

David Blunier

PHD STUDENT IN LINGUISTICS

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About me

I am a fifth year PhD student at the University of Geneva. My dissertation, under the supervision of [Isabelle Charnavel](#) (University of Geneva) and [Yasutada Sudo](#) (University College London) is about indexicals, those natural language expressions that refer to elements of the utterance context. More precisely, it focuses on their behavior in speech reports in both spoken and signed languages. I have been working on indexical shift, a phenomenon that describes first and second person pronouns being interpreted anaphorically in complex clauses, as well as logophoric pronouns. I also have been working with co-author [Giorgia Zorzi](#) (Bergen) on ellipsis in Catalan Sign Language. My latest project, which I am developing with [Jenia Khristoforova](#) from UvA, is about the interpretation of indexical pronouns under [role shift](#) in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT), and the patterns of anaphora involved in such constructions. I am also working on various other topics, such as quotation and narrative fiction, which I try to analyze using formal semantic and pragmatic tools.

Education

University of Geneva

Certificate of Specialization in Linguistics

Switzerland

09.15-03.18

University of Geneva

M.A. (120) in French literature and linguistics

Switzerland

09.16-12.18

École Normale Supérieure

M.A. (120) in Philosophy

France

09.11-03.13

University of Lausanne

B.Sc. in Psychology

Switzerland

09.08-06.11

Research areas & interests

- Discourse reference and anaphora
- Semantics and pragmatics of speech reports
- Sign language semantics
- Indexicals and context-dependence
- Morphosyntax and morphosemantics of pronouns
- Ellipsis phenomena
- Pragmatics and reasoning
- Philosophy of language and mind
- Literary theory, stylistics

Publications

- Interpreting indexicals under role shift in Sign Language of the Netherlands: experimental insights. Ms., University of Geneva and University of Amsterdam.
- A unified analysis of shifted indexicals and logophoric pronouns. Ms., University of Geneva.
- [Shifty implicatures: explaining the cross-linguistic distribution of pronouns in speech reports](#). Ms., University of Geneva.
- [Elided indexicals](#). Ms., University of Geneva.
- [Armenian speech reports: blurring the quotative line](#). *Proceedings of Penn Linguistics Conference 45*, March 19-21, 2021, Pennsylvania State University, USA.
- (with G. Zorzi) [Catalan Sign Language ellipsis, role shift, and the QUD](#). *Proceedings of FEAST 9*, June 1-4 2021, Hong Kong.
- [Indexicaux diégétiques](#), *Nouveaux Cahiers de Linguistique Française* 33, juillet 2019.
- [Speaking through someone else's mouth. Free indirect discourse, contexts, and narratives](#), *Generative Grammar in Geneva*, vol. X, September 2017.

Skills

Languages French (first language), English (working language), German (B2), Italian (B2), French Sign Language (learning)
Programming Python, LaTeX, HTML, JavaScript, Markdown, R

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Reviewing

I have been a reviewer for *Journal of Semantics* and *Linguistics & Philosophy*. I am also a reviewer and editor for *FEAST (Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory)*.

Academic experience

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Introduction aux sciences du langage*, Prof. Isabelle Charnavel

09.20 - Present

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Introduction aux sciences du langage*, Prof. Ur Shlonsky

09.19 - 09.20

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Origines, structure et usages du français*, Prof. Jacques Moeschler

09.17 - 01.19

University of Geneva

Coordinator, Research group *Langage & Communication*

09.17 - 09.19

Talks

Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST) 10

(with E. Khristoforova) Speech reports in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT).

Bergen, Norway

June 26-29, 2023

Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium

The pragmatics of shifted reference.

Olomouc, Czech Republic

June 8-11, 2023

GLOW 46

A unified analysis of shifted indexicals and logophoric pronouns.

Vienna, Austria

April 11-14, 2023

GLOW 46

(with E. Khristoforova) Speech reports in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT).

Vienna, Austria

April 11-14, 2023

Amsterdam Colloquium

Antipresuppositions, logophors and shifted indexicality.

Amsterdam, Netherlands

December 19-21, 2022

Workshop *Cross-disciplinary perspectives on quoting and speech reporting*

Rethinking quotation, cross-linguistically.

Brussels, Belgium

October 5-7, 2022

18th Workshop on Syntax, Semantics and Phonology (WOSSP)

(with E. Khristoforova) Speech reports in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT): new corpus insights.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,
Spain

October 20-21, 2022

Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST) 9

(with G. Zorzi) Catalan Sign Language ellipsis, role shift, and the QUD.

Hong Kong

June 1-4, 2021

30th Colloquium of Generative Grammar (30CGG)

(with G. Zorzi) Indexicals under ellipsis and role-shift in Catalan Sign Language.

Oviedo, Spain

May 12-14, 2021

Penn Linguistics Conference 45

Armenian speech reports: blurring the quotative line. [Proceedings paper](#), [slides](#)

Pennsylvania State University, USA

March 19-21, 2021

46th Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG 46)

(with G. Zorzi) Indexicals under ellipsis and role-shift in Catalan Sign Language. [Poster](#), [references](#)

Siena, Italy

February 25-27, 2021

ConSOLE 29

Indexical shift and argument structure in Armenian. [Poster](#), [references](#)

Leiden, The Netherlands

26-28 January 2021

International Cyprus Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (ICULC)

Shifted indexicals in Modern Eastern Armenian: evidence from and for binding.

Cyprus, Greece

November 28-29, 2020

GLIF seminar, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

(with G. Zorzi) The role of QUD in ellipsis and role shift in Catalan Sign Language.

Barcelona, Spain

October 28, 2020

QUDs and exhaustivity: experiments, computation, and theory

(with G. Zorzi) *The role of QUD in ellipsis and role shift in Catalan Sign Language.*

Graz, Austria

September 25, 2020

10th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics (ExLing)

(with A. Mari, S. Bourgeois-Gironde, D. Nicolas) *Grammatical mood and ambiguity aversion.*

Lisbon, Portugal

September 25-27, 2019

VariaForMea 6

When the cat bails out with the loot. Perspective shifts in free indirect discourse.

Procida, Italy

May 15, 2019

EGG 2018 Open Podium

Indexicality and self ascription in free indirect discourse.

Banja Luka, Bosnia and

Herzegovina

August 7, 2018

ACTL Summer School in Linguistics, UCL

Attitude reports in narrative contexts: what they tell us about perspective in grammar (poster).

London, UK

June 26, 2018

Manchester Forum in Linguistics (MFIL)

English logophors in narrative contexts.

Manchester, UK

April 27, 2018

Deuxième journée du réseau Langage & Communication, Université de Genève

Deciphering free indirect discourse.

Geneva, Switzerland

September 14, 2017

Internships

Visiting scholar, École Normale Supérieure, Institut Jean Nicod

Paris, France

January 1 - June 21, 2019

I came to Jean Nicod to help design an experiment about mood choice under attitude reports in Italian, within a group led by [Alda Mari](#). I eventually ended up doing various other things with various other people, such as [Amir Anvari](#), [Philippe Schlenker](#), and [Janek Guerrini](#), with whom I have been working on temporal context-dependence.

Workshops

CUSO workshop *Experimental approaches to meaning*

Main organizer

Invited speakers: Stavroula Alexandropoulou, Yasutada Sudo

Geneva, Switzerland

November 7-10, 2023

Sign Languages and Linguistics in Geneva, 1st edition

Main organizer

Invited speakers: Vadim Kimmelman (Bergen), Giorgia Zorzi (Bergen), Cindy van Boven (Amsterdam), Jenia Khristoforova (Amsterdam), Bastien David (Geneva)

Geneva, Switzerland

November 16-19, 2021

CUSO workshop *The syntax-pragmatics interface*

Main organizer (with Genovevá Puskas)

Invited speakers: Eva Wittenberg (CEU Budapest), Andreas Trotzke (Konstanz)

Geneva, Switzerland

September 22-24, 2021

'Langage & Communication: enjeux et impacts sociétaux'

Organizer

Geneva, Switzerland

September 3-4, 2019

CUSO Graduate School *The linguistic analysis of modality and mood*

Main organizer (with Hasmik Jivanyan)

Invited speakers: Anastasia Giannakidou (University of Chicago), Jason Merchant (University of Chicago)

Geneva, Switzerland

June 24-25, 2019

VariaForMea Graduate school

Organizer

Invited speakers: Valentina Bianchi (Siena), Tatjana Nazir (ISC Lyon), Monica Martinat (Lyon), Anne Reboul (ISC Lyon), Deirdre Wilson (UCL), Julien Musolino (Rutgers)

Procida, Italy

May 13-19, 2019

VariaForMea Graduate school

Organizer

Invited speakers: Liliane Haegeman (Gent), Diana Mazzarella (Neuchâtel), Nausicaa Pouscoulous (UCL)

Biel, Switzerland

November 27-29, 2017

CUSO Graduate School *Going formal!*

Main organizer (with Lucas Tual)

Invited speakers: Benjamin Spector, Emmanuel Chemla (ENS, CNRS)

Geneva, Switzerland

June 15-16, 2017

Schools

ESSLI 2021

Participant

Bolzano, Italy
July 26-August 13, 2021

FieldLing 2020

Participant

Paris, France
September 7-11, 2020

NCCR 'Evolving Language' summer school

Participant

Les Diablerets, Switzerland
September 2-5, 2020

CreteLing 2019

Participant

Rethymnon, Greece
July 2019

BCGL 11: The syntax and semantics of aspect

Participant

Brussels, Belgium
December 10-11, 2018

RALFE (Rencontres d'automne de linguistique formelle)

Participant

Paris, France
December 6-7, 2018

Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) 25

Participant

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
July 30 - August 10, 2018

FEAST (Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory)

Participant

Venice, Italy
June 18-20, 2018

SIGN-HUB & CNRS Summer School in Sign Language Linguistics

Participant

Como, Italy
June 11-15, 2018

BCGL 10: The morphology and semantics of person and number

Participant

Brussels, Belgium
December 4-5, 2017

Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) 24

Participant

Olomouc, Czech Republic
July 24 - August 4, 2017

Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) 23

Participant

Lagodekhi, Georgia
July 23 - August 10, 2016

Miscellaneous

Iphilo

Editor-in-chief

University of Geneva
February 2015 - December 2017

For three years, I was responsible of a student-reviewed philosophy journal in the analytic tradition, *iphilo*. The publishing activities included: selection of contributors to the journal, survey of the reviewing process, management of the visual (texts and layouts), survey of the printing process. I also published two small but fun articles in various issues, one on [epistemology](#) and another on [indexicals](#) (in French).

Aefram

Chairman

University of Geneva
November 2016 - December 2018

I have been president of the French and Literary studies Department's student association (Aefram) at the University of Geneva, which organized various gatherings and workshops.

What else?

During my free time, I entertain various hobbies like gymnastics, yoga, dancing and lyrical singing; I am fond of opera, which I enjoy both off- and onstage, being regularly cast as an actor and/or dancer in various productions in [Geneva](#) and [Lausanne](#). My last show was Claudio Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, by Antwerp collective [FC Bergman](#).