for extensibility’s sake. I’ve run Microsoft, MacOS and GNU/Linux systems (both Debian and Arch-based varieties, as well as Void Linux).

### Programs I’m Familiar With

tmux, ssh, RStudio, Blender (mostly for video-editing), Praat, Audacity, E-Prime, GIMP, pandoc, Jupyter. I’ve managed websites manually via ssh and vim using HTML/CSS/PHP and with tools such as Github Pages (Jekyll) WordPress via either cpanel or wp-cli. Some experience with myBB.

## Public Code and Scripts


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2018	<b>mutt and offlinelMAP wizard</b>  <i>A fully-featured configuration tool.</i> A tool for automatically configuring mutt, offlinelMAP, notmuch and other parts of a full email system with automatic detection of IMAP and SMTP protocols and automatic password encryption
2017–2018	<b>shortcut-sync</b>  <i>A small system for synchronizing configs between bash and other shells, ranger and qute-browser.</i>
IN PROGRESS	<b>Corpus Latinum Lucæ</b>  <i>A planned linguistic corpus of the Latin language, to be searchable by regexes and grammatical category, with an interface written in Python.</i> As of now I’ve constructed the parser to generate the corpus from raw text files.
2017–Now	<b>Luke’s Auto-Rice Bootstrapping Scripts (LARBS)</b> <a href="#">WWW</a>  <i>A dynamic installer for an i3wm Arch Linux distribution</i>
2016–Now	<b>Voidrice</b>  <i>Linux dotfiles</i> A set of GNU/Linux dotfiles that I popularized on YouTube, aiming at creating a powerful, optimized, all-purpose and lightweight general computing environment. Innovated dynamically configured and synced rc files.
2015	<b><a href="http://LukeSmith.xyz">http://LukeSmith.xyz</a></b> <a href="#">WWW</a> <i>My website</i> Written from scratch. Modern traditional feel. I generate the website offline with PHP and upload a static version of only HTML/CSS.

2016–2017	<b>/Comfy/ Arch</b> <i>Automatic ricing tool</i> A web-based deployment system for configuration files which focuses on enabling novice Linux users to get immersed quickly in advanced ricing environments. No longer actively maintained as it has been largely replaced by LARBS (above).
2013	<b>Vulgarizer</b> <i>Sound Change Simulator</i> A string-manipulation paradigm written in Python for simulating phonetic and phonological change over time. The original implementation focused on modeling changes between Latin and Spanish and then other Romance languages, but if I continue the project, my hope is to generalize this.

## Online Tutorials



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I produce screencasts and produce other videos for public use as tutorials on YouTube on my channel.  As of January 2018, over 13,000 subscribers, with 1.4 millions views on over 100 different videos. All of these series below are ongoing.

R / STATISTICS 	[1]: <a href="#">Arithmetic, Variables and Vectors</a> , [2]: <a href="#">Basic Statistical Functions and Logic</a> , [3]: <a href="#">Dataframes, Subsetting and Ifelse</a>
$\text{\LaTeX}$ 	[0]: <a href="#">Installation</a> [1]: <a href="#">Compiling, Titles, Sections, Formatting, Syntax</a> [2]: <a href="#">Labels, References and Lists</a> [3]: <a href="#">Bibliographies</a> [4]: <a href="#">Résumé-making Part 1</a> [5]: <a href="#">Résumé-making Part 2</a> [6]: <a href="#">Images, Figures</a> [7]: <a href="#">Beamer Slideshow Presentations</a> [8]: <a href="#">Macros</a>
VIM 	<a href="#">Macros— Workflow with LaTeX— Basic Tips After Vimtutor— SC-IM - Vim-based Terminal Spreadsheet Editor— Custom code snippets, for IDE functionality— Vi-mode in bash— Spell-checking and Dictionaries— How vim Makes my Daily Life Easier</a>
LINUX	Videos on hacking and modifying Linux graphical environments particularly on i3-gaps, including customization, window management, program-shortcutting, optimization. 


## Service





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SOON	<b>Coyote Papers Editor for the 2018 Arizona Linguistics Circle</b> <i>University of Arizona</i>
2017–Now	<b>Manager for Tom Bever’s Language and Cognition Lab site</b>  <i>University of Arizona</i> <a href="http://coglanglab.com">http://coglanglab.com</a>
2017	<b>Arizona Linguistic Circle Peer-Reviewer</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> Judged and gave feedback for scholarly articles submitted for the Arizona Linguistics Circle.
2015–2016	<b>Indo-European Reading Group Director</b> <i>University of Arizona</i> Covering general historical linguistics, and the particulars of PIE morphology, phonology and development. Group materials located at <a href="http://lukesmith.xyz/pie">lukesmith.xyz/pie</a>  .
2014–2016	<b>LSUGA Website Manager</b> <i>University of Georgia</i> Created and managed the LSUGA website, <a href="http://www.lsuga.com">http://www.lsuga.com</a> . (Now apparently reformatted.)
2014–2015	<b>LSUGA Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics Committee Member</b> <i>University of Georgia</i> Managed email, reviewed papers and did audio and video for conference.
2014–2015	<b>Graduate Student Mentor</b> <i>University of Georgia</i>
2014	<b>Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director</b> <i>University of Georgia</i>
2014	<b>Typology Reading Group Director</b> <i>University of Georgia</i> Covered classical Greenbergian typology, particularly with relevance to historical linguistics.

## Writings

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Section incomplete. Only contains major degree requirements now. To be updated. More minor squibs of mine can be found at <https://lukesmith.xyz/linguistics> .

SOON	<b>Unnamed dissertation</b> <i>Dissertation, University of Arizona</i> Probable committee?: <a href="#">Tom Bever</a> , <a href="#">Mike Hammond</a> , <a href="#">Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini</a> , <a href="#">Robert Henderson</a> .
2017	<b>Scope Without Syntax: A Game Theoretic Approach</b>   <i>Second qualifying paper, University of Arizona</i> Committee: <a href="#">Robert Henderson</a> , <a href="#">Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini</a> , <a href="#">Tom Bever</a> , <a href="#">Mike Hammond</a> .
2017	<b>Syntax Without Syntax</b>    <i>First qualifying paper, University of Arizona</i> Committee: <a href="#">Mike Hammond</a> , <a href="#">Simin Karimi</a> , <a href="#">Heidi Harley</a> .
2015	<b>External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics</b>  <i>Master's thesis, University of Georgia</i> Committee: <a href="#">Vera Lee-Schoenfeld</a> , <a href="#">Tim Gup-ton</a> , <a href="#">Pilar Chamorro</a> .



## Hobbies

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Classical languages, human evolution and prehistory, free (i.e. libre) software, survivalism, cybernetics, medieval thought, Rhaeto-Romance poetry. I run a web forum at [forum.lukesmith.xyz](https://forum.lukesmith.xyz).

## References

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- Email me  with your interests in me and I'll refer you to someone who can vouch for me or defame me, depending on what you want.
- I upload all of my teaching evaluations to <https://lukesmith.xyz/classes#evals>  and they can be read there.