Jason Overfelt

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Positions

Associate Professor **2025 – present**
Oakland University, Department of Linguistics

Assistant Professor **2020 – 2025**
Oakland University, Department of Linguistics

Visiting Assistant Professor **2019 – 2020**
Oakland University, Department of Linguistics

Contract Assistant Professor **2016 – 2019**
University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Institute of Linguistics

Visiting Assistant Professor **2015 – 2016**
Haverford College, Tri-College Department of Linguistics

Instructor **spring 2015**
Haverford College, Tri-College Department of Linguistics

Degrees

Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst **2015**

Thesis: Rightward movement: A study in locality

Supervisor: Prof. Kyle Johnson

M.A., Linguistics, Purdue University **2009**

Thesis: The syntax of relative clauses in Tigrinya

Supervisor: Prof. Elena Benedicto

B.A., Linguistics, Purdue University **2007**

Thesis: Head-movement and affixation by adjacency in Tigrinya DPs

Supervisor: Prof. Elena Benedicto

Minor: Russian Language and Literature

Experience

Research Assistant; Cognitive Science of Language Lab **2011 – 2012**

Director: Prof. Brian Dillon, UMass Amherst

Tasks: Designing experimental stimuli, running eye-tracking experiments, running judgment task experiments, data analysis, lab technician.

Language Documentation Institute **summer 2007**

Institution: University of Oregon, precursor to CoLang

Research Assistant; Tigrinya Language Project **2006 – 2009**

Director: Prof. Elena Benedicto, Purdue University

Tasks: Close interaction with faculty and native speakers analyzing the language Tigrinya, transliteration of collected data, creating and maintaining databases, revising English translations, annotation of data for syntactic and morphosyntactic properties using ELAN, constructing a dictionary.

Publications

Articles

Making accommodations for sprouted stripping **accepted**
Language.

Stripping and VP-Ellipsis in reduced temporal adverbs **2021**
Syntax 24:462–509.

A remark on the economics of Quantifier Raising **2020**
Linguistic Inquiry 51:366–394.

Rightward DP-movement licenses parasitic gaps: A reply to Postal 1994 **2016**
Linguistic Inquiry 47:127–146.

Extraposition of NPIs from NP **2015**
Lingua 164:25–44.

Unbounded successive-cyclic rightward DP-movement **2015**
Lingua 162:1–31.

Proceedings

Centering African scholarship: Opportunities for better citation and attribution in African linguistics **accepted**
With Kyle Jerro, Hannah Gibson, Anna Keaveny, Savithry Namboodiripad, Thera Marie Crane, Matthew Faytak, Lutz Marten, Lydia Newkirk, Hannah Sande. For Selected Papers from the 56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Berlin: Language Science Press. (contributing author)

Hyperagreement and Case-licensing in Tigrinya **accepted**
With Gioia Cacchioli. For Selected Papers from the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Berlin: Language Science Press. (lead author)

PRO as an anaphoric variable: Rebinding and MaxElide-effects **to appear**
In the Proceedings of the 61st Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

Having space to sprout: Failed sprouting in sub-clausal ellipsis **2024**
In the Proceedings of the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, ed. Robert Autry, Gabriela de la Cruz, Luis A. Irizarry Figueroa, Kristina Mihajlovic, Tianyi Ni, Ryan Smith, and Heidi Harley. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

The syntax of sluicing-like constructions in English **2023**
In the Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society, ed. Suet-Ying Lam and Satoru Ozaki. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Nipped in the bud: failed sprouting in not-at-issue content **2020**
In the Proceedings of the 56th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society, eds. Matthew Hewett, Corinne Kasper, Sanghee Kim, Naomi Kurtz, and James Waller. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

The multiple mechanism for Mandarin sluices **2019**
With Borui Zhang. In *The Proceedings of GLOW-in-Asia XII and SICOGG 21.* (student lead author)

Stripping in temporal adverbial constructions **2018**
In *Proceedings of the 2018 Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. 3(68):1–15.

When variable re-binding bleeds Antecedent-Contained Deletion **2017**
In *Proceedings of 46th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society*, eds. Christopher Hammerly and Brandon Prickett. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate Linguistics Student Association.

On the subclausal locality of Extraposition from NP **2015**
In *Proceedings of the 32nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. Ulrike Steindl, Thomas Borer, Huilin Fang, Alfredo García Pardro, Peter Guekguezian, Brian Hsu, Charlie O'Hara, and Iris Chuoying Ouyang, 159-170. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Collections

Topics in the syntax of Tigrinya **accepted**
With Gioia Cacchioli. For The Handbook of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics. Berlin: Springer. (co-author)

The citeright package **2025**
v.1.0.0, https://ctan.org/pkg/citeright.

Asymmetrical symmetry in Tigrinya object marking **2022**
In *Angles of Object Agreement*, eds. Andrew Nevins, Anita Peti-Stantić, Mark de Vos, and Jana Willer-Gold. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Extraposition, polarity, and Late Merge **2018**
In *A Schrift to Fest Kyle Johnson*, eds. Nicholas LaCara, Keir Moulton, and Anne-Michelle Tessier, 305–312. Amherst, MA: Linguistics Open Access Publications.

Processing null-operator structures **2011**
In *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 38: Processing Linguistic Structure*, eds. Jesse A. Harris and Margaret Grant. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Graduate Linguistics Student Association.

Manuscripts

Factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **resubmitted**
For Selected Papers from the 56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Cross-clausal argument relations in Tigrinya: Predictive and explanatory factors for hyperactivity **under review**
Book proposal for *Interface Explorations*, eds. Artemis Alexiadou and Ruth Kramer. Berlin: de Gruyter Brill.

The syntax of verbal modality in Tigrinya **under review**
With Gioia Cacchioli. Ms., Université de Genève and Oakland University. for Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics. (co-author)

A predicate-fronting analysis of Tigrinya clefts **submitted**
For Selected Papers from the 57th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Talks

Invited

Predictive factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2026**
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL. upcoming.

Predictive factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2026**
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. November 11.

Non-verbal predication in Tigrinya and variable subject marking **2026**
Southern California African Linguistics Meeting, UCLA and USC, Los Angeles, CA. November 7.

Explanatory factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2026**
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. November 4.

Variable subject marking in Tigrinya pseudoclefts **2026**
3rd Affixation in Afroasiatic Workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. October 9.

Predictive and explanatory factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2026**
Georgetown University, Washington, DC. October 2.

Factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2026**
Morphology, Syntax & Semitic Languages Workshop, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland. January 23–24.

Factors for hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2025**
The 1st Workshop on Endangered and Minoritized Languages, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal. May 8.

MAXELIDE-effects in infinitival clauses: Evidence for anaphoric PRO **2025**
Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland. March 4.

Protecting the Chaldean language **2024**
The 3rd Annual Beth Nahrain Writers of Mesopotamia Workshop, Oakland University, Rochester, MI. November 16.

Hyperagreement and Case-licensing in Tigrinya **2024**
The 25th Anniversary of the Purdue University Indigenous and Endangered Languages Lab, West Lafayette, IN. May 7.

The syntax of modality in Tigrinya **2023**
With Gioia Cacchioli. Université de Genève, Geneva. March 14.

Nipped in the bud: Failed sprouting in not-at-issue content **2020**
National University of Singapore, Singapore. October 29.

Optionally obligatory object marking in Tigrinya **2020**
Oakland University, Rochester, MI. February 19.

The differential recoverability conditions of ellipses **2020**
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. January 22.

The differential recoverability conditions of syntactic domains **2019**
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. September 27.

Optionally obligatory object marking in Tigrinya **2019**
The 20th Anniversary of the Purdue University Indigenous and Endangered Languages Lab, West Lafayette, IN. May 11.

Currency in a semantic economy **2018**
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. March 5.

Currency in a semantic economy **2018**
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. February 1.

A polarizing view of Extraposition from NP **2017**
Carleton College, Northfield, MN. February 10.

When variable re-binding bleeds antecedent-contained deletion **2016**
University of Minnesota Institute of Linguistics Colloquium Series, Minneapolis, MN. September 23.

On extraposing NPIs from NP and the mechanisms for extraposition **2015**
Tri-College Linguistics Lecture Series, Haverford, PA. March 24.

Structural constraints on antecedent retrieval: The view from adjunct clauses **2012**
The Workshop on Memory and Language, UMass, Amherst, MA. May 16.

Conference

A predicate-fronting analysis of Tigrinya clefts **2026**
The 57th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. May 18–23.

Functional heads motivate hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2025**
The 48th North Atlantic Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. September 26.

Paths to hyperactivity in Tigrinya **2025**
The 56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. May 15.

PRO as an anaphoric variable: Rebinding and MaxElide-effects **2025**
The 61st Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. May 9.

Hyperagreement and Case-licensing in Tigrinya **2024**
With Gioia Cacchioli. The 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. May 3.

The syntax of Modality in Tigrinya **2023**
The 16th Conference on Syntax, Phonology, and Language Analysis, University of Masaryk, Brno. September 22.

Wh-in-situ and sluicing-like constructions in English **2023**
The 45th Annual Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, Universität zu Köln, Cologne. March 8.

The syntax of sluicing-like constructions in English **2023**
The 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society, Georg-August Universität, Göttingen. January 12.

A gapping analysis of ATB T-to-C movement **2023**
Linguistics Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. January 7.

A gapping analysis of ATB T-to-C movement in English **2022**
The 36th Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. October 15.

Having space to sprout: Failed sprouting in sub-clausal ellipses **2021**
The 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, Tucson, AZ. April 9.

Nipped in the bud: Failed sprouting in not-at-issue content **2020**
The 56th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, Chicago, IL. Conference cancelled.

Asymmetrical symmetry in Tigrinya object marking **2019**
Object Agreement Across Borders, Zagreb, Croatia. September 16.

'Vehicle Stability' in antecedent-contained deletions **2019**
Linguistics Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting, New York, NY. January 3.

Obligatory particles trigger presuppositions in Hurford conditionals **2019**
With Jon Coltz and Brian Reese. Linguistics Society of America 2019 Annual Meeting, New York, NY. January 6.

Bound-variable interpretations are not currency for Quantifier Raising **2017**
Linguistics Society of America 2017 Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. January 5.

When variable re-binding bleeds antecedent-contained deletion **2015**
The 46th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society, Concordia University, Montreal. October 16.

The heterogeneity of Extraposition from NP **2015**
Linguistics Society of America 2015 Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. January 8.

Object marking and marking objects in the Tigrinya ditransitive constructions **2013**
The 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. March 9.

The role of LF *wh*-movement in Tigrinya **2009**
The 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL. April 9.

The internal behavior of Tigrinya PPs: Head-movement and affixation by adjacency **2008**
The 39th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. April 19.

Posters

No sprouting from VPE: Constraints on recoverability and licensing **2021**
Linguistics Society of America 2021 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. January 7.

Particles in polarity in 'bad' and 'good' Hurford Conditionals **2019**
With Jonathan Coltz, Dustin Chacón, and Brian Reese. The 3rd Experimental Pragmatics in Italy Conference, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy. September 19–20.

The multiple mechanisms for Mandarin sluices **2019**
With Borui Zhang. GLOW-in-Asia XII and SICOGG 21, Seoul South Korea. August 6.

Stripping in temporal adverbial constructions **2018**
Linguistics Society of America 2018 Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT. January 5.

Cyclic linearization and constraints on remnant movement **2014**
The 45th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society, MIT, Cambridge, MA. October 31.

The subclausal locality of Extraposition from NP **2014**
The 32nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, USC, Los Angeles, CA. March 8.

Grants

Licensing and agreement in Semitic languages **2024**
Oakland University Faculty Research Fellowship, $10,000.

Rightward movement **2014**
University of Massachusetts Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant, $996.

Parsing long-distance dependencies in Tigrinya **2011**
University of Massachusetts Institute for the Computation and Experimental Study of Language Seed Grant, $2000.

Advising

Chair

Adverbial Particles against VSVPE in Japanese Syntax **2026**
Jason Walton
B.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Echo Questions as anaphoric phrases with entailment relationships **2025**
Claudia Pilarski
M.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Deriving verb-initial in Tagalog **2023**
Isabella Javier
B.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

The Malsia Madhe dialect of Albanian: A living fossil of ancient Europe **2022**
Lindon Dedvukaj
M.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

Adverb movement and fronting in sentence representations **2022**
Josiah Streetman
B.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

French Reflexive "Se": Unaccusative, unergative, or inherent? **2021**
Alan Rifenbark
M.A. Thesis, Oakland University, Rochester, MI.

An analysis of anticausative and causative marking in Tigrinya **2019**
Gebre Fleck
Undergraudate Research Opportunity Program, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Member

The syntax of clausal prefixes in Tigrinya **2026**
Gioia Cacchioli
Ph.D. Dissertation, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.

Prosodically driven reduplication in Maori **2019**
Samantha Hamilton
M.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Electrifying adjunct islands: An ERP study on the semantic effects on processing adjunct island violations **2019**
Annika Kohrt
B.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Split ergativity in Newari **2017**
Anthoni Fortier
M.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Pragmatic capitalization on Twitter **2017**
Maria Heath
M.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Desirability of trait and structural implicatures **2017**
Akshina Banerjee
B.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Resumptive pronoun interpretation and resumptive dependencies **2017**
Joanna Shoemaker
B.A. Thesis, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

The Mandarin Chinese *de* as a type $\langle e,t \rangle$ nominal proform: A syntax-semantics approach **2015**
Daniel Plesniak
B.A. Thesis, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Teaching

Graduate

Introduction to Linguistics
University of Minnesota, LING 5001

Introductory Syntax
Oakland University, LIN 5504
University of Minnesota, LING 5201

Advanced Syntax
Oakland University, LIN 5504
University of Minnesota, LING 5202

Topics Seminars
Oakland University, Structure of Ethiosemitic Languages, LIN 5609
University of Minnesota, Diagnosing Ellipsis, LING 5900/8900
University of Minnesota, Mismatches in Ellipsis, LING 5900

Thesis Writing Seminar
University of Minnesota, LING 8005/8888

Undergraduate

Language and Society
Oakland University, LIN 1101

Introduction to Linguistics
Oakland University, LIN 2201
University of Minnesota, LING 3001/3001H
Haverford College, LING H101
Swarthmore College, LING 001
Bryn Mawr College, LING B101
UMass Amherst, LING 201

Introductory Syntax
Oakland University, LIN 4304
University of Minnesota, LING 4201
Haverford College, LING H113

Advanced Syntax
Oakland University, LIN 4404
Haverford College, LIN H116

Introductory Semantics
Oakland University, LIN 4307

Topics Seminars
Oakland University, Structure of Ethiosemitic Languages, LIN 4409

History of Linguistics
Oakland University, LIN 4470

Phonetics and Phonology
Haverford College, LING H115

Thesis Writing Seminar
University of Minnesota, LING 3052

Service

Professional

Memoni Language Project — **2026 – present**
Director, Oakland University

LaTeX for Linguists: A hands-on workshop — **2025**
Instructor, Université de Genève, March 6–7.

Chaldean Language Project — **2023 – present**
Director, Oakland University

Tigrinya Language Project — **2020 – present**
Director, Oakland University

Linguistic Society of America — **2013 – 2014**
Ethiosemitic Linguistics Special Interest Group
Co-organizer with Ruth Kramer

Editorial

Syntax — **2026 – present**
Editorial Board Member

Proceedings of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics — **2025 – present**
Associate Director of Proceedings

Proceedings of the 56th Annual Conference on African Linguistics — **in preparation**
Editorial Team

Reviewing

The Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) — **2026 – present**
Abstract reviewer

The Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL) — **2024 – present**
Abstract reviewer, Manuscript reviewer

The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) — **2017 – present**
Abstract reviewer

The North East Linguistics Society (NELS) — **2016 – present**
Abstract reviewer

Brill's Journal of Afroaciatic Languages and Linguistics — **ad hoc**
Article reviewer

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft — **ad hoc**
Grant proposal reviewer

Glossa — **ad hoc**
Article reviewer

	Journal of Linguistics Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Language Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Languages Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Linguistic Inquiry Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Snippets Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Syntax Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	The Linguistic Review Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Natural Language and Linguistic Theory Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	snippets Article reviewer	**ad hoc**
	Wiley-Blackwell Book proposal reviewer	**ad hoc**
University	**Oakland University Academic Conduct Committee** Faculty Representative, Oakland University	**2026 – present**
	Oakland University Senate Community Engagement Committee Faculty Representative, Oakland University	**2023 – 2026**
	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Challenge Linguistic Diversity Challenge, Co-organizer, Oakland University	**2022**
	International Mother Language Day Celebration Organizer, Oakland University	**2021 – present**
	Oakland University Linguistic Diversity Initiative (OULDI) Co-organizer, Oakland University	**2020 – present**

Department

Undergraduate Advisor **2025 – present**
Department of Linguistics, Oakland University

Department Website Manager **2020 – 2025**
Department of Linguistics, Oakland University

Department Website Manager **2016 – 2019**
Institute of Linguistics, University of Minnesota

Awards

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Award **2025**
Oakland University

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Service Award **2021**
Oakland University

Honors College Inspiration Award **2020**
Oakland University

Software

ELAN - Linguistic Annotator

TEX

R Statistical Computing Environment