

# Lena Borise

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## EMPLOYMENT

Sept 2019- **Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics**  
(formerly **Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences**)  
Research Fellow

June 2019- **Department of Linguistics, Harvard University**

June 2021 Department Associate

## EDUCATION

2016-2019 **Harvard University, PhD in Linguistics**  
Dissertation: *Phrasing is Key: The Syntax and Prosody of Focus in Georgian*  
Committee: Maria Polinsky, Kevin Ryan (co-chairs), Jonathan Bobaljik, Lauren Eby Clemens (SUNY Albany)

Spring 2017 **University of Maryland, Department of Linguistics**  
Visiting graduate student

2013-2016 **Harvard University, MA in Linguistics**  
Second Generals paper: *Stress realization in the Aŭciuki Dialect of Belarusian*  
Committee: Michael Flier, Kevin Ryan  
First Generals paper: *Sluicing in Tagalog*  
Committee: Maria Polinsky, Brooke Larson

2010-2013 **University of Cambridge, Newnham College, BA Hons Linguistics**  
Final examination result: Class I with Distinction  
BA Dissertation: *An investigation of the loss of the neuter gender in the Baltic languages*  
Dissertation supervisor: David Willis

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL PAPERS

2021 Focus projection need not be based on pitch accents: evidence from Georgian.  
*Glossa* 6(1): 128, 1-46.

accepted The emergence of conjunctions and phrasal coordination in Khanty (with Katalin É. Kiss). *Journal of Historical Linguistics*.

under review Disentangling word stress and phrasal prosody: a view from Georgian.

under review Flexible syntax-prosody mapping of intonational phrases in the context of varying verb height (with David Erschler).

under review The syntax of wh-phrases, narrow foci, and neg-words in Georgian.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

2020 *Word Stress in the Languages of the Caucasus*. In Polinsky, Maria (ed.): Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus, Oxford University Press, 729-756.

- 2020 *Tone and Intonation in the Languages of the Caucasus*. In Polinsky, Maria (ed.): Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus, Oxford University Press, 757-782.

#### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- forthcoming *Mora count and the alignment of rising pitch accents in Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2022.
- in prep *Èto – èto predikativizator: a 'big DP' analysis of Russian copular constructions* (with Irina Burukina and Marcel den Dikken). Proceedings of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 30.
- 2018 *Word stress and phrase accent in Georgian* (with Xavier Zientarski). Proceedings of Tonal Aspects of Languages (TAL) 6, 207-211.
- 2017 *Prominence Redistribution in the Aŭciuki Dialect of Belarusian*. Proceedings of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 24, 94-109.

#### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS WITH PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS

- 2021 *Verb height indeed determines prosodic phrasing: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Proceedings of North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 51, 65-74.
- 2018 *Focus without movement: syntax-prosody interface in Georgian* (with Maria Polinsky). Proceedings of North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 48, 97-110.
- 2017 *Prosody of Focus in a Language with a Fixed Focus Position: Evidence from Georgian*. Proceedings of West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 34, 89-96.
- 2016 *Sluicing in Tagalog: Strategies and Implications*. Proceedings of Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA) 22, 15-30.
- 2015 *Tagalog sluicing revisited*. Proceedings of Berkeley Linguistic Society (BLS) 41, 31-48.

#### WORKING PAPERS

- 2015 *The Role of The Finnic Substratum in The Loss of The Neuter Gender in The Baltic Languages*. Harvard Working Papers in Linguistics (HWPL) 13, 1-23.

#### EDITED VOLUMES

- 2022 Proceedings of SinFonIJA 13., vol.2 (with Éva Dékány and Irina Burukina). *Acta Linguistica Academica* 69(1).
- 2021 Proceedings of SinFonIJA 13., vol.1 (with Éva Dékány and Irina Burukina). *Acta Linguistica Academica* 68(4).

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- upcoming *Raised and in-situ preverbal foci: a unified prosodic account* (with Andreas Schmidt & Balázs Surányi). Poster to be presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 45; 27-29 April 2022, Queen Mary University of London.
- upcoming *Mora count and the alignment of rising pitch accents in Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Poster to be presented at Speech Prosody 2022; 23-26 May 2022, University of Lisbon.
- upcoming *Towards a DM account of verbal morphophonology in Udmurt* (with Ekaterina Georgieva). Paper to be presented at Syntax of Uralic Languages (SOUL) 4; June 2022, Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics.

- upcoming *From rigid to flexible verb-finality: A prosodically motivated information-structural account of word order change* (with Erika Asztalos, Katalin Gugán, Nikolett Mus, Andreas Schmidt & Balázs Surányi). Paper to be presented at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL) 25; 1-5 August 2022, University of Oxford.
- 2022 *Alignment of rising pitch accents in Iron Ossetic is motivated by moraic structure* Ossetic (with David Erschler). Paper presented at the Old World Conference on Phonology (OCP) 19; University of Deusto.
- 2021 *The intonational realization of stress in Udmurt* (with Ekaterina Georgieva). Poster presented at Tone and Intonation (TAI); University of Southern Denmark.
- 2021 *φ-formation, stress, and the alignment of rising pitch accents in Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Poster presented at Tone and Intonation (TAI); University of Southern Denmark.
- 2021 *Phrasal coordination is dependent on overt conjunctions: evidence from Khanty* (with Katalin É. Kiss). Paper presented at SinFonJA 14; University of Novi Sad.
- 2021 *The syntax of focus, wh-phrases, and neg-words in Georgian*. Paper presented at the Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium (Olinco) 5; Palacký University.
- 2021 *Russian èto, predication, and big DPs* (with Irina Burukina and Marcel den Dikken). Paper presented at Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL) 14; University of Leipzig.
- 2021 *Èto – èto predikativizator: a 'big DP' analysis of Russian copular constructions* (with Irina Burukina and Marcel den Dikken). Poster presented at Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 30, MIT.
- 2021 *Acoustic correlates of stress in Udmurt: inter-speaker variation and implications for stress processing* (with Ekaterina Georgieva). Paper presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 44.
- 2020 *Stress and phrasal prosody in Udmurt: initial results* (with Ekaterina Georgieva). Paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Languages of the Volga-Kama Sprachbund, Institute of Linguistics of RAS/High School of Economics.
- 2020 *Stress and phrasal prosody in Udmurt: initial results* (with Ekaterina Georgieva). Paper presented at Beszédkutatás/Speech Research 2020, Department of Phonetics, Research Institute for Linguistics, Budapest.
- 2020 *Verb height indeed determines prosodic phrasing: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Poster presented at North-Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS) 51, Université du Québec à Montréal.
- 2020 *Russian èto, predication, and big DPs* (with Irina Burukina and Marcel den Dikken). Paper presented at Typology of Morphosyntactic Parameters (TMP), Moscow State University.
- 2020 *Russian èto, predication, and big DPs* (with Irina Burukina and Marcel den Dikken). Paper presented at Slavic Linguistic Society (SLS) 15, Indiana University.
- 2019 *Word stress in Georgian: going unnoticed but working hard*. Poster presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 42, University of Oslo.
- 2018 *Word stress and phrasal intonation in Georgian*. Paper presented at Rencontres d'Automne de Linguistique Formelle (RALFe), CNRS, Paris.

- 2018 *Word stress and phrase accent in Georgian* (with Xavier Zientarski). Poster presented at Tonal Aspects of Languages (TAL) 6, Beuth University, Berlin.
- 2018 *Pretonic prominence and vowel neutralization: evidence from Aŭciuki Belarusian*. Paper presented at the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 36, University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2017 *Focus without movement: syntax-prosody interface in Georgian* (with Maria Polinsky). Paper presented at the North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 48, University of Iceland, Reykjavik.
- 2016 *Redistribution of stress-related prominence in a Belarusian dialect*. Poster presented at Manchester Phonology Meeting (mfm) 24, Manchester.
- 2016 *Prosody of focus in a language with a fixed focus position: evidence from Georgian*. Poster presented at West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 34, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.
- 2015 *Pretonic Prominence in the Aŭciuki Dialect of Belarusian*. Paper presented at the Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL) 11, University of Potsdam.
- 2015 *Tagalog sluicing reanalysed*. Poster presented at Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA) 22, McGill University, Montreal.
- 2015 *Intensity Peak Shift as a Precursor of Stress Shift?* Paper presented at the Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 24, New York University.
- 2015 *Tagalog sluicing revisited*. Paper presented at the Berkeley Linguistic Society (BLS) 41, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2014 *How to Say ‘No’ to a ‘No’: Polarity Reversal in English and Russian*. Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Syntax, Semantics and Phonology (WoSSP), Autonomous University of Barcelona.

#### INVITED TALKS, LECTURES & TUTORIALS

- upcoming TBA. Invited talk at Göttingen University, 4 May 2022.
- 2021 *Georgian – Word stress*. In Bulut, C., A. Donabédian-Demopoulos, G. Haig, G. Khan, P. Samvelian, S. Skopeteas, N. Sumbatova (eds.), *Glottothèque: Languages of the Anatolia-Caucasus-Iran-Mesopotamia online* (electronic resource). Bamberg/Cambridge/Göttingen/Moscow/Nicosia/Paris: LACIM network.
- 2021 *Focus Projection Need Not be Based on Pitch Accents: Evidence from Georgian*. Invited talk at the Phon/Phon Colloquium, University of Georgia.
- 2021 *Praat, software for phonetic and prosodic analysis: what, how, and why*. Invited tutorial at the II Talleres Internacionales de Prosodia de Budapest, Eötvös Loránd University.
- 2021 *How verb height determines *t*-formation: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Invited talk at the Syn-Sem Colloquium, Potsdam University.
- 2020 *Verb height, prosodic phrasing, and the flexible *t*-mapping hypothesis: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Invited talk at the Linguistics Colloquium series on prosody at the International Christian University, Tokyo.
- 2019 *Word stress, tone & intonation in the languages of the Caucasus*. Invited talk at the *Linguistic Theory, Meet Languages of the Caucasus!* Workshop at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crete Summer School of Linguistics.

- 2018 *Word stress and phrasal prosody in Georgian*. Invited tutorial at South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC) 2, Tbilisi.
- 2016 *Georgian Suprasegmental Phonology: Some Questions, Some Answers*. Invited panel chair and commentator at South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC) 1, Paris.
- 2015 *Historical Linguistics of the Caucasus*. Invited lecture, Linguistics 149: Languages of the Caucasus (Instructor: Maria Polinsky), Harvard University.

#### EXTERNAL WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *The emergence of conjunctions and phrasal coordination in Khanty* (with Katalin É. Kiss). Inaugural talk of the Uralist Information Centre workshop, Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics.
- 2021 *Verb height, prosodic phrasing, and the flexible *t*-mapping hypothesis: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). LACIM: research network on languages of the Anatolia-Caucasus-Iran-Mesopotamia area, Inalco/Sorbonne-Nouvelle.
- 2021 *The prosody of focus projection: word stress and F0 patterns in Georgian*. Syntax-Prosody Group, UC Santa Cruz.
- 2020 *How verb height determines *t*-formation: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Syntax-Prosody Group, UC Santa Cruz.
- 2020 *Verb height indeed determines prosodic phrasing: evidence from Iron Ossetic* (with David Erschler). Departmental Colloquium in Linguistics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 2019 *The syntax and prosody of focus in Georgian*. SemLin Linguistics Seminar, University of the Basque Country.
- 2018 *Word stress and phrasal intonation in Georgian*. Phonology Circle, MIT.
- 2017 *Focus without movement: evidence from Georgian*. S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2016 *Where is the stress? Pretonic prominence in the Auciuki dialect*. Belarusian Studies in the 21st Century, University College London and Ostrogorski Center.
- 2016 *Information structure without cartography: what can we learn from Georgian focus?* (with Maria Polinsky). CUNY Graduate Student Center.

#### OTHER ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 *Prosodic marking of the fixed focus position in Georgian*. Poster presented at the Mind, Brain & Behavior (MBB) showcase, Harvard University.
- 2018 *Word Stress and Phrase Accent in Georgian*. LingedIn, Harvard University.
- 2017 *Focus without movement: syntax-prosody interface in Georgian*. Meaning & Modality Lab, Harvard University.
- 2017 *Focus without Movement: Evidence from Georgian* (with Maria Polinsky). Broader Perspectives on Word Order in the VP, University of Bielefeld.
- 2016 *Prosodic Realization of Focus in a Language with a Fixed Focus Position*. East Coast Workshop in Syntax (ECO-5), MIT.
- 2016 *Word order, prosody, information structure: What can we learn from Georgian focus?* (with Maria Polinsky) Word order variation at the interfaces, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 2016 *Prosodic marking of the fixed focus position in Georgian*. Poster presented at South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC), Paris.

- 2015 *Disyllabic Stress Domain in a Belarusian Dialect*. LingLunch, Harvard University.  
2015 *Is it a stress shift? Evidence from a Belarusian dialect*. Polinsky Language Lab.  
2015 *Sluicing in Tagalog: a preliminary account*. Polinsky Language Lab .  
2014 *Dissecting stress: peculiar developments in a Belarusian dialect*. 4<sup>th</sup> Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics.  
2014 *The Syntax of Answers to Negative Polar Questions in English and Russian*, East Coast Workshop in Syntax (ECO-5), University of Maryland.  
2013 *The Syntax of Answers to Polar Questions in Russian*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2021 International Speech Communication Association (ISCA) Conference Travel Grant  
2020 *How prosody shapes word order: an integrated interface-based approach to the postverbal domain in OV languages*. A 4-year research grant from the Hungarian National Research Council (NKFIH 135958, PI: Balázs Surányi)  
2018, '17, '16 Maurice Lazarus Graduate Research Travel Award, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University  
2018, '17, '16 Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Research Award, Harvard University  
2017 Harvard GSAS Merit/Term-Time Award (a semester of full funding for additional dissertation research)  
2017, '15 Abby and George O'Neill Research Grant, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University  
2016 Asia Center Student Grant, Harvard University  
2016 Mind Brain Behaviour (MBB) Graduate Student Award, Harvard University  
2014 Davis Center Graduate Research Travel Grant, Harvard University  
2013 - 2015 Douglas Dillon Fellowship, Harvard University  
2012, '13 Newnham College Summer Travel Grant, University of Cambridge  
2012 Mathilde Blind Third-Year Scholarship, Newnham College, University of Cambridge  
2010 - 2013 Sanger Allen Fund Bursary, Newnham College, University of Cambridge  
2010 - 2013 Cambridge European Bursary, University of Cambridge

## **TEACHING**

### **AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY:**

#### **AS AN INSTRUCTOR**

- Spring 2018 *Prosody and Syntax-Prosody Interface*; tutorial (advanced undergraduate course)  
Spring 2018 *Languages of the Caucasus*; tutorial  
Spring 2016 *Language Contact and Bilingualism*; tutorial  
Spring 2016 *The Structure of Baltic Languages*; tutorial

#### **AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT**

- Fall 2016 *Sentence Structure (Intro to Syntax)*; instructor: Jenneke van der Wal  
Fall 2016 *Language, Structure, and Cognition (Intro to Linguistics)*; instructor: Kathryn Davidson  
Fall 2015 *Languages of the Caucasus*; instructor: Maria Polinsky  
Fall 2015 *Linguistics 101: Science of Language*; instructor: Kevin Ryan

#### UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

- 2017-2019 Eli Troen, Harvard U Student Research Assistant, co-supervised with Kevin Ryan.  
2017-2018 Xavier Zientarski, UMD Student Research Assistant, co-supervised with Maria Polinsky

#### OTHER

##### 2019-present GEC Academy/Path Academics

One-on-one courses on specific topics in linguistics (introduction, invented languages, intonational phonology, perception of tone and intonation, research methodology, etc.) for talented students from high school to MA levels.

##### Summer 2017 The NY-St.Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (NYI)

*The Structure of Human Language (Intro to Syntax)*; teaching assistant;

Instructors: John F. Bailyn (Stony Brook) Maria Polinsky (UMD).

#### TEACHING AWARDS & PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

- 2019 Derek Bok Center Teaching Certificate, Harvard University  
2018 Distinguished Teaching Award in Linguistics, Harvard University  
Course: Prosody & Syntax-Prosody Interface  
*Awarded to a graduate instructor of an undergraduate tutorial*  
2018 Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University  
Courses: Languages of the Caucasus, Prosody & Syntax-Prosody Interface  
*Awarded for student evaluations of 4.5/5 or higher*  
2017 Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University  
Course: Sentence Structure (intro to Syntax)  
*Awarded for student evaluations of 4.5/5 or higher*

#### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

##### SUMMER SCHOOLS

- Summer 2014 NY-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (NYI), St. Petersburg State University  
Summer 2013 Summer School of Lithuanian Language and Culture, Vilnius University  
Sept 2012 Berliner Sommerschule zur Lituanistik, Humboldt University, Berlin  
Summer 2012 Leiden Summer School in Languages in Linguistics, Leiden University

##### NON-DEGREE WORK

- 2013-2017 The NESTOR project, University of Tromsø  
*Morphosyntactic annotation of Old Church Slavic and Old Russian texts for the TOROT corpus*

#### FIELDWORK & CONSULTANT WORK

- May 2020 E. Khanty: Budapest, Hungary  
January 2020 Udmurt: Budapest, Hungary  
2015 – 2019 Georgian: Cambridge, Massachusetts and College Park, Maryland  
July 2016 Georgian: Tbilisi, Georgia  
July 2015 Belarusian: Malyja Aŭciuki, Belarus  
Fall 2015 Tagalog: Cambridge, Massachusetts

## **SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

2020	Co-chair of SinFonJA 13
2016-2017	Co-organizer of NESCCC (North-East South Caucasian Chalk Circle), inter-university graduate student group working on Caucasian languages
2014-2017	Co-organiser of FiG (Fieldwork Group), Harvard-MIT graduate student fieldwork group
2017	Member of the MIT INSPIRE High School Research Competition Expert Committee
2015	Co-organizer of ECO-5 (East Coast-5), inter-university graduate student syntax conference

## **REVIEWING**

CONFERENCES	<i>North-East Linguistic Society (NELS), Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), Tone and Intonation (TAI), The Semantics of African, Asian, and Austronesian Languages (TripleA), South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC), Workshop on the Structure of Uralic Languages (WSUL).</i>
JOURNALS	<i>Lingua (prior to October 2015), Ampersand, Heritage Language Journal, Journal of the International Phonetic Association, Phonological Data and Analysis, Finno-Ugric Languages and Linguistics, Journal of Slavic Linguistics.</i>
BOOK MANUSCRIPTS	Language Science Press
GRANT PROPOSALS	NSF

## **UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

2015-2016	President, HGSL (Harvard Graduate Students in Linguistics)
2014	4 <sup>th</sup> Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics co-organiser
2014-2015	Harvard Linguistics Circle Colloquia co-organiser
2013-2015	Executive Committee Member, GSL (Harvard Graduate Students in Linguistics)
2013-2016	Leader of the Russian conversational table, Dudley House, Harvard University

## **AFFILIATIONS**

2020-present	Societas Linguistica Europaea
2014-present	Linguistic Society of America
2016-2019	Graduate Student Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), Harvard University
2014-2019	Graduate Student Associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

Praat, Praat scripting, ELAN, R, VoiceSauce

## **LANGUAGES**

Native	Belarusian, Russian
Near-native	English
Fluent	Lithuanian
Reading	German, French, Polish



Basic	Georgian, Latvian, Hungarian
Research	Georgian, Tagalog, Iron Ossetic, Udmurt, Eastern Khanty
Structural	Old Church Slavic, Old Russian, Old Prussian, Latin, Sanskrit