

ALISON BIGGS

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EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Cambridge, Linguistics, 2015
MPhil University of Cambridge, Linguistics (Distinction), 2011
BA School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Modern and Classical Chinese and Linguistics (Hons, First Class), 2010
Study abroad Beijing Normal University, 2007-08

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Broad** Theoretical syntax; syntax-semantics interface; linguistic variation
Specific Building and interpreting argument and event structure; Case
The syntax-phonology interface: null prepositions, null arguments
Understudied varieties of English; Chinese and Austronesian languages
Theoretical approaches to macro- and micro- variation; linguistic change

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2015-present Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania
2014-2017 Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Oxford

PUBLICATIONS

Dissertations

- 2015 *Dissociating Case from Theta-roles: a comparative investigation*. PhD dissertation, Cambridge.
2011 *Distinguishing 'root' from 'embedded' in Mandarin Chinese: the empirical evidence and some theoretical consequences*. MPhil dissertation, Cambridge.

Papers

- Accepted Past/passive participles, locality, and the Time Span of statives. In *Clausal Architecture and its Consequences* (edited volume). Berlin: Language Sciences Press.
2017 Different paths in Directed Manner of Motion Constructions. In Aaron Kaplan

et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 81-88.

- 2017 Variants of Indonesian prepositions as intra-speaker variability at PF. In Amy Goodwyn-Davies and Kajsa Djarv (Eds.), *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 23.1, Article 11. With Helen Jeoung.
- 2016 Locating variation in the dative alternation. *Linguistic Variation* 16.2: 151-182.
- 2015 A new Case for A-movement in Northwest British English. In Ulrike Steindl et al. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 32nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 218-227.
- 2013 The syntactic structure of long-distance A-movement. *Newcastle Working Papers in Linguistics* 19.2: 37-58.
- 2012 Restructuring the ‘tough’ approach to East Asian passives. *Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics* 6: 237-266.

Volumes edited

- 2015 *The Proceedings of the Second Asian and European Linguistic Conference*. Alison Biggs, Man Li, Aiqing Wang, and Cong Zhang (Editors). Newcastle: Newcastle University.

Manuscripts

- Ms. Structure, verbal semantics, and argument interpretation: evidence from expressions of motion. (Draft, 45 pages)
- Ms. The *get*-passive. With David Embick. (Draft, 27 pages)

GRANTS & AWARDS

Grants and fellowships

- 2015-2017 Oxford University Press John Fell Fund (\$4400). Award 143/063: Documenting variation in spatial markers in the languages of China
- 2015 Wolfson College Research Fellow Academic Fund (\$650)
- 2014-2017 Stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship (post-doctoral appointment), Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2014 Conference organization grant, Linguistics Association of Great Britain
- 2011 Three-year Ph.D fellowship (tuition, stipend, all research expenses) European Research Council, via the research project Rethinking Comparative Syntax
- 2011 Three-year Ph.D fellowship (tuition, stipend) (declined), Arts & Humanities Research Council, UK
- 2012-2014 Conference bursaries to attend annual meeting (awarded in competition), Linguistics Association of Great Britain
- 2012 Three month research residency at Queen Mary, University of London. QMUL

and King's College, University of Cambridge

Prizes

- 2014 Richard M. Hogg Prize, International Society for the Linguistics of English
2013 Anna Siewierska Prize runner-up, Linguistics Association of Great Britain
2013 Premio de Vincenzi Prize at 39 *Incontro di Grammatica Generativa*, best presentation by a student or post-doc; Marica De Vincenzi Onlus Foundation

TALKS

Invited talks

- [2018] TBD. Invited talk, Princeton University Linguistics Colloquium, 7 February.
2017 Variation in the dative alternation. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, themed session on *Introducing Arguments: Insights from Micro- and Macro-Variation* (participation by invitation), Austin, 8 January.
2015 Passive variation in dialects of Northwest British English. Invited talk, Linguistics Department Seminar Series, University of Pennsylvania, 17 September.
2015 The typology of radical pro-drop: evidence from Hawai'ian. Invited talk, Null arguments workshop, Cambridge Comparative Syntax Conference, University of Cambridge, 8 May.
2015 All Case is structural Case? Invited talk, Case and ϕ -features workshop, University of Cambridge, 26 January.
2014 The syntax of space: some problems from Chinese. Invited talk, General Linguistics Seminar Series, University of Oxford, 17 November.
2014 Passive variation in Northwest British English. Invited talk, International Society for the Linguistics of English Annual Meeting, University of Zurich, 27 August.
2014 A comparative approach to the syntax of Mandarin adpositions. Invited talk, Workshop on adpositions, Newcastle University, 27 June.
2013 Passive variation in Northwest English dialects. Invited talk, English Dialect Syntax Workshop, Darwin College, University of Cambridge, 6 November.

Refereed conference talks and posters

- 2017 Variation in local syntax across individuals (poster). Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Austin, 5-8 January. With Meredith Tamminga.
2016 Dialectal, individual, and lexical variation in the Done My Homework construction. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 45, Simon Fraser University/University of Victoria, 4-6 November. With Meredith Tamminga.
2016 Changing Paths in Directed Manner of Motion Constructions (poster). West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics 34, University of Utah, 29 April - 1 May.
2016 On phonologically unrealized prepositions: the syntax and morphology of Indonesian preposition-drop (poster). Penn Linguistics Colloquium 40, University

- of Pennsylvania, 18-20 March. With Helen Jeoung.
- 2015 Parameters of abstract Case (poster). Generative Syntax in the Twenty-First Century: The Road Ahead, Athens, 28-30 May.
- 2014 Assertion and Speech Acts in embedded clauses: evidence from Mandarin syntax. Linguistics Association of Great Britain, University of Oxford, 1-5 September.
- 2014 A new Case for A-Movement in Northwest British English. 32nd West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics, University of Southern California, 7-9 March.
- 2013 Locality in passives: variation in Northwest British English and its consequences. The 2nd Manchester Forum in Linguistics, University of Manchester, 15-16 November.
- 2013 The syntax of the speaker in the ‘went and’ construction. 1st UCL Graduate Conference in Linguistics, UCL, 7-8 November. (With Anne Beshears)
- 2013 Introduction to Differential Marking. The Differential Subject Marking and Ergativity Workshop at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 46), University of Split, 20-21 September. (With András Bárány and Michelle Sheehan)
- 2013 Microparametric variation in A-movement in Northwest British English. Linguistics Association of Great Britain, SOAS, 28-31 August.
- 2013 An abstract Case for A-movement: microvariation in Northwest British dialects. 39th Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG 39), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, 21-23 February.
- 2012 Restructuring the *tough* approach to the Mandarin long *bei*-passive. Linguistics Association of Great Britain, University of Salford, 5-8 September.
- 2012 Improper approaches to the Mandarin long *bei*-passive. 45th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 45), Stockholm, 29-31 August.
- 2012 Improper Movement and the long passive in Mandarin. 7th Postgraduate Conference, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 27-28 March.
- 2011 The cartography of information structure: the unmarked preposed object in Mandarin and its function in the low periphery. Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain, University of Edinburgh, 26-27 March.

TEACHING

As Primary Instructor

University of Pennsylvania

- [Spring 2018] Argument structure (Undergraduate and graduate) (L406)
- [Spring 2018] Bilingualism in History (Freshman seminar) (L054)
- Fall 2017 Topics in the Syntax-Semantics Interface: Building and interpreting event structure (Graduate) (L653)
- Fall 2017 Construct a Language (L242)

Spring 2017	Topics in the Syntax-Semantics Interface: Causation (Grad) (L653)
Spring 2017	Construct a Language (L242)
Fall 2016	Bilingualism in History (Freshman seminar) (L054)
Fall 2016	Language in Context: East meets West (Freshman seminar) (L056)
Spring 2016	Topics in Natural Language Syntax: Syntactic variation (Grad) (L653)
Spring 2016	Patterns in Language (L245)
Fall 2015	Language in China (145)
Fall 2015	Bilingualism in History (Freshman seminar) (L054)

As Teaching Assistant/ Tutor

University of Oxford

2014-2015 Introduction to Linguistics (Paper VIII)

University of Cambridge

2013-2014 Typology (Li17)
 2013-2014 Introduction to syntax and semantics (Li2)
 2012-2013 Intermediate and advanced syntax (Li9)

As Advisor

- Sarah Bennett (Undergraduate thesis, University of Cambridge; psycholinguistics/syntactic processing; co-advisor): 2014

Pedagogical training

2013 Teaching students with Asperger's Syndrome, University of Cambridge Professional Development
 2012 Lecturing, University of Cambridge Professional Development
 2012 Undergraduate admissions selection (Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences), University of Cambridge Professional Development
 2012 Secondary school teaching and course development training, TeachFirst
 2011 Small Group Teaching, University of Cambridge Professional Development
 2005 Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Birkbeck, University of London

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2011-2014 Member of *Rethinking Comparative Syntax* (ReCoS) (European Research Council Advanced Grant No. 269752), PI Ian Roberts

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial board member

Transactions of the Philological Society

Ad-hoc journal reviewing

Journal of Linguistics; Language Sciences; Linguistic Analysis; Linguistic Inquiry; Linguistic Variation; Linguistics in the Netherlands

Ad-hoc abstract reviewing

Asian and European Linguistic Conference (AE-Link); Cambridge Comparative Syntax (CamCoS); Diachronic Generative Syntax (DiGS); Linguistic Association of Great Britain (LAGB); Linguistic Society of America (LSA); Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC); Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE); West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)

Conference and workshop co-organizing

- 2nd Asian and European Linguistic conference, Newcastle University, 5-6 Dec 2014.
- Cambridge Comparative Syntax 3, 8-10 May 2014
- Differential Subject Marking and Ergative Phenomena workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, University of Split, 20-21 Sep 2013.
- Cambridge Comparative Syntax 2, 9-11 May 2013.
- Workshop on Case supporting the Henry Sweet plenary, Linguistics Association of Great Britain, Salford University, 5-8 Sep 2012.
- Cambridge Comparative Syntax 1, 18-19 May 2012.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University service

2015-16 Finance Committee, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
2015-16 Domestic and Premises Committee, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
2012 Elected officer of the graduate student executive committee, King's College, University of Cambridge

Department service

2012-2015 Undergraduate admissions application review, interviews and selection for Linguistics and Linguistics with Modern Languages: Christ's, Fitzwilliam, Homerton, King's, and Robinson Colleges, University of Cambridge
2012-2014 Treasurer, Cambridge University Linguistic Society, Cambridge
2013 Co-organizer, Syntax Research Cluster, University of Cambridge
2012-2014 Open House Representative, Linguistics and Modern Languages, University

of Cambridge

2012-2014 Graduate student peer mentor, Linguistics department, Cambridge

SCIENCE OUTREACH

- 2015 Introduction to Linguistics (one semester course). Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies.
- 2013, 2014 Introduction to Linguistics. Summer school classes. Pembroke-Kings Program, Cambridge.
- 2013 *The Building Blocks of Language: LingQUIZtics*. The University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas, 20 October. (With members of the Rethinking Comparative Syntax research project)
- 2013 A Linguistic perspective on language. Centre for Freudian Analysis and Research Public Seminar Series, London, 5 October
- 2013 Introduction to Linguistics. Summer school classes. Access Cambridge Program, Cambridge
- 2013 The structure of language – graduate study in Linguistics. King’s College Foundation Lunch talk to alumni, University of Cambridge, 16 March
- 2013 How to acquire a language. King’s College, King’s Lunchtime Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, 15 March
- 2012-2013 Tutor in Linguistics for secondary school students, The Brilliant Club, various schools, London.
- 2012 *LingQUIZtics*. The University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas, 20 October. (With members of the Rethinking Comparative Syntax research project)

LANGUAGES

Proficient: Mandarin, Classical Chinese, French, German

Linguistic knowledge of: Hawai‘ian; Indonesian; Kurmanji (Northern Kurdish); Cantonese; Yixing Chinese (a variety of Wu)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Linguistics Association of Great Britain
Linguistic Society of America
Societas Linguistica Europaea
The Philological Society