

Romi Hill

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EDUCATION

Boston University September 2024 - 2029 (expected)
PhD in Linguistics Boston, Massachusetts

University of Konstanz October 2021 - February 2024
Master of Speech and Language Processing Konstanz, Germany
Specialization: Machine Language Processing
Thesis Title: Syntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology of Reduplication: A Theoretical and Computational Perspective

University of Melbourne February 2015 - December 2019
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) & Concurrent Diploma in Mathematics Melbourne, Australia
Major: Linguistics & Applied Linguistics
Diploma Specialisation: Discrete Mathematics and Operations Research
Thesis Title: Murrinhpatha Noun Classifiers - Syntax and Discourse Functions

Ludwig Maximilian University March 2017 - July 2017
Exchange Student Munich, Germany

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interactions at the syntax phonology interface, reduplication, argument structure, language documentation

PUBLICATIONS

Language Documentation & Conservation 2023
WordSpinner: Developing a tool to convert plain-text lexicon files into dictionary webpages
Authors: Caroline Jones, Jesse Tran, Eleanor Jorgensen, **Romi Hill**, Patricia Ellis, Jane Simpson, Felicity Meakins, Ben Foley, Marcel Reverter-Rambaldi, Lowana Tudor-Smith, Paul Williams, Clair Hill, Mark Richards, Quang Vinh Nguyen

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS) 2023
R. Skarnitzl and J. Volín (eds.). pp. 1459 - 1464

The phonetics-phonology-syntax interface: a computational implementation [Link]
Authors: Tina Bögel, **Romi Hill**, Justin Hofenbitzer, Tianyi Zhao
Also: Poster presentation in Prague, Czechia.

CONFERENCE TALKS

Linguistic Society of America (LSA) January 2026

Accepted as Poster Presentation

Voice-mismatch reciprocals in Indonesian as binary predicate conjunction

Authors: Elizabeth Coppock, **Romi Hill**, Neil Myler

Association of Contemporary African Linguistics 56 (ACAL) May 2025

Accepted as Poster Presentation

Morphosyntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology of Reduplication

Authors: **Romi Hill**

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

WOLF Lab @ Harvard University September 2022

Invited Talk

Syntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology on Reduplication in Bantu

Presenters: **Romi Hill**

University of Edinburgh September 2022

Invited Talk

The prosody-syntax interface: theoretical assumptions and computational implementation

Presenters: Tina Bögel, **Romi Hill**, Justin Hofenbitzer, Tianyi Zhao

Australian Languages Workshop February 2020

Presentation

Murrinhpatha noun classifiers: Syntax and discourse functions

Presenters: **Romi Hill**, Rachel Nordlinger, John Mansfield

Australian National University January 2019

Presentation

Canberra, Australia

Two projects: Computational methods for corpus and dictionary-making: Warlpiri corpus and Dhurga dictionary

Presenters: **Romi Hill**, Eleanor Jorgensen

TEACHING ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT

University of Konstanz October 2023 - February 2024

Core Components of Language B *University of Konstanz*

Master's course on the foundations of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. [Also October 2022 - February 2023.]

I prepared weekly exercises and solutions, and marked assignments.

Instructor: Colin Davis.

University of Konstanz October 2023 - February 2024

Statistics *University of Konstanz*

Masters course on linear and logistic regression for linguistics.

I prepared weekly exercises and solutions.

Instructor: Massimiliano Canzi.

University of Konstanz September 2023

Finite State Morphology *University of Konstanz*

Undergraduate course on finite state morphology with XFST.
I assisted students with theoretical and technical questions in class.
Instructor: Tina Bögel.

University of Konstanz April 2023 - July 2023
English Syntax University of Konstanz

Undergraduate course on an introduction to syntactic theory, with a focus on English.
I prepared weekly exercises and solutions, and marked assignments.
Instructor: Colin Davis.

University of Melbourne February 2019 - November 2019
PASS Leader University of Melbourne

I facilitated “Peer Assisted Study Sessions”: weekly study sessions led by a high-achieving student who has successfully completed the subject in the previous year.
I was a PASS leader for two third-year linguistics subjects:

Semantics *Instructor:* Jonathon Lum

Exploring Linguistic Diversity *Instructor:* Barbara Kelly

I prepared questions and discussion topics, and mentored students around university life.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT

Prosodic Structure at the Interface Between Language and Speech March 2022 - March 2024
Project leads: University of Konstanz

Tina Bögel (University of Konstanz) [Link]
Catherine Lai & Alice Turk (University of Edinburgh)

Collaborated on developing a prosody–syntax interface within the Lexical Functional Grammar framework, incorporating language redundancy information; implemented this interface in a computational XLE grammar; and wrote a Python script to calculate average syllable durations in German as a measure of acoustic salience.

Information Structure and Questions in Urdu/Hindi December 2021 - January 2022
Project lead: University of Konstanz

Miriam Butt (University of Konstanz) [Link]

Wrote Praat scripts for Urdu phonetic transcriptions to extract prosodic information from non-canonical questions. The scripts automated tasks including calculation of average phoneme, syllable, word, and utterance durations; mean word intensity; extraction of F0 values at equidistant time points; identification of pre-word pauses; and general TextGrid file management.

Are super-complex words represented like sentences in speakers' minds? May 2021 - September 2021
Project leads: University of Melbourne

Brett Baker (University of Melbourne) [Link]
Rikke Bundgaard-Nielsen (Western Sydney University)

Contributed to an ARC-funded project on speakers’ knowledge of “super-complex” words in the Australian language Wubuy. Wrote Python scripts to clean a Wubuy XML corpus into HTML, automate interlinear glossing, and implement phonological rules to generate variants of dictionary headwords. These outputs supported calculations of information density as a measure of word complexity.

Learning to tell a narrative in Murrinhpatha

Project leads:

*Barbara Kelly, Gillian Wigglesworth,
& Lucy Davidson (University of Melbourne)*

May 2021 - July 2021

University of Melbourne

[Link]

Contributed to an ARC-funded project on children's linguistic skills in the polysynthetic language Murrinhpatha. Used ELAN to code information structure in children's narrative videos and developed a controlled vocabulary to target relevant aspects of information structure.

Nafsan Corpus

Project lead:

Rosey Billington (University of Melbourne)

November 2019 - January 2020

Melbourne, Australia

Contributed to a corpus of the Oceanic language Nafsan by correcting phonetic transcription boundaries in Praat.

Summer Scholar

Supervisors:

Jane Simpson & Hanna Suominen (Australian National University)

November 2018 - January 2019

Australian National University

Summer scholar funded by the Australian Signals Directorate, contributing to two projects using computational methods for linguistic outcomes. Developed a workflow with forced alignment techniques for a Warlpiri corpus, including testing aligners, creating guidelines, and supporting non-technical users. Collaborated with a community leader to build a revival dictionary for Dhurga using HTML/CSS, and contributed to WordSpinner, a tool for online dictionaries of under-resourced languages.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Appen

Computational Linguist

January 2020 - July 2021

Sydney, Australia

Developed high-quality training data for diverse NLP projects, including TTS/ASR pronunciation lexicons, NER annotation, text generation, and tool development. Used Python, regex, and linguistic expertise.

Real Thing AI

Conversational Designer

July 2021 - October 2021

Melbourne, Australia

Served as subject matter expert in linguistics for RealSAM, a voice-command system for Blind and Visually Impaired users, advising the CEO and engineers on dialogue design to improve natural language understanding.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The 50th Boston University Conference on Language Development

Co-Organizer

June 2025 - December 2025

Boston University

Structures of Under-Research Languages Lab (SULA)

Lab Member

September 2024 - Present

Boston University

WOLF Lab

Affiliated Member

January 2025 - Present

Harvard University

The 49th Boston University Conference on Language Development

Participant, Registration Volunteer

November 2024

Boston University

Basque Summer Tutorial in Language Documentation*Participant*

August 2022

*Larrau, France***CoEDL Summer School Workshop***Participant, Volunteer Helping Assistant*

November 2019

*Melbourne, Australia***CoEDL Summer School Workshop***Participant*

November 2018

*Canberra, Australia***TECHNICAL SKILLS****Computational Languages**

Python, C, SQL, HTML & CSS, JavaScript, R, Praat scripting, XLE, XFST

Command Line Interfaces

bash/zsh, sed, git

Text EditingL^AT_EX, vim, regex, VSCode**Linguistics Software**

ELAN, Praat, FLEX, WebMAUS

Human Languages

Native Australian English, B2 German, Beginner's Mandarin Chinese

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**Begabtenbefreiungssatzung***Exemption to Pay International Fees*

2022 - 2024

University of Konstanz

Identified as a particularly gifted international student, and received an exemption to pay international fees.

DAAD Scholarship (Master Studies for All Academic Disciplines)*Scholarship*

2022 - 2023

University of Konstanz

Monthly scholarship payments for excellently-qualified graduates. The scholarship is awarded by an independent selection committee, and selection is based on academic achievements, relevant internships and work experience, quality of the study project, and potential of the applicant.

Value: Monthly payments of €934.**R.G. Wilson Scholarship***Scholarship*

2019

University of Melbourne

Three scholarships awarded to the highest average honours students in the Faculty of Arts.

Value: One-off payment of AU\$3,200.**Dwight Final Assessment Prize***Prize*

2019

University of Melbourne

Awarded to the highest achieving honours student in Linguistics.

Value: One-off payment of AU\$1,600.**Dean's Honours List***Recognition*

2019

University of Melbourne

Awarded to the top 3% of students within each year of the program in the Bachelor of Arts.

Appen Prize for Excellence in Linguistics*Prize*

2018

University of Melbourne

Awarded to the highest achieving Linguistics student across all their Linguistics subjects, who goes on to enrol in honours.

Value: One-off payment of AU\$1,000.

Melbourne Global Scholars Award*Scholarship*

2017

University of Melbourne

Awarded to high achieving students who are undertaking overseas study for 12 weeks or more.

Value: One-off payment of AU\$2,500.

REFERENCES

Neil Myler

Associate Professor in Linguistics
Boston University
myler@bu.edu

Tina Bögel

Postdoctoral Researcher in Linguistics
University of Konstanz
tina.boegel@uni-konstanz.de

Colin Davis

Associate Professor of English Linguistics
Nord University
colin.davis@nord.no

Miriam Butt

Professor in Linguistics
University of Konstanz
miriam.buttp@uni-konstanz.de