

Nick Danis

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Washington University in St. Louis
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Research interests

- Phonology, Optimality Theory, computational and mathematical linguistics, African languages

Academic Positions

Current

- Senior Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis (since 2025)

Previous

- 2019-2025, Lecturer, Washington University in St. Louis
- 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]

Chapters

- Akinlabi, Akinbiyi and Nick Danis. In press. “Nonlinear representations.” To appear in Adam Jardine and Paul de Lacy (eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*, 2nd edition.

Conference Proceedings

- Danis, Nick. 2025. “Logical transductions are not sufficient for notational equivalence,” In Gérard Avelino, Merlin Balihaxi, Quartz Colvin, Vincent Czarnecki, Hyunjung Joo, Chenli Wang, Utku Zobarlar, Adam Jardine and Adam McCollum (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Meetings on Phonology (Supplemental)*. [doi]
- 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

Invited

- Danis, Nick. 2024. Comparing representations: Towards a strong generative capacity for phonology. Invited speaker, RULing 2024, Rutgers University, May 3, 2024. [python supplement]
- Danis, Nick. 2023. Comparing representations: Towards a strong generative capacity for phonology. Invited colloquium, GSAS Circles Talk, Harvard University, February 17, 2023.
- Danis, Nick. 2022. Comparing phonological representations. Invited keynote, Graduate Linguistics Expo at Michigan State (GLEAMS) 2022. Michigan State University, October 28-29, 2022.

Oral

- Danis, Nick. 2022. Natural class-preserving transductions among phonological representations. Workshop on Model-Theoretic Representations in Phonology. Stony Brook University, September 22-24, 2022. [supplemental material]
- 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. 2024. Logical transductions are not sufficient for notational equivalence. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2024. Rutgers University, November 1-3, 2024.
- Danis, Nick. 2024. Logical transductions are not sufficient for notational equivalence. Poster presented at the 29th Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference (MidPhon 29). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 4–5, 2024. (See AMP 2024 link for poster PDF.)
- 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

- Duggan, Jacob. 2023. Why WUTSL? A Grammar for Wh-Movement and Tier-based Strictly Local Syntax's Computation Tool. Senior honor's thesis, Washington University in St. Louis. (primary advisor)
- 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

- Ling 148 The Linguistics of Constructed Languages
 - *Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2024*
- Ling 170D Introduction to Linguistics
 - *Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025*
- Ling 258 Methods in Linguistic Research
 - *Fall 2024*
- Ling 312 Phonetics
 - *Spring 2019, Spring 2020*

- Ling 313 Phonological Analysis
 - *Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024*
- Ling 317 Introduction to Computational Linguistics
 - *Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025*
- Ling 427 Computation and Learnability in Linguistic Theory
 - *Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2020*
- Ling 495 Senior Seminar in Optimality Theory
 - *Fall 2023*

Princeton University

- LIN201 Introduction to Language and Linguistics (preceptor)
 - *Fall 2018; Spring 2018*

Rowan University

- CMS 04326 Linguistics
 - *Spring 2018*

Rutgers University

- 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

- 2024, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*
- 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
- R
- HTML/CSS