

# Martin Mössmer

## *Curriculum Vitae*

PhD student, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor  
moessmer@umich.edu

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### 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, awarded with distinction in both majors and the degree  
University of Cape Town
- 2008** **Advanced Food and Wine Diploma**, awarded with distinction  
The Culinary Academy
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### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Sep 2022–May 2023: Ad-hoc Lecturer**, *Dept of General Linguistics, Stellenbosch University*  
GL318/GL348 Critical Sociolinguistics – designed new 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 our eleven official languages ([www.sa-cdi.org](http://www.sa-cdi.org)). Duties included research management and contribution, data management and 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 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).

**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.

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## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- In press** Makaure, P., Brookes, H., Yalala, S., **Mössmer, M.**, Ndlangamandla, S., Alcock, K., et al. A cross-linguistic study of the relationship between gesture and early vocabulary development in South African infants aged 8 to 18 months. *Journal of Child Language*.
- 2021** Southwood, F., White, M., Brookes, H., Pascoe, M., Ndhambi, M., Yalala, S., Mahura, O., **Mössmer, M.**, Oosthuisen, H., Brink, N. & Alcock, K. 2021. Sociocultural factors affecting vocabulary development in young South African children. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12: 642315. [doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2021.642315](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.642315)
- 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. [doi:10.1353/anl.2019.0009](https://doi.org/10.1353/anl.2019.0009)

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 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 9<sup>th</sup> *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 20<sup>th</sup> *International Congress of Linguists (ICL20)*, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2–6, 2018.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2023**     **Mössmer, M.** 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**     **Mössmer, M.** Xri: A study of contact, and phonetic and phonological change. Presented at Stellenbosch University, Department of General Linguistics, Graduate Student Workshop. February 3, 2022.
- 2021**     **Mössmer, M.** A Slow Death: Language contact and phonetic change in Xri. Presented to the [Kalahari Basin Area Network](#). January 21, 2021.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE

- 2018**     *Assistant to conference chairs, Dr Mantoa Motinyane and Dr Matthias Brenzinger*  
19<sup>th</sup> Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA-19)  
7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Bantu Languages (Sintu-7), July 9–11, 2018
- 2018**     *Assistant to conference chair, Prof. Heather Brookes*  
8<sup>th</sup> conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS-8), July 4–8, 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

## SERVICE

- 2023–**     **Colloquium Committee** (member)  
*University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics*
- 2018**     **20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Linguists (ICL20)** (student volunteer)  
*University of Cape Town, Linguistics Section*

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS

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|--|---------|----------------|
| <b>2019</b> Fellowship: Centre for Curating the Archive: Onthouers Rememberers Project | R30,000 | <b>\$1,750</b> |
| Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa             | R25,000 | <b>\$1,450</b> |

<b>2018</b>	Language Legacies Grant: The Endangered Language Fund		<b>\$1,870</b>
	Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa	R25,000	<b>\$1,450</b>
	Fellowship: Centre for Curating the Archive: Onthouers Rememberers Project	R80,000	<b>\$4,625</b>
<b>2017</b>	Harry Crossley Research Fellowship	R85,000	<b>\$4,065</b>
	Lestrade Scholarship for Linguistic Study of Indigenous Language in Africa	R20,000	<b>\$1,150</b>
<b>2016</b>	Humanities Faculty Scholarship (UCT)	R20,000	<b>\$1,150</b>
	Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty)		
	Class Medals: The City in the Ancient World (SLL3057F), Athenian Life and Culture (SLL3055S)		
<b>2015</b>	Humanities Faculty Scholarship (UCT)	R20,000	<b>\$1,150</b>
	Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty)		
	Class Medals: Linguistics IIA (AXL2300F), Mandarin IIB (SLL2122S)		
<b>2014</b>	Dean's Merit List (Humanities Faculty)		
	Class Medal: The World of Odysseus (SLL1054F)		

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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

*Conversational:* isiXhosa (Bantu), Mandarin Chinese (HSK 3), French

*Research languages:* Xri (Khoekhoe, 'Khoisan'), Griqua Afrikaans (Orange River Afrikaans)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

Praat, Qualtrics, Python (beginner)