

# MARTIN MÖSSMER

## *Curriculum Vitae*

PhD student, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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## EDUCATION

- 2023–      Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics, expected in May 2028  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Advisor: Prof. Andries Coetzee
- 2021      Master of Arts in Linguistics, awarded with distinction  
University of Cape Town, South Africa | Advisors: Prof. Rajend Mesthrie, Prof. Heather Brookes, Prof. Rainer Vossen  
Thesis: *Xri: A study of contact, and phonetic and phonological change*
- 2017      Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Linguistics, awarded in the First Class  
University of Cape Town, South Africa | Advisor: Dr. Matthias Brenzinger  
Thesis: *The Rise and Fall of Xri: The history of a completed language shift in the Northern Cape, South Africa*
- 2016      Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Classical Studies, awarded with distinction in both majors, and the degree awarded with distinction  
University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008      Advanced Food and Wine Diploma, awarded with distinction  
The Culinary Academy, South Africa

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PAPERS

- 2025      Brookes, H., Southwood, F., Makaure, P., White, M. J., Mössmer, M., Defty, C., Yalala, S. L., Brink, N., Kruger, H., Matfunjwa, M., Ndhambi, M., Ndlangamandla, S., Bhuda, M. T., Buthelezi, N., Jiyana, W., Khumalo, P., Miriri, L., Skosana, N., & The South African CDI Team. A crosslinguistic study of gesture and lexical development in South African infants. (accepted). *First Language*.
- Brookes, H., Southwood, F., Mössmer, M., Makaure, P., White, M. J., Coetsee, C., Yalala, S. L., Kruger, H., Ndhambi, M., Ndlangamandla, S., Bhuda, M. T., Brink, N., Buthelezi, N., Jiyana, W., Khumalo, F. P., Ludidi, B., Matfunjwa, M., Miriri, L., & Skosana, N. (2025).

Instrument adaptation for measuring early child language development across multilingual and sociocultural diverse settings. *Developmental Psychology*. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/n7qm>

Brookes, H., Makaure, P., Yalala, S., Danvers, H., Mössmer, M., Little, F., Ndhambi, M., Southwood, F., Ludidi, B., & The South African CDI Team. (2025). Mean Length of Utterance: A study of early language development in four Southern Bantu languages. *Journal of Child Language*, 52(2), 244–269. <https://doi.org/mpq3>

2021 Southwood, F., White, M., Brookes, H., Pascoe, M., Ndhambi, M., Yalala, S., Mahura, O., Mössmer, M., Oosthuizen, H., Brink, N. & Alcock, K. (2021). Sociocultural factors affecting vocabulary development in young South African children. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 642315. <https://doi.org/mpr9>

2019 Mössmer, M. (2019). The rise and fall of Xri: The history of a completed language shift in the Northern Cape, South Africa. *Anthropological Linguistics*, 60(4), 44–74. <https://doi.org/mrpw>

## BOOK CHAPTERS

(2025) Mössmer, M. (in prep.). Xri and Afrikaans. In B. Sands, M. Percival, A.-M. Fehn & J. Coburn (eds.), *Non-Pulmonic Consonants. Studies in Phonetics and Phonology Series*. University of Toronto Press.

Coetzee, A. W., & Mössmer, M. (in prep.). Afrikaans diphthongs. In, M. J. Ball & F. Hu (eds.), *Diphthongs, Triphthongs and Polyphthongs: A survey. Studies in Phonetics and Phonology Series*. University of Toronto Press.

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS

2025 Deborah Keller-Cohen Teaching Award, University of Michigan Department of Linguistics.

2024 SAIO Research Grant: Department of Afroamerican & African Studies, Univ. of Michigan.

2023 Fellowship: Gates-Cambridge Scholarship, University of Cambridge. [declined]

2019 Fellowship: Centre for Curating the Archive: *Onthouers* | Rememberers Project.  
Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa.

2018 Language Legacies Grant: The Endangered Language Fund.  
Fellowship: Centre for Curating the Archive: *Onthouers* | Rememberers Project.  
Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa.

2017 Harry Crossley Research Fellowship.  
Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa.

- 2016 Humanities Faculty Scholarship (UCT); Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty).  
*Class Medals*: The City in the Ancient World (SLL3057F), Athenian Life & Culture (SLL3055S).
- 2015 Humanities Faculty Scholarship (UCT); Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty).  
*Class Medals*: Linguistics IIA (AXL2300F), Mandarin IIB (SLL2122S).
- 2014 Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty).  
*Class Medal*: The World of Odysseus (SLL1054F).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- FA 2025 Head Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan  
 LING 111 FA2025 Lenses into Language: Mind, Society, Justice; Prof. Ezra Keshet
- WI 2025 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan  
 LING 114 WI2025 A World of Words; Dr Lisa Levinson
- FA 2024 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan  
 LING 115 FA2024 Language in a Multicultural World; Dr Yourdanis Sedarous
- 2022–2023 Ad-hoc Lecturer, Department of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch University  
 GL348 Critical Sociolinguistics – designed and implemented new upper-level course.  
 GL318 Critical Sociolinguistics – second iteration of the course.
- 2018 Head Tutor (Teaching Assistant), Linguistics Section, University of Cape Town  
 Head tutor for second year linguistics students in formal and sociolinguistics; coordinating tutors, grading assignments and exams.
- 2017–2018 Tutor (Teaching Assistant), Linguistics Section, University of Cape Town  
 Tutoring first year linguistics students in formal and sociolinguistics; grading assignments and exams, and individual tutoring.

## GUEST LECTURES

- Mar 2025 LING114 A World of Words, Prof. Lisa Levinson, *Word Acquisition*. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- Feb 2026 LING780 Reflecting on our identities in language research, Prof. Cherry Meyer & Prof. Savithry Namboodiripad, *Let's Talk About 'Watersnakes' in Xri: Non-traditional elicitation methods for documenting critically endangered languages*. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- Nov 2024 LING115 Language in a Multicultural World, Dr Yourdanis Sedarous, *The Rise and Fall of Xri*. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.

LING340 The Social Life of Language, Dr Brad McKay, *Multilingualism I*. Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2021–2023 **Study Coordinator**, [Child Language Development Node](#), Stellenbosch University  
Coordinating the second phase of a major nation-wide research project developing and validating McArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (MB-CDIs) for South Africa's 11 official spoken languages ([www.sa-cdi.org](http://www.sa-cdi.org)). Research management and contribution, data management, quality control, logistics, finance, budgeting, coordinating 11 fieldworker teams at nine universities, scientific questionnaire development, and organizing workshops and scientific meetings. Main study for five languages.
- 2018–2021 **Study Coordinator**, Child Language Africa, University of Cape Town  
Coordinating the first phase of the South African research project adapting MB-CDIs for six official languages. Pilot study and main study for six languages.
- 2018 Research Assistant, Linguistics Section, University of Cape Town  
General research-related duties as assistant to Prof. Heather Brookes, chair of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Society for Gesture Studies Conference (ISGS-8). Logistics, budget, conference program, and abstract collation and publication, for the ISGS-8 conference (210 delegates).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Mössmer, M. *Let's Talk About 'Watersnakes' in Xri: Non-traditional elicitation methods for documenting critically endangered languages*. Paper presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 6–9, 2025.
- Coetzee, A. W., Sneller, B., Mackay, B., & Mössmer, M. *Intersectional identities: Regional and socio-ethnic variation in Afrikaans*. Paper presented at the Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 9–12, 2025.
- 2019 Mössmer, M. *"I drank this language from my mother's breast": Layers of proficiency among Xri-speaking elders (Northern Cape, South Africa)*. Paper presented at the 9th Cambridge Conference on Language Endangerment, Cambridge, United Kingdom, July 2, 2019.
- 2018 Mössmer, M. *The former distribution of Xri speakers and their language shift: A critical review of the historical sources*. Paper presented at the 20th International Congress of Linguists (ICL20), Cape Town, South Africa, July 2–6, 2018.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 *But is it 'Khoisan'? Re-examining a popular linguistic term.* Presented at Department of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch University. May 8, 2023.
- 2022 *Xri: A study of contact, and phonetic and phonological change.* Presented at Department of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch University. February 3, 2022.
- 2021 *A Slow Death: Language contact and phonetic change in Xri.* Presented to the Kalahari Basin Area Network. January 21, 2021.

## SERVICE

- 2025–2026 Graduate Committee (member), Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2025–2026 Organizer, Phonetics & Phonology Discussion Group, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2025 Organizing Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> Afrikaans Grammar Workshop (AGW5), Ann Arbor, MI, September 5–6, 2025.
- 2024–2025 Graduate Committee (member), Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2023–2024 Colloquium Committee (member), Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan.
- 2018 Executive Assistant to conference chair, Prof. Heather Brookes, 8<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS-8), Cape Town, South Africa, July 4–8, 2018.
- Assistant to conference chairs, Dr Mantoa Motinyane and Dr Matthias Brenzinger, 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Bantu Languages & 19<sup>th</sup> Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, July 9–11, 2018.
- Student volunteer, 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Linguists (ICL20), Cape Town, South Africa, July 2–6, 2018
- 2017 Assistant to conference chair, Dr Matthias Brenzinger, 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Khoisan Languages and Linguistics (Riezlern-6), Cederberg, South Africa, March 25–27, 2017.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Fluent: Afrikaans (native), English (native), German
- Conversational: Xhosa [S. Bantu], Mandarin Chinese (HSK3), French
- Research languages: Xri [Khoekhoe], Orange River Afrikaans, Sotho-Tswana [S. Bantu]

## FIELDWORK

- 2024 June/July – Northern Cape, South Africa – Orange River Afrikaans speakers.

- 2023 July – Western Cape, South Africa – Afrikaans speakers, for Prof. Andries Coetzee.
- 2019 March – Northern Cape, South Africa – Xri documentation & searching for speakers.
- 2018 September – Northern Cape, South Africa – Xri documentation & searching for speakers.  
July – Northern Cape, South Africa – Xri documentation & searching for speakers.  
February – Northern Cape, South Africa – searching for speakers of Xri.

## MANUSCRIPTS

- 2024 Mössmer, Martin (ed.). (2024). *Woordelees van die Griekwataal, ook bekend as Xri* [Wordlist of the Griqua Language, also known as Xri]. Unpublished manuscript.

## MEMBERSHIP

Linguistics Society of America (LSA), member since 2023.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Praat, ELAN, Qualtrics, Python (novice), R (novice)