

Martin Mössmer

Curriculum Vitae

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

moessmer@umich.edu

EDUCATION

2023– Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics, in progress

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2021 Master of Arts in Linguistics, awarded with distinction

University of Cape Town

Thesis: *Xri: A study of contact, and phonetic and phonological change*

Advisors: Prof. Rajend Mesthrie, Prof. Heather Brookes, Prof. Rainer Vossen

2017 Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Linguistics, awarded in the First Class

University of Cape Town

Thesis: *The Rise and Fall of Xri: The history of a completed language shift in the Northern Cape, South Africa*

Advisor: Dr. Matthias Brenzinger

2016 Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Classical Studies, degree awarded with distinction, with distinction in both majors

University of Cape Town

2008 Advanced Food and Wine Diploma, awarded with distinction

The Culinary Academy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Sep 2022–May 2023: Ad-hoc Lecturer, *Dept of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch University*

GL318/GL348 Critical Sociolinguistics – designed and taught new senior course.

Mar 2021–Jul 2023: Study Coordinator, [Child Language Development Node](#), *Stellenbosch University*

Coordinated the second phase of a nation-wide research project developing and validating McArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (CDIs) for eleven official languages (www.sa-cdi.org). Research management and contribution, data management, quality control, logistics, finance, budgeting, coordinating fieldworkers in eleven teams at nine universities, scientific questionnaire development, and organizing workshops and scientific meetings.

Nov 2018–Feb 2021: Study Coordinator, *Child Language Africa, University of Cape Town*

Coordinating the first phase of the South African research project developing CDIs for six official languages. Adaptation of the CDI for South Africa, two pilots, revisions.

Jan 2018–Nov 2018: Research Assistant, *Linguistics Section, Dept of African & Gender Studies, & Linguistics, University of Cape Town*

General research-related duties as assistant to Prof. Heather Brookes, chair of the 8th International Society for Gesture Studies Conference (ISGS-8). Logistics, budget, conference program, and abstract collation and publication, for the ISGS-8 conference (210 delegates).

Jan 2017–July 2018: Tutor (Teaching Assistant), *Linguistics Section, University of Cape Town*

Tutoring first- and second-year linguistics students in formal, applied and sociolinguistics, marking assignments and exam papers, and individual tutoring. Head tutor for second year.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2024 Brookes, H., Southwood, F., Makaure, P., Ndlangamandla, S., **Mössmer, M.**, Yalala, S., Coetsee, C., Ndhambi, M., Jiyana, W., Kruger, H., Brink, N., Matfunjwa, M., Khumalo, P., Miriri, L., Skosana, N., Ludidi, B., & The South African CDI Team. Instrument adaptation for measuring early child language development across multilingual and socio-culturally diverse settings. Manuscript accepted for publication. *Developmental Psychology*.

Brookes, H., Makaure, P., Yalala, S., Danvers, H., **Mössmer, M.**, Little, F., Ndhambi, M., Southwood, F., Ludidi, B., & The South African CDI Team. (2024). Mean Length of Utterance: A study of early language development in four Southern Bantu languages. *Journal of Child Language*, 1–26. <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>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019 “*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 *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

- 2024** *An uneven spread: Clicks in non-‘Khoisan’ languages*. Presented at University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Dept of Linguistics, HistLing Research Group. February 9, 2024.
- 2023** *Documenting advanced attrition*. Presented at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Linguistics, DocDi Research Group. October 24, 2023.
- Languages of southern Africa: A broad (pre)historic overview*. Presented at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Dept of Linguistics, HistLing Research Group. October 5, 2023.
- Contact and attrition leading to phonetic change in Xri*. Presented at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Dept of Linguistics, PhonDi Research Group. September 22, 2023.
- But is it ‘Khoisan’? Re-examining a popular linguistic term*. Presented at Stellenbosch University, Department of General Linguistics, Lunchtime Linguistics Talks. May 8, 2023.
- 2022** *Xri: A study of contact, and phonetic and phonological change*. Presented at Stellenbosch University, Dept of General Linguistics, Graduate Student Workshop. February 3, 2022.
- 2021** *A Slow Death: Language contact and phonetic change in Xri*. Presented to the Kalahari Basin Area Network. January 21, 2021. <https://shorturl.at/hFHQ9>
-

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE

- 2018** *Assistant to conference chairs, Dr Mantoa Motinyane and Dr Matthias Brenzinger*
19th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA-19) & 7th International Conference on Bantu Languages (Sintu-7), July 9–11, 2018.
- 2018** *Assistant to conference chair, Prof. Heather Brookes*
8th conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS-8), July 4–8, 2018.
- 2017** *Assistant to conference chair, Dr Matthias Brenzinger*
6th International Symposium on Khoisan Languages and Linguistics (Riezlern 6), Cederberg, South Africa, March 25–27, 2017.
-

SERVICE

Colloquium Committee (member), University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics, Fall 2023 – Winter 2024

Student volunteer, 20th International Congress of Linguists (ICL20), Cape Town, South Africa, July 2–6, 2018.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS

- 2024** Fellowship: University of Michigan Department of Linguistics (Winter)
SAIO Research Grant: University of Michigan Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (pre-candidate)

2023 Fellowship: University of Michigan Department of Linguistics (Fall)

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

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 and 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)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent: Afrikaans (native), English (native), German

Conversational: Xhosa (Bantu), Mandarin Chinese (HSK3), French

Research languages: Xri (Khoekhoe, 'Khoisan'), Griekwa-Afrikaans (Orange River Afrikaans),
Sotho-Tswana (Bantu)

FIELDWORK

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**.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

Southern African Linguistics and Applied Linguistics Society (SALALS), member since 2021.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Praat, ELAN, Qualtrics, Python (beginner)