

ALISON BIGGS

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
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EDUCATION

- 2015** **PhD, University of Cambridge**
Linguistics
- 2011** **MPhil, University of Cambridge**
Linguistics (with Distinction)
- 2010** **BA, SOAS, University of London**
Modern and Classical Chinese and Linguistics (Hons, First Class)
- 2007-2008** **Beijing Normal University**
Study year abroad, Mandarin and Classical Chinese

EMPLOYMENT

- 2018-present** **Georgetown University, Department of Linguistics**
Assistant Teaching Professor
- 2015-2018** **University of Pennsylvania, Department of Linguistics**
Lecturer

PUBLICATIONS

Papers

- In review* The syntax of argument interpretation in transitive motion expressions.
- In review* Building complex eventualities in syntax: A case study in the *done*-state derived stative.
- To appear* Past/passive participles and locality of attachment. In András Bány, Theresa Biberauer, Jamie Douglas, and Sten Vikner (Eds.), *Clausal Architecture and its Consequences*. Berlin: Language Sciences Press.
- To appear* Objects in motion verb phrases. *Glossa*. Ane Berro and Léa Nash (Eds.), special issue, *Unergatives: Architecture and Variation*.
- 2018 Locating variation in the dative alternation. In Constantine Lignos, Laurel Mackenzie, and Meredith Tamminga (Eds.), *The locus of linguistic variation*, 1-32. Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- 2017 Different paths in Directed Manner of Motion. In Aaron Kaplan et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* 34, 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 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* 32, 218-227.

Dissertations

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

Edited volumes

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

Manuscripts

- In prep* On some event-structural properties of the *get*-passive. With David Embick.
- In prep* The syntax and semantics of Middles.

AWARDS

Prizes and Grants

- 2019 Georgetown University, Global Engagement International Travel Grant
- 2015-2017 Oxford University Press John Fell Fund. Award 143/063: Documenting variation in spatial markers in the languages of China
- 2015 Wolfson College Research Fellow Academic Fund Travel Grant
- 2014 Richard M. Hogg Prize, International Society for the Linguistics of English
- 2014 Conference organization grant, Linguistics Association of Great Britain
- 2013 Premio de Vincenzi Prize at 39 *Incontro di Grammatica Generativa* (IGG 39), best presentation by a student or post-doc; Marica De Vincenzi Onlus Foundation
- 2012-2014 Conference attendance bursaries, Linguistics Association of Great Britain

Fellowships

- 2014-2017 Junior Research Fellowship (stipendiary), Wolfson College, University of Oxford
- 2011-2014 Full Ph.D Fellowship, European Research Council
- 2011 Full Ph.D Fellowship (declined), Arts & Humanities Research Council, UK

TALKS

Invited

- 2018 Arguments in motion. Yale University.
- 2018 Variation in *being done*. Princeton University.
- 2018 Arguments in motion. University of Hawai'i.
- 2017 Variation in the dative alternation. LSA 92, themed session on Introducing Arguments: Insights from Micro- and Macro-Variation, Austin TX.
- 2015 Passive variation in dialects of Northwest British English. UPenn.
- 2015 Features and the Typology of Radical pro: Evidence from Hawai'ian. Null Arguments workshop, University of Cambridge.
- 2014 The syntax of space: some problems from Chinese. University of Oxford.
- 2014 Passive variation in Northwest British English. International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE) 3, University of Zurich.
- 2014 A comparative approach to the syntax of Mandarin adpositions. Workshop on Adpositions, Newcastle University.
- 2013 Passive variation in Northwest English dialects. English Dialect Syntax Workshop, Darwin College, University of Cambridge.

Refereed talks and poster presentations

- 2019 No idiosyncrasy in external argument interpretation. Poster, The Grammar of Regularity and Idiosyncrasy Workshop, University of California, Davis.
- 2019 Event structural properties of the English get-passive. GLOW 42, University of Oslo.
- 2019 No lexical override in external argument interpretation. Poster, GLOW 42, University of Oslo.
- 2018 On the syntactic determination of thematic roles: evidence from transitive motion clauses. NELS 49, Cornell University.
- 2018 On some (event) structural properties of the English *get*-passive. Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2018, University of Sheffield. With David Embick.
- 2018 Thematic roles are determined syntactically in transitive motion expressions. Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2018, University of Sheffield.
- 2018 Objects and unergatives. Unergative Predicates: Architecture and Variation Workshop, Bilbao.
- 2017 Variation in local syntax across individuals. Poster, LSA 91, Austin TX. With Meredith Tamminga.
- 2016 Dialectal, individual, and lexical variation in the Done My Homework construction. New Ways of Approaching Variation 45, Simon Fraser University/University of Victoria. With Meredith Tamminga.

- 2016 Changing Paths in Directed Manner of Motion Constructions. Poster, WCCLF 34, University of Utah.
- 2016 On phonologically unrealized prepositions: the syntax and morphology of Indonesian preposition-drop. Poster, PLC 40, University of Pennsylvania. With Helen Jeoung.
- 2015 Parameters of abstract Case. Poster, Generative Syntax in the Twenty-First Century: The Road Ahead, Athens.
- 2015 All Case is structural Case? Case and ϕ -features Workshop, University of Cambridge.
- 2014 Assertion and Speech Acts in embedded clauses: evidence from Mandarin syntax. Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2014, University of Oxford.
- 2014 A new Case for A-Movement in Northwest British English. WCCFL 32, University of Southern California.
- 2013 Locality in passives: variation in Northwest British English and its consequences. Manchester Forum in Linguistics 2, University of Manchester.
- 2013 The syntax of the speaker in the 'went and' construction. UCL Graduate Conference in Linguistics, UCL. (With Anne Beshears)
- 2013 Introduction to Differential Marking. Differential Subject Marking and Ergativity Workshop at Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) 46, University of Split. (With András Bárány and Michelle Sheehan)
- 2013 Microparametric variation in A-movement in Northwest British English. Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2013, SOAS.
- 2013 An abstract Case for A-movement: microvariation in Northwest British dialects. Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG) 39, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia.
- 2012 Restructuring the *tough* approach to the Mandarin long *bei*-passive. Linguistics Association of Great Britain 2012, University of Salford.
- 2012 Improper approaches to the Mandarin long *bei*-passive. Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) 45, Stockholm.
- 2012 Improper Movement and the long passive in Mandarin. 7th Postgraduate Conference, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- 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.

TEACHING

Georgetown University

- Fall 2018 Seminar in morphosyntax (Ling 736) (co-taught with Ruth Kramer)
- Fall 2018 Graduate Syntax I (Ling 427)
- Fall 2018 Grammatical Analysis (Ling 224)

Spring 2019 Seminar: Argument Structure (Ling 428)

- Spring 2019 Grammatical Analysis (Ling 224)
- Spring 2019 Introduction to Language and Linguistics (Ling 001)

- Fall 2018 Syntax-semantics interface seminar: Verb meaning and event structure (Ling 725)
- Fall 2018 Graduate Syntax I (Ling 427)
- Fall 2018 Grammatical Analysis (Ling 224)

University of Pennsylvania

- Spring 2018 Argument structure (Ling 406)
- Spring 2018 Bilingualism in History (Ling 054)
- Fall 2017 Topics in the Syntax-Semantics Interface: Building and interpreting event structure (Ling 653)
- Fall 2017 Construct a Language (Intro to Typology) (Ling 242)

- Spring 2017 Topics in the Syntax-Semantics Interface: Causation (Ling 653)
- Spring 2017 Construct a Language (Intro to Typology) (Ling 242)
- Fall 2016 Language in Context: East meets West (Ling 056)
- Fall 2016 Bilingualism in History (Ling 054)

- Spring 2016 Topics in Natural Language Syntax: Variation (Ling 650)
- Spring 2016 Patterns in Language (Intro to Typology) (Ling 245)
- Fall 2015 Language in China (Ling 145)
- Fall 2015 Bilingualism in History (Ling 054)

University of Oxford (as TA/ tutor)

- 2014-2015 Introduction to Linguistics (Paper VIII)

University of Cambridge (as TA/ tutor)

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

Pedagogical training

- 2013 Teaching students with Asperger's Syndrome, 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, TeachFirst, London
- 2005 Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Birkbeck, University of London

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

SERVICE

Editorial board

Transactions of the Philological Society

Journal reviewing

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

Conference 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) North East Linguistic Society (NELS); 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

2015-2016 Finance Committee, Wolfson College, Oxford

2015-2016 Domestic and Premises Committee, Wolfson College, Oxford

2012-2015 Undergraduate admissions application review, interviews and selection for Linguistics and Linguistics/Modern Languages: Christ's, Fitzwilliam, Homerton, King's, and Robinson Colleges, University of Cambridge

2012 Officer of the graduate student executive committee, King's College, Cambridge

Department service

2012-2014 Treasurer, Cambridge University Linguistic Society, University of Cambridge
2013 Co-organizer, Syntax Research Cluster, University of 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.
- 2012, 2013 *The Building Blocks of Language: LingQUIZtics*. The University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas. (With Rethinking Comparative Syntax project members)
- 2013 A Linguistic perspective on language. Centre for Freudian Analysis and Research Public Seminar Series, London, October.
- 2013 Introduction to Linguistics. Summer school classes. Access Cambridge Program, Cambridge, July.
- 2013 The structure of language – graduate study in Linguistics. King’s College Foundation Lunch talk to alumni, University of Cambridge, March.
- 2013 How to acquire a language. King’s College Lunchtime Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, March.
- 2012-2013 Tutor, secondary school students, various schools, for The Brilliant Club, London.

LANGUAGES

Proficient: Mandarin, Classical Chinese, French, German
Research experience: Hawai‘ian; Indonesian; Kurmanji (Northern Kurdish); Mandarin; Cantonese; Yixing Chinese (a Wu variety)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Linguistic Society of America
Linguistics Association of Great Britain
The Philological Society