

# William Johnston

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Linguistics  
McGill University  
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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., 2024  
*(expected)* Linguistics, McGill University  
Dissertation: *Event structure and serial verb constructions in White Hmong*.  
Committee: Jessica Coon and Luis Alonso-Ovalle (co-supervisors), Junko Shimoyama, and Lisa Travis.
- B.A., 2013 Linguistics, Carleton College (Northfield, MN)  
*Magna cum laude*, Distinction  
Thesis: *Focus, too, and conjunction, too: The syntax and semantics of Japanese coordination*. Advisor: Cherlon Ussery.

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Johnston, William. (2023). "Pair-list answers to questions with plural definites." *Semantics and Pragmatics* 16(2). <https://doi.org/10.3765/sp.16.2>

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Johnston, William. (Forthcoming). "Culmination entailments in V and P: Evidence from White Hmong." In: *Proceedings of the 41<sup>st</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Ed. by Yağmur Kiper, Larry Lyu, Richard Wang, and Niko Webster. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Johnston, William. (2022). "Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect." In: *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26*. Ed. by Daniel Gutzmann and Sophie Repp. pp. 483–502. University of Cologne.

Johnston, William. (2019). "Pair-list questions from dependent plurals." In: *Proceedings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium*. Ed. by Julian J. Schlöder, Dean McHugh, and Floris Roelofsen. pp. 201–210. Amsterdam: ILLC.

## MANUSCRIPTS

**Johnston, William.** (Revised and resubmitted). “Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect.”

**Johnston, William.** (In revision for resubmission). “Causation and serialization in White Hmong.” [[lingbuzz](#)]

## INVITED TALKS

T.B.D. *Annual Conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association*. Carleton University, Ottawa. June 17, 2024.

“The verb phrase in Hmong: Serialization and event structure.” *University of Minnesota Linguistics Colloquium Series*. November 11, 2022.

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Talks Delivered:*

“Directed motion in White Hmong: Serial verb constructions as complex PPs.” *Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH)*, Université du Québec à Montréal. April 23, 2022.

“Verb serialization as event-building: Evidence from Hmong.” *96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*, Washington, DC. January 9, 2022.

“Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect.” *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*, University of Cologne. September 10, 2021.

“Nonspecific promises: The Intensional Restitution Effect.” *Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal Semantics Workshop (TOM) 13*, University of Toronto. May 21, 2021.

“Verb serialization as event-building: Evidence from Hmong.” *Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH) 2021*, McMaster University. April 19, 2021.

“Pair-list questions from dependent plurals.” *22<sup>nd</sup> Amsterdam Colloquium*, University of Amsterdam. December 19, 2019.

*Poster Presentations:*

“Diagnosing Prepositions: Decomposing Path in White Hmong.” *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) in Asia*, Chinese University of Hong Kong. March 6, 2024.

“Culmination entailments in V and P: Evidence from White Hmong.” *41<sup>st</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)*, University of California Santa Cruz. May 6, 2023

“Focus, too, and conjunction, too: The syntax and semantics of Japanese *mo*-coordination.”  
*Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium*, St. Olaf College. April 13, 2013.

## TEACHING

### COURSES TAUGHT

Winter 2023            Languages of the World (LING 315)  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Winter 2021            Meaning in Language (LING 260)  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Fall 2021              Phonetics (LING 330), Instructor: Connie Ting  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Fall 2020              Meaning in Language (LING 260), Instructor: Bernhard Schwarz  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Winter 2020            Phonetics (LING 330), Instructor: Francisco Torreira  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Fall 2019              Phonetics (LING 330), Instructor: Meghan Clayards  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

Fall 2012              Linguistics Department, Carleton College  
Introduction to Linguistics (LING 110), Instructor: Cherlon Ussery

### GRADING

Fall 2020              Structure of a Specific Language: German (LING 410), Instructor:  
Bernhard Schwarz  
Department of Linguistics, McGill University

## AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

2023–2024              Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award, McGill University Faculty of Arts, \$640  
Graduate Student Travel Award, Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music, \$700

2022–2023	Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University, \$20,000. McGill Linguistics Department Travel Fund, \$1,000.
2021–2022	Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$15,000. Graduate Research Enhancement and Travel Award, McGill University Faculty of Arts, \$141
2020–2021	Cremona Memorial Fellowship, McGill University, \$10,000. Linguistics Department Nominee, Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award, McGill University.
2019–2020	Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$1,000.
2018–2019	Graduate Excellence Award, McGill University, \$15,000.

## SERVICE & COMMUNITY

### DEPARTMENT ORGANIZING

Sep. 2019–Aug. 2021	Editor, <i>McLing</i> Newsletter McGill University Linguistics Department
Summer 2021	Organizer, Event Structure Reading Group McGill University Linguistics Department
Spring 2021	Co-organizer, Accepted Students Open House McGill University Linguistics Department
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### CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Spring 2023	Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA) 2023
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### READING AND RESEARCH GROUPS

Mar. 2022–Present	University of Minnesota Community-Engaged Hmong Linguistics Research and Reading Group
Sep. 2020–Present	Montreal Underdocumented Languages Linguistics Lab (MULL-Lab)
Sep. 2018–Present	McGill Syntax/Semantics Reading Group
Summer 2021	McGill Event Structure Reading Group

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Jun. 2023–Present    Hmong Studies Consortium

**OUTREACH**

Spring 2023            Panel discussion: “Ask a Grad Student”  
Society of Linguistics Undergrads at McGill

Spring 2022            Panel discussion: “Ask a Grad Student”  
Society of Linguistics Undergrads at McGill

Winter 2015            Panel discussion: “What paths will a linguistics major take you on?”  
Carleton College Linguistics Department

**REVIEWING**

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS: Toronto–Montreal Bantu Colloquium (Ba-TOM)

**NON-DEGREE COURSEWORK**

Sep.–Nov. 2020        Hmong Language Workshop  
Southeast Asian Diaspora Project, Minneapolis MN

Summer 2013            Denver Publishing Institute, University of Denver

**PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Jan. 2014–Jul. 2018    Financial Advisor  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Minneapolis MN