

# Martha Booker Johnson

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## Education

- expected 2026 PhD Candidate, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.  
Dissertation Title: Topics in Kihehe Verbal Morphology, Advisor: A.D. Sims.
- M.A. Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2023.
- M.A. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH, 2016.
- B.A. Department of Linguistics & Cognitive Science, Pomona College, Claremont, CA, 2013.

## Publications & Thesis

- 2020 Elsner, M., Johnson, M.B., Antetomaso, S., & Sims, A.D. 2020. Stop the Morphological Cycle, I Want to Get Off: Modeling the Development of Fusion. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics 3*, p. 412-422.
- 2019 Elsner, M., Sims, A.D. , Erdmann, A., Hernandez, A., Jaffe, E., Jin, L., Johnson, M.B., Karim, S., King, D.L., Lamberti Nunes, L., Oh, B.-D., Rasmussen, N., Shain, C., Antetomaso, S., Diewald, N., Dickinson, K.V., McKenzie, M., & Stevens-Guille, S. 2019. Modeling Morphological Learning, Typology, and Change: What can the Neural Sequence-to-Sequence Framework Contribute? *Journal of Language Modelling 7(1)*, p. 125-170.
- 2013 Johnson, M.B. 2013. *Aspects of Lubukusu Verbal Tonology*. Senior Thesis in Linguistics, Pomona College. Advisors: Mary Paster and Michael Diercks

## Grants & Awards

- 2025 Linguistic Undergraduate Teaching Award, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University
- 2024 G. Michael Riley Scholarship, The Ohio State University
- 2023 College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Research Small Grant, The Ohio State University
- Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship, The Ohio State University

2022	Office of International Affairs International Research & Scholar Grant, The Ohio State University
2019	College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Research Small Grant, The Ohio State University
2018	Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship, The Ohio State University
2013	Fulbright Student Research Grant, United States Department of State
	Glass Linguistics Prize for Best Senior Thesis, Pomona College
2012	Oldenborg International Research and Travel Grant, Pomona College
	Hans-Dieter Brueckner Memorial Summer Grant, Pomona College
2011	Summer Undergraduate Research Program Grant, Pomona College

## Invited Talks

- 2024 Johnson, M.B. 2024. Tense and aspect in Kihehe, with comparison to Kibena and Swahili. Rift Valley Network Webinar Series, 12 June 2024. Archived at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11634911>.

## Presentations/Posters

- 2025 Johnson, M.B. 2025. Imbrication in Kihehe (Bantu, Tanzania). *54th Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics*.  
 Johnson, M.B. and Msovela, S. 2025. Negation in Kihehe (Bantu, Tanzania). *Language Association of East Africa Conference*.
- 2024 Johnson, M.B., Elsner, M., and Sims, A.D. 2024. Polyfunctionality and Semantic Transparency in English. *57th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguisticae Europaea*.  
 Johnson, M.B. 2024. “Kihehe tulichocopy”: The flexible linguistic boundary between Kihehe and Swahili. *10th International Conference on Bantu Languages*.  
 Johnson, M.B. 2024. Assessing degree of Swahilization in Kihehe (Tanzania). *11th World Congress of African Linguistics*.  
 Gibson, H., Poeta, T, and Johnson, M.B. 2024. Language contact in Southern Tanzania: morphosyntactic variation in Swahili and Kihehe. *55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*.
- 2023 Johnson, M.B., Elsner, M., & Sims, A.D. 2023. High frequency derived words have low semantic transparency mostly only if they are polysemous. *International Symposium of Morphology 2023*.  
 Johnson, M.B. 2023. Swahili Contact Effects in Kihehe. *52nd Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics*.
- 2022 Johnson, M.B., Sims, A.D., & Elsner, M. 2022. Do languages differ in semantic transparency of derived words? Using word vectors to explore English and Russian. *Linguistic Society of America 2022 Annual Meeting*.
- 2021 Johnson, M.B. & Sims, A.D. 2021. Using word vectors to investigate semantic transparency cross-linguistically. *5th American International Morphology Meeting*.

- Johnson, M.B. 2021. Double subject marking in Kihehe KE verb constructions: “Kihehe of really old people.” *8th International Conference on Bantu Languages (2020/2021)*. Postponed to 2021 due to Coronavirus.
- Johnson, M.B. 2021. Univerbation and typologically rare affix order in Kihehe. *Linguistic Society of America 2021 Annual Meeting*.
- 2020  
 Johnson, M.B. 2020. Ongoing subject marker loss in Kihehe. *50th Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (2020)*.
- Johnson, M.B. 2020. Reduction of Multiple Exponence in Kihehe. *19th International Morphology Meeting (2020)*.
- Elsner, M., Johnson, M.B., Antetomaso, S., & Sims, A.D. 2020. Stop the Morphological Cycle, I Want to Get Off: Modeling the Development of Fusion. *Society for Computation in Linguistics 2020*.
- 2012  
 Johnson, M.B. 2012. Chopping Sound: Annotation of Chichewa. *Oldenborg International Research and Travel Grant Presentation, Pomona College*. (Presentation on work done in Laura Downing’s lab.)
- Johnson, M.B. 2012. Chopping Sound: Annotation of Chichewa. *Summer Undergraduate Research Program Poster Conference, Pomona College*. (Presentation on work done in Laura Downing’s lab.)
- Paster, M. & Johnson, M.B. 2012. H tone tripling in Manyika. African Linguistics Workshop, University of Missouri.
- Johnson, M.B. & Paster, M. 2012. Aspects of Manyika verbal tonology. *43rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*.
- 2011  
 Johnson, M.B. 2011. The Low-down on High Tones: The Verbal Tonology of Manyika. *Summer Undergraduate Research Program Poster Conference, Pomona College*.

## Teaching

Morphology (SP2025, AU2025), Instructor of Record.

Introduction to Linguistics (SP2022, AU2024), Instructor of Record.

Language Across Cultures (AU2020, SP2021, AU2021, AU2022), Instructor of Record.

## Documentation & Field Research Experience

- Kihehe [heh]      Independent research, Iringa, Tanzania, 2013-2014, summer 2019, spring 2023, winter 2023-24, summer 2024
- Lubukusu [bxk]      Senior Thesis in Linguistics, Advisors: M. Paster & M. Diercks, Pomona College, Fall 2012-Spring 2013
- Chichewa [nya]      Research Assistant, Annotation, Supervisor: L. Downing, Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Summer 2012
- Manyika [mxc]      Field Methods Course/Summer Undergraduate Research Program, Advisor: M. Paster, Pomona College, Summer 2011
- North Saami [sme]      Research Assistant, Cataloging, Supervisor: D. Odden, The Ohio State University, Summer 2010

## **University Service**

Webinar host, Rift Valley Network, 2022-present.

Graduate student member, Indigenous Languages Hiring Committee, 2022-23.

Member, Organizing Committee, American International Morphology Meeting 2021.

Member, Speakers Committee, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, 2018-2023.

Student volunteer, Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America 2021.

Student volunteer, Formal Diachronic Semantics 4 (workshop), The Ohio State University, 2019.

Treasurer, Buckeye Language Network Student Association, The Ohio State University, 2018-19.

Secretary, TESOL Graduate Student Association, Ohio Dominican University, 2015-16.

**Skills** Elan, LaTeX, Praat, Python, R.

## **Languages**

English L1 (native)

French fluent

German proficient

Swahili proficient

Kihehe beginner

## **Professional Memberships**

Rift Valley Network