

# Aliaksei Akimenka

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## Research Interests

**Broadly:** Syntax, syntax-semantics interface, Philosophy of Mind and Language.

**Specifically:** Nature and formalization of syntactic movement, emergent phenomena in language, syntax and semantics of *Raising-to-Object* and *Tough-constructions*.

## Education

- (2026)    📖 **Ph.D in Linguistics.** University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, expected August 2026  
Defense passed April 27, 2026  
Dissertation: *How to Stop Moving (and Start Re-Moving), or An Eleatic Guide to the Derivation of Raising-to-Object and Tough Constructions in English* [\[Link\]](#).  
Committee: Acrisio Pires, Natasha Abner, Ezra Keshet, Teresa Satterfield.
- 2009    📖 **MA in Philology.** Minsk State Linguistic University, Minsk, Belarus
- 2008    📖 **Specialist's Degree in Linguistics and Translation.** Minsk State Linguistic University, Minsk, Belarus.

## Non-Degree

- 2023    📖 **Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science.** Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2019    📖 **LSA Linguistic Institute.** University of California, Davis

## Research Positions

### University of Michigan

- Fall 2022; Winter 2023    📖 **Graduate Research Assistant** with the Department of Linguistics  
Supervisor: Prof. Acrisio Pires

## Research Publications

### Journal papers

- in prep    📖 *Exfoliation* approach to Raising-to-Object: is syntax the key to the *wager*-class verbs puzzle?

### Conference proceedings (abstracts are peer-reviewed)

- 2025    📖 Tough-constructions as complex constituents: the no A-bar movement approach. *In Proc. of the 48th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference.* [\[Link to the paper\]](#).
- 📖 Raising-to-Object in ECM: A-movement without Internal Merge? *In Proc. of the 59th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.* [\[Link to the paper\]](#).
- 2024    📖 ECM constructions as complex predicates: a neo-constructivist approach. *In Proc. of the 39th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics.* [\[Link to the paper\]](#).
- 2023    📖 A neo-constructivist approach to Exceptional Case Marking Constructions. *In Proc. of the 56th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.* [\[Link to the paper\]](#).

## Refereed Talk and Poster Presentations

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|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February-March 2026 |  Scope ambiguity in English Raising-to-Object: reconstruction without a trace<br><i>50th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC50)</i> . Talk. <a href="#">(Abridged) Handout</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| January 2026        |  <i>De re/de dicto</i> ambiguity in English Raising-to-Object: reconstruction without a trace.<br><i>100th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2026)</i> . <a href="#">Poster</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| April 2025          |  <i>Exfoliation</i> approach to Raising-to-Object: the puzzle of <i>wager</i> -class verbs.<br><i>49th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC49)</i> . <a href="#">Poster</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| January 2025        |  <i>Exfoliation</i> approach to Raising-to-Object: the puzzle of <i>wager</i> -class verbs.<br><i>99th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2025)</i> . Poster.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| April 2024          |  <i>Tough</i> -constructions as complex constituents: the no A-bar movement approach<br><i>60th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS60)</i> . Talk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| March 2024          |  <i>Tough</i> -constructions as complex constituents: the no A-bar movement approach<br><i>48th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC48)</i> . Talk.<br> <i>Tough</i> -constructions as complex constituents: the no A-bar movement approach<br><i>GLOW in Asia. The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i> . Poster (did not attend).                                                                          |
| January 2024        |  <i>Tough</i> -constructions as complex constituents: exploring the no A-bar movement approach.<br><i>32nd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE32)</i> . <i>Queen Mary University of London</i> . Talk.<br> <i>Tough</i> -constructions as complex constituents.<br><i>98th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2024)</i> . <a href="#">Poster</a> . |
| April 2023          |  Raising-to-object in English ECM: A-movement without Internal Merge?<br><i>59th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS59)</i> . Poster.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| January 2023        |  Raising-to-object in English ECM: A-movement without Internal Merge?<br><i>97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2023)</i> . <a href="#">Poster</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| January 2022        |  Complex predicates in ECM: evidence from topicalization, (pseudo-)clefting and VP-ellipsis.<br><i>96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2022)</i> . Talk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| April 2021          |  ECM constructions as complex predicates: a neo-constructivist approach.<br><i>39th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL39)</i> . <i>University of Arizona</i> . Talk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| March 2021          |  ECM constructions as complex predicates: a neo-constructivist approach.<br><i>45th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC45)</i> . Poster.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| January 2021        |  ECM constructions as complex predicates: a neo-constructivist approach.<br><i>95th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA2021)</i> . Poster.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| April 2020          |  A neo-constructivist approach to Exceptional Case Marking Constructions.<br><i>56th meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS56)</i> . Poster (cancelled due to COVID-19).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Invited Presentations

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 2023 |  A-movement without Internal Merge. <i>Weinberg CogSci Seminar Series. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor</i>                                        |
| April 2024 |  Rethinking A-Movement: Raising-to-Object without Internal Merge. <i>Linguistics Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor</i> |

## Teaching Experience

### University of Michigan, Graduate Student Instructor

|                                    |   |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fall 2018, 2024; Winter 2019, 2021 | ■ | LING 111 Lenses into Language                                                    |
| Fall 2019, 2021; Winter 2020, 2022 | ■ | LING/COGSCI 209/PSYCH 242 Language and Human Mind                                |
| Fall 2023; Winter 2026             | ■ | LING 315 Introduction to Syntax<br><i>Upper-level Writing Requirement course</i> |
| Winter 2024                        | ■ | LING 316 Aspects of Meaning<br><i>Upper-level Writing Requirement course</i>     |
| Winter 2025; Fall 2025             | ■ | LING 347/PSYCH 349 Talking Minds                                                 |

## Grants and Awards

|                    |   |                                                    |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------|
| Fall 2018          | ■ | Block Grant Fellowship. \$4,700                    |
| Spring/Summer 2020 | ■ | Humanities Research Fellowship. \$10,800           |
| Fall 2020          | ■ | Humanities Research Fellowship. \$10,800           |
| Summer 2022        | ■ | Linguistics Summer Research Stipend. \$2,500       |
| 2021               | ■ | Rackham Conference Travel Grant. \$814             |
| 2022               | ■ | Rackham Conference Travel Grant. \$900             |
| 2023               | ■ | Block Conference Travel Grant. \$1,120             |
| Spring/Summer 2023 | ■ | Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship. \$12,000 |
| 2023               | ■ | Rackham Conference Travel Grant. \$900             |
| 2024               | ■ | Block Conference Travel Grant. \$940               |
| Summer 2024        | ■ | Linguistics Summer Fellowship. \$6,000             |
| 2025               | ■ | Rackham Conference Travel Grant. \$900             |
| 2026               | ■ | Rackham Conference Travel Grant. \$900             |

## Professional Experience

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|------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2009-2011        | ■ | International Sales Manager. Joint Stock Company Belshina, Bobruisk, Belarus                                                                             |
| August 6-8, 2024 | ■ | Staff Member (Paid Position). <i>FEAST 2024 Conference: Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory</i> , University of Michigan, Ann Arbor |

## Service and Volunteer Experience

### University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics

|           |   |                      |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| 2017-2018 | ■ | GLaM committee       |
| 2018-2019 | ■ | Colloquium committee |
| 2019-2020 | ■ | Colloquium committee |
| 2020-2021 | ■ | Graduate committee   |

### Conference Volunteer

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|-----------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 16-18, 2024 | ■ | Staff Member. <i>HSP 2024: 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing</i> , University of Michigan, Ann Arbor |
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## Memberships

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2017-present      **Linguistic Society of America**

## Languages

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Native      **Russian, Belarusian**

Fluent      **English, Ukrainian**

Fair      **German**

## Skills

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Adobe Suite,  $\LaTeX$ , Microsoft Office, Google Suite