



William Johnston

CURRICULUM VITAE

Département de linguistique
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2024	Linguistics, McGill University Dissertation: <i>Event structure and serial verbs in Hmong</i> . Supervisory committee: Jessica Coon and Luis Alonso-Ovalle (co-supervisors), Junko Shimoyama, and Lisa Travis. External examiner: Peter Svenonius (University of Tromsø).
B.A., 2013	Linguistics, Carleton College (Northfield, MN)

EMPLOYMENT

2024–present	Postdoctoral researcher Département de linguistique, Université du Québec à Montréal Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) Postdoctoral Fellowship. Supervised by Richard Compton.
Fall 2024	Course Lecturer Département de linguistique, Université du Québec à Montréal
Winter 2023	Course Lecturer Department of Linguistics, McGill University
Winter 2021	Course Lecturer Department of Linguistics, McGill University

RESEARCH

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ) Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2024–2026. Project: *Les catégories syntaxiques en hmong blanc: implications pour la théorie linguistique et l'enseignement des langues* | *Syntactic categories in White Hmong: Implications for linguistic theory and language education*, \$90,000 CAD.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Johnston, William. (2023). "Pair-list answers to questions with plural definites." *Semantics and Pragmatics* 16(2). <https://doi.org/10.3765/sp.16.2>

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Johnston, William. (Forthcoming). "Decomposing Path: Deprepositional verbs in White Hmong" In: *Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

Johnston, William. (Forthcoming). "Culmination entailments in V and P: Evidence from White Hmong." In: *Proceedings of the 41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Ed. by Yağmur Kiper, Larry Lyu, Richard Wang, and Niko Webster. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Johnston, William. (2024). "Two diagnostics for preposition-hood: Decomposing Path in White Hmong." In: *Proceedings of the 14th Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia (GLOW in Asia XIV) 2024*. Ed. by Xiangyu Li, Zetao Xu, Yuqiao Du, Zhuo Chen, Chenghao Hu, Zhongyang Yu, and Victor Junnan Pan.

Johnston, William. (2022). "Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect." In: *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 26. Ed. by Daniel Gutzmann and Sophie Repp. pp. 483–502. University of Cologne.

Johnston, William. (2019). "Pair-list questions from dependent plurals." In: *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*. Ed. by Julian J. Schlöder, Dean McHugh, and Floris Roelofsen. pp. 201–210. Amsterdam: ILLC.

MANUSCRIPTS

Johnston, William. (In revision). "Paths across worlds: the presupposition of 'back' in intensional contexts."

Johnston, William. (In revision). "Causation and serialization in White Hmong."

INVITED TALKS

“Causation and serialization in Hmong.” *Converging on Causal Ontology Analyses*. Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris. October 11, 2024.

“Path in Hmong: The structure of directional PPs.” *Annual Conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association*. Carleton University, Ottawa. June 19, 2024.

“The verb phrase in Hmong: Serialization and event structure.” *University of Minnesota Linguistics Colloquium Series*. November 11, 2022.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Talks Delivered:

“A (de)prepositional approach to directed motion predicates in Cantonese and Hmong” (with Justin Leung). *Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL) 14*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. March 19, 2025.

“Parts of speech in Hmong.” *6th Hmong Studies Consortium International Conference*, Merced College, Merced, CA. November 2, 2024.

“Clausal Complementation, Finiteness and Object Control in Hmong” (with Hooi Ling Soh). *33rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 33)*, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan. June 15, 2024. *Presented by co-author*.

“Directed motion in White Hmong: Serial verb constructions as complex PPs.” *Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH 2022)*, Université du Québec à Montréal. April 23, 2022.

“Verb serialization as event-building: Evidence from Hmong.” *96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*, Washington, DC. January 9, 2022.

“Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect.” *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*, University of Cologne. September 10, 2021.

“Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect.” *Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal Semantics Workshop (TOM) 13*, University of Toronto. May 21, 2021.

“Verb serialization as event-building: Evidence from Hmong.” *Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH 2021)*, McMaster University. April 19, 2021.

“Pair-list questions from dependent plurals.” *22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*, University of Amsterdam. December 19, 2019.

Poster Presentations:

“Diagnosing Prepositions: Decomposing Path in White Hmong.” *42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 42)*. April 13, 2024.

“Diagnosing Prepositions: Decomposing Path in White Hmong.” *Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia (GLOW in Asia XIV)*, Chinese University of Hong Kong. March 6, 2024.

“Culmination entailments in V and P: Evidence from White Hmong.” *41st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 41)*, University of California Santa Cruz. May 6, 2023

“Focus, too, and conjunction, too: The syntax and semantics of Japanese *mo*-coordination.” *Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium*, St. Olaf College. April 13, 2013.

TEACHING**COURSES TAUGHT**

Fall 2024	Language Awareness for ESL Teachers (LIN1130) Département de linguistique, Université du Québec à Montréal
Winter 2023	Languages of the World (LING 315) Department of Linguistics, McGill University
Winter 2021	Meaning in Language (LING 260) Department of Linguistics, McGill University

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Fall 2021	Phonetics (LING 330) Instructor: Connie Ting Department of Linguistics, McGill University
Fall 2020	Meaning in Language (LING 260) Instructor: Bernhard Schwarz Department of Linguistics, McGill University
Winter 2020	Phonetics (LING 330) Instructor: Francisco Torreira Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Fall 2019 Phonetics (LING 330)
Instructor: Meghan Clayards
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Fall 2012 Introduction to Linguistics (LING 110)
Instructor: Cherlon Ussery
Linguistics Department, Carleton College

GRADING

Fall 2020 Structure of a Specific Language - German (LING 410)
Instructor: Bernhard Schwarz
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

AWARDS

2023–2024 Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award, McGill University Faculty of Arts, \$640 CAD
Graduate Student Travel Award, Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music, \$700 CAD

2022–2023 Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University, \$20,000.
McGill Linguistics Department Travel Fund, \$1,000 CAD

2021–2022 Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$15,000 CAD.
Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award, McGill University Faculty of Arts, \$141 CAD

2020–2021 Cremona Memorial Fellowship, McGill University, \$10,000 CAD
Linguistics Department Nominee, Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award, McGill University.

2019–2020 Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$1,000 CAD

2018–2019 Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$15,000 CAD

SERVICE & COMMUNITY**DEPARTMENT ORGANIZING**

- Sep. 2019–Aug. 2021 Editor, *McLing* Newsletter
McGill University Linguistics Department
- Summer 2021 Organizer, Event Structure Reading Group
McGill University Linguistics Department
- Spring 2021 Co-organizer, Accepted Students Open House
McGill University Linguistics Department
- Spring 2020 Co-organizer, Accepted Students Open House
McGill University Linguistics Department

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

- Spring 2023 Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA 2023)

READING AND RESEARCH GROUPS

- Mar. 2022–Present University of Minnesota Community-Engaged Hmong Linguistics Research and Reading Group
- Sep. 2020–Present Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab
- Sep. 2018–Present McGill Syntax/Semantics Reading Group
- Summer 2021 McGill Event Structure Reading Group

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Oct. 2024–Present Linguistic Society of America (LSA)
- Oct. 2024–Present Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA)
- Sep. 2024–Present Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)
- Jun. 2023–Present Hmong Studies Consortium

OUTREACH

- Spring 2023 Panel: “Ask a Grad Student”
Society of Linguistics Undergrads at McGill
- Spring 2022 Panel: “Ask a Grad Student”
Society of Linguistics Undergrads at McGill
- Winter 2015 Panel: “What paths will a linguistics major take you on?”
Carleton College Linguistics Department

REVIEWING

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS: Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: Toronto–Montreal Bantu Colloquium (Ba-TOM)

NON-DEGREE COURSEWORK

- Fall 2020 Hmong Language Workshop
Southeast Asian Diaspora Project, Minneapolis MN
- Summer 2013 Denver Publishing Institute, University of Denver

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Jan. 2014–Jul. 2018 Financial Advisor
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Minneapolis MN