

# Alexander Williams

Department of Linguistics  
1401 Marie Mount Hall  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742

Email: alxndrw@umd.edu  
Office: 301-405-4936  
Cell: 267-210-6961  
Citizenship: US

## Education

---

University of Pennsylvania  
Linguistics  
PhD, August 2005

Princeton University  
Philosophy  
BA 1992, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

## Dissertation

---

Title                      Complex causatives and verbal valence  
Advisor                    David Embick  
Committee members      Robin Clark, Maribel Romero

## Employment

---

University of Maryland  
Postdoctoral fellow, Semantics  
Fall 2005–Spring 2008

Swarthmore College  
Instructor  
Spring 2005

Temple University  
Instructor  
Fall 2004

## Research areas

---

Causatives and verb serialization	The division of meaning between lexicon and syntax
Event semantics	The semantics of interrogatives
Mandarin syntax	Igbo syntax
Tree Adjoining Grammar	Tibeto-Burman and Turkic languages
Copular sentences	English historical syntax

## Fellowships and honors

---

2003–2004	Dissertation year fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2000–2002	William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
1997–2000	Dolores Zohrab Liebmann fellowship
1997	LSA Summer Intitute fellowship
1996–1997	Andrew W. Mellon fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation
1992	Prize for best senior thesis in logic and epistemology, and half prize for best senior thesis in philosophy overall, Princeton University
1992	Phi Beta Kappa

## Teaching

---

Spring 2008	Seminar in syntax: Categorical and Tree Adjoining Grammars, Ling. 819 Comparative Syntax, Ling. 411 University of Maryland
Spring 2006, Spring 2007	Issues in semantics, Ling. 661 University of Maryland
Fall 2005	Seminar in semantics: Verbs and arguments, Ling. 879 Syntax 1, Ling. 311 University of Maryland
Spring 2005	Semantics, Ling. 40 Syntax, Ling. 50 Swarthmore College
Fall 2004	Introduction to Linguistics, Eng. 111, two sections Temple University
Fall 2001, Summer 2002	Introduction to Formal Linguistics, Ling. 106 University of Pennsylvania, College of General Studies
Spring 2001	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Cognitive Science, Ling. 105 University of Pennsylvania

## Advising

---

2006	Member of dissertation committee, University of Maryland Scott Fults, <i>The structure of comparatives: An investigation of gradable adjectives</i>
------	--

## Service

---

2008–	Reviewer, Linguistics and Philosophy
2006–	Reviewer, Lingua
2001–	Reviewer, Penn Linguistics Colloquium
1999–2003	Chief editor, University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics
2000	Member, syntax job search committee, U. Penn. Department of Linguistics

## Assistantships

---

Summer 2004	Expedition assistant to Prof. K.D. Harrison, Swarthmore College Assisted in field work on Tuvan in western Mongolia 'Altai-Sayan Language and Ethnography Project,' Volkswagen-Stiftung
2002–2003	Research assistant to Prof. A. Lloyd, University of Pennsylvania 'Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Althochdeutschen' (Etymological dictionary of Old High German)

- Summer 2002      Research assistant to Prof. D. Embick, University of Pennsylvania  
‘Syntax and Verb Meaning: A study of causation in Igbo verbal alternations’  
University of Pennsylvania University Research Foundation grant
- Summer 1998      Uyghur and Mandarin translator for Prof. C. Chang, Sweet Briar College  
Chang’s NSF grant #9603661: “The Social Evolution of Eurasian Steppe  
Communities in Southeastern Kazakhstan and the Rise of Ancient Civilizations.”

## Papers

---

- In review      Objects in resultatives.
- In review      Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives: Comments on Kratzer 2003.
- Forthcoming      Constructions on holiday (with J. Lidz). *Cognitive Linguistics*.
- In prep.      Igbo verb compounds and the syntax.
- In prep.      Arguments and acquisition (with D. Embick, J. Lidz, and S. Arunachalam).
- 2008      Word order in resultatives. In H. Haynie and C. Chang (eds.), *WCCFL 26 Proceedings*. Somerville: Cascadilla Press.
- 2007      Patients in Igbo and Mandarin. In J. Dölling et al. (eds.), *Event Structures in Linguistic Form and Interpretation*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2006      On the lack of reflexive benefactives in Kannada (with J. Lidz). In T. Battacharya (ed.), *Yearbook of South Asian Languages and Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- 2004      C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada (with J. Lidz), *Proceedings of NELS 34*.
- 2002      Predemonstrative modifiers. In S.-W. Tang and C.-S. L. Liu (eds.), *On the Formal Way to Chinese Lanugages*. Stanford, CA: CSLI.
- 2002      Reflexivity and resultatives (with J. Lidz). In L. Mikkelsen and C. Potts (eds.), *Proceedings of the 21st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2000      Null subjects in Middle English existentials. In S. Pintzuk et al. (eds.), *Diachronic Syntax: Models and Mechanisms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2000      Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements. In R. Billerey and B.D. Lillehaugen (eds.), *Proceedings of the 19th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 1999      Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives. In M.C. Gruber et al. (eds.), *CLS 34 Part 1: Papers from the main session*. Chicago: Chicago Linguistic Society.

## Presentations

---

April 2008	North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL) 20 'Themes, cumulativity, and resultatives in Mandarin'
February 2008	MIT Department of Linguistics, job talk 'Grammatical basics in resultatives'
February 2008	University of Georgia Program in Linguistics, job talk 'Arguments in complex causatives'
April 2007	West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 26 'Word order in resultatives'
February 2007	UCLA Department of Linguistics, job talk 'Verbs and arguments: lessons from Mandarin'
February 2007	University of Maryland Department of Linguistics, job talk 'Objects in causatives'
March 2006	University of Delaware Department of Linguistics, invited talk 'The simple story of complex causatives'
April 2005	University of Maryland Department of Linguistics, invited talk 'Complex causatives and verbal valence'
March 2004	Workshop on Event Structure in Linguistic Form and Interpretation, U. Leipzig 'Patients in Igbo and Mandarin'
February 2004	University of Chicago Department of Linguistics, job talk 'Valence and resultatives in Mandarin and Igbo'
January 2004	Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 78th annual meeting 'Intransitive resultatives and Igbo'
November 2003	North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS), 34th annual meeting 'C-locality and the interaction of reflexives and ditransitives' (with J. Lidz)
October 2003	South Asian Language Analysis (SALA) Roundtable 23 'Reflexives and ditransitives in Kannada' (with J. Lidz)
April 2002	West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 21 'Reflexivity and resultatives' (with J. Lidz)
January 2002	Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 76th annual meeting 'The causative structure of resultatives' (with J. Lidz)
June 2001	International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL), 10th annual conference 'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin'
March 2001	Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), 25th annual 'Verb-verb compounds and causativity in Mandarin'
February 2000	West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 19 'Adverbial quantification over (interrogative) complements'

- April 1999 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 18  
'Null expletives in Early Middle English existentials'
- June 1998 Diachronic Issues in Generative Syntax (DIGS) 5  
'Null subjects in Early Middle English existentials'
- March 1998 Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS), 34th annual meeting  
'Context variables and Mandarin demonstratives'
- December 1997 On the Formal Way to Chinese Languages  
'Predemonstrative modifiers'

## References

---

Paul Pietroski	pietro@umd.edu 301-405-5718	David Embick	embick@ling.upenn.edu 215-573-5965
Jeffrey Lidz	jlidz@umd.edu 301-405-8220	Robin Clark	rclark@ling.upenn.edu 215-898-2943