

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 [Genevève Puskas](#) (Geneva) and [Susi Wurmbrand](#) (Vienna) 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. 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 quotative and iconic features of [role shift](#) in sign languages (NGT and RSL), and the patterns of anaphora involved in such constructions. I am also working on various other topics, such as narrative fiction, which I try to analyze using formal semantic and pragmatic tools.

Education

University of Geneva

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

Master thesis: 'Indexicaux, individus et propriétés' (supervisor: Jacques Moeschler)

Switzerland

09.16-12.18

University of Geneva

Certificate of Specialization in Linguistics

Certificate thesis: 'Monsters unleashed! Pronouns, indexicality, and *de se* ascriptions in free indirect discourse' (supervisors: Jacques Moeschler & Genevève Puskàs)

Switzerland

09.15-03.18

University of Geneva

B.A. in French literature and linguistics

Switzerland

09.14-08.15

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
- Syntax and semantics of speech reports
- Indexicals and context-dependence
- Syntax and semantics of embedded clauses
- Ellipsis phenomena
- Sign language syntax and semantics
- Pragmatics and reasoning
- Modality and mood
- Philosophy of language and mind
- Literary theory, stylistics

Skills

Languages French (first language), English (working language), German, Italian, Russian (learning), French Sign Language (learning)

Programming LaTeX, HTML, JavaScript, Markdown, R

Experience

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Introduction aux sciences du langage* (Fall semester), Prof. Isabelle Charnavel 09.20 - Present

- Class preparation, exam preparation, supervision and correction
- Teaching material available [here](#)

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Introduction aux sciences du langage* (Fall semester), Prof. Ur Shlonsky 09.19 - 09.20

- Class preparation, exam preparation, supervision and correction

University of Geneva

Teaching Assistant, BA level: *Origines, structure et usages du français* (Fall semester), Prof. Jacques Moeschler 09.17 - 01.19

- Class preparation, exam preparation, supervision and correction

University of Geneva

Coordinator, Réseau *Langage & Communication* 09.17 - 09.19

- Coordination tasks
- Organization of the 2nd *Journée des doctorants L&C*, September 14th, 2017
- Organization of the closing colloquium *Langage & Communication: enjeux et impacts sociétaux*, September 3-4, 2019.
- *LangCom* webpage management

Publications

- **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.

Invited Talks & Posters

Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST)

9 Hong Kong

(with G. Zorzi) Catalan Sign Language ellipsis, role shift, and the QUD. June 1-4, 2021
[Proceedings paper](#)

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.

[Slides](#)

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.

[Slides](#)

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.

[Proceedings paper](#)

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

Sign Languages and Linguistics in Geneva, 1st edition

Main organizer

Geneva, Switzerland

November 16-19, 2021

CUSO workshop ‘The syntax-pragmatics interface’

Main organizer (with Genovevá Puskas)

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 7

Organizer

6th installment of the *Variation in Form and Meaning* winter school on new issues in linguistics and literary theory.

Featured keynote 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 5

Organizer

5th installment of the *Variation in Form and Meaning* winter school in the BASPO House of Sports in Macolin.

Participants: 30. Featured keynote speakers: Liliane Haegeman (Universiteit Gent), Diana Mazzarella (University of Neuchâtel), Nausicaa Pouscoulous (UCL)

Biel, Switzerland

November 27-29, 2017

CUSO Graduate School ‘Going formal’

Main organizer (with Lucas Tual)

Workshop on formal semantic theory and experimental linguistics. Invited speakers: Benjamin Spector (ENS, CNRS), Emmanuel Chemla (ENS, CNRS)

Geneva, Switzerland

June 15-16, 2017

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

GenWH 2018: The Geneva WH-workshop on Optional Insituness

Participant

Geneva, Switzerland

January 16-18, 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

GenSyn 17: Generative Syntax: Questions, Crossroads and Challenges

Participant

Barcelona, Spain

June 21-23, 2017

CUSO Graduate School: Modality in grammar and discourse

Participant

Champex, Switzerland

January 15-18, 2017

VariaForMea 4

Participant

Biel, Switzerland

December 7-9, 2017

Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) 23

Participant

Lagodekhi, Georgia

July 23 - August 10, 2016

VariaForMea 3

Participant

Biel, Switzerland

December 7-9, 2015

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](#).

Aefram

Chairman

University of Geneva

November 2016 - December 2018

I also re-founded and chaired the student association for literary studies of the French Department in Geneva (Aefram), which organized various gatherings and workshops.

What else?

During my free time, I entertain various hobbies like gymnastics 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 *Eugene Onegin* at the Opéra de Lausanne, by stage director Eric Vigié.