

# Nick Danis

[nik 'dænis] | he/him  
[nsdanis@wustl.edu](mailto:nsdanis@wustl.edu)  
[nickdanis.com](http://nickdanis.com)  
[github.com/nickdanis](https://github.com/nickdanis)

Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1073  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130

## Research interests

- Phonology, Optimality Theory, Computational linguistics, African languages

## Academic Positions

### *Current*

- Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis (since 2019)

### *Previous*

- 2017-2019, Lecturer, Princeton University (10%-60% FTE)
- 2018, Adjunct Professor, Rowan University

## Education

- 2017, PhD in Linguistics, Rutgers University
- 2011, MA in Applied Linguistics, Boston University
- 2008, B.A. in Linguistics, *cum laude*, Boston University
- 2008, B.S. in Film and Television, *cum laude*, Boston University

## Publications

### *Journal articles*

- Jardine, Adam, Nick Danis, and Luca Iacoponi. 2021. [A formal investigation of Q-Theory in comparison to Autosegmental Representations](#). *Linguistic Inquiry* 52.2. [[doi](#), [lingbuzz](#)]
- Danis, Nick. 2020. [Yoruba vowel deletion involves compensatory lengthening: evidence from phonetics](#). *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus* 60. [[doi](#)]
- Danis, Nick. 2019. [Long-distance major place harmony](#). *Phonology* 36.4. 573-604. [[doi](#), [lingbuzz](#), [ROA-1365](#)]

### *Conference Proceedings*

- Danis, Nick and Adam Jardine. 2019. “[Q-Theory Representations are Logically Equivalent to Autosegmental Representations](#),” *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*: Vol. 2 , Article 5. [[doi](#)]

- Danis, Nick. 2017. [Major place harmony in ABC and the \(reduced\) role of representation: evidence from Ngbaka](#). In Karen Jesney, Charlie O'Hara, Caitlin Smith and Rachel Walker (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America. [[doi](#), [lingbuzz](#), [ROA-1302](#)]
- Danis, Nick. 2017. Markedness and Complex Stops: Evidence from Simplification Processes. In Shigeki Kaji (ed.), *Proceedings of the 8th World Congress of African Languages Kyoto 2015*, 25–43. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa. [[ROA-1303](#)]
- Danis, Nick, Jonathan Barnes, and Catherine O'Connor. 2012. [Downstep and Contour Formation in Medumba: A Prosodic Account](#). In Michael R. Marlo, Nikki B. Adams, Christopher R. Green, Michelle Morrison, and Tristan M. Purvis (eds.), *Selected Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project, pp. 22-31. [[PDF](#)]

## Manuscripts

- Danis, Nick. 2017. *Complex place and place identity*. PhD Dissertation, Rutgers University. Chair: Akin Akinlabi. [[doi](#), [lingbuzz](#), [ROA-1324](#)]
- Danis, Nick. 2014. Deriving Interactions of Complex Stops. Ms., Rutgers University. Second Qualifying Paper. Committee: Alan Prince (Chair), Bruce Tesar, Akin Akinlabi. [[ROA-1220](#), [ROA-1221](#) ([OTWorkplace](#) Supplement)]
- Danis, Nick. 2011. The Phonological Word in Medumba. Ms., Boston University. Master's project.

## Edited Volumes

- Danis, Nick, Kate Mesh, and Hyunsuk Sung (eds.). 2011. [Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference on Language Development](#). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

## Presentations

### Oral

- Danis, Nick and Adam Jardine. 2019. Q-Theory Representations are logically equivalent to Autosegmental Representations. SCiL, co-meeting with the LSA 2019.
- Danis, Nick. 2016. Major place harmony and the (reduced) role of representation: Evidence from Ngbaka. AMP 2016. USC. October 21-23, 2016.
- Danis, Nick. 2016. Cross-category vowel-consonant interactions in Aghem and Vietnamese. Presented at the University of Chicago Phonology Group, May 13, 2016.
- Danis, Nick. 2015. Markedness and Complex Segments: Evidence from Simplification Processes. 8th World Congress of African Linguistics. Presented Talk. Kyoto University. August 21, 2015.
- Danis, Nick. 2015. A Typology of Complex Segments: Multiple Place Interactions on a Scale. Workshop on Formal Typologies. Rutgers University, May 30, 2015.
- Danis, Nick. 2015. Complex Segments Made Simple: Markedness and Doubly-Articulated Stops. 46th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Presented Talk. University of Oregon.

March 27, 2015.

- Danis, Nick, Jonathan Barnes, and Catherine O'Connor. 2011. Downstep and Contour Formation in Medumba: A Grassfields Bantu Language. 42th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Presented Talk. University of Maryland.

## Poster

- Danis, Nick. 2020. [Phonology needs geometry: Implicit axioms in segmental representation](#). Poster presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the LSA.
- Danis, Nick. [Cross-category agreement as reference to general dominance](#). AMP 2018, UC San Diego. Oct 5-7, 2018. Poster. [[conf. link](#)]
- Danis, Nick, Jeffrey Heinz and Adam Jardine. 2018. [How constraints refer to nothing: The correct notion of substructure for phonology](#). Poster that was present at the 2018 LSA.
- Danis, Nick. 2018. A theory of cross-category agreement and new evidence for unified place features. Poster that never made it to the 2018 LSA due to inclement weather. See the AMP 2018 version.
- Danis, Nick. 2017. [Phonetics of Yoruba vowel deletion: durational evidence for hidden structure](#). ACAL 48, Indiana University. March 30-April 2, 2017. Poster.

## Student Work

- Calhoun, Adrianna. 2021. Invisible Issues: Exploring the Unspoken Rift Between the Black Community and the Field of Speech-Language Pathology. Senior honor's thesis, Washington University in St. Louis. (reader)
- Goldberg, Jack. 2021. Phonological treatment of affricates in Yiddish and segmental analysis. Poster presented at CULC 15. (directed study)
- Zhang, Yutong. 2021. A phonological analysis of the word-borrowing process in Volapük. Senior honor's thesis, Washington University in St. Louis. (primary advisor)
- Goldberg, Jack. 2020. Phonological treatment of affricates in Yiddish. Poster presented at Midphon 25. (directed study)

## Teaching

### *Washington University in St. Louis*

Course	Name	Semesters
L44 Ling 148	The Linguistics of Constructed Languages	Fall 2019, 2020, 2021; Spring 2021; Summer 2021
L44 Ling 170D	Introduction to Linguistics	Fall 2019, 2020, Spring 2019, 2021
L44 Ling 312	Phonetics	Spring 2019, 2020
L44 Ling 313	Phonological Analysis	Fall 2019, 2020, 2021
L44 Ling 317	Introduction to Computational Linguistics	Spring 2019, 2020, 2021
L44 Ling 427	Computation and Learnability in Linguistic Theory	Fall 2021; Spring 2020

## Princeton University

Course	Name	Semesters
LIN201	Introduction to Language and Linguistics (preceptor)	Fall 2018; Spring 2018

## Rowan University

Course	Name	Semesters
CMS 04326	Linguistics	Spring 2018

## Rutgers University

Course	Name	Semesters
01:615:190	Linguistic Perspectives on Language: Invented Languages	Fall 2016; Spring 2016, 2017
01:615:201	Introduction to Linguistic Theory	Fall 2013 (TA); Spring 2014; Summer 2015

## Field Experience

- 2010, Medumba ([byv], Grassfields Bantu, Cameroon): Conducted one month of intensive fieldwork in Yaoundé, Bangangté, and local surrounding villages. Funded by NSF Grant BCS 1026724.

## Service

### Reviewing

- 2021, *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus*
- 2020, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*
- 2018-2020, *Phonology*
- 2019, Cambridge University Press
- 2017, Oxford University Press
- 2015, *Diversity in African languages: Selected papers from the 46th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*

## Other Education

### Summer Programs

- 2021, [May 2021 Data Science Boot Camp](#)  
Erdős Institute

- 2010, 3L Summer School on Language Documentation and Description  
Leiden, Netherlands
- 2010, Medumba Intensive Literacy Course  
Comité de Langue pour l'Etude et la Production des Œuvres Bamiléké-Medumba (CEPOM)  
Bangangté, Cameroon
- 2009, LSA Summer Institute  
University of California, Berkeley

## *Awards*

- 2019, Washington University Course Innovation Grant
- 2016, Mellon Summer Study Grant
- 2014, Excellence Fellowship for doctoral study in Linguistics
- 2014, Mellon Summer Study Grant
- 2011-2012, Excellence Fellowship for doctoral study in Linguistics

## *Skills*

### *Language*

- English (native)
- Italian (intermediate to advanced)
- Medumba [byv] (research and field knowledge)
- French, German (academic reading)
- ASL (basic)

### *Technical*

- OTWorkplace/VBA
- Python
  - nltk
  - pandas/matplotlib
  - flask
  - sklearn
  - scipy
- Praat
- LaTeX
- HTML/CSS

*Last updated: June 4, 2021*