



Asia Pietraszko

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, University of Rochester


 Department of Linguistics

University of Rochester

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 **Personal:** <https://asiapietraszko.com>

 **Lab:** <https://sites.google.com/view/syntax-ur/home>

Employment

2019 – present | **University of Rochester, Department of Linguistics**
Assistant Professor

2017 – 2019 | **University of Connecticut, Department of Linguistics**
Visiting Assistant Professor

Education

2011 – 2017 | **PhD in Linguistics**, The University of Chicago
Thesis title: "Inflectional dependencies. A study of complex verbal expressions in Ndebele"
Thesis committee: Prof. Karlos Arregi, Prof. John Goldsmith, Prof. Jason Merchant

2009 – 2011 | **MA in English Philology**, Wroclaw University, Poland
Thesis title: Free choice, free relatives and negation
Advisor: Prof. Bożena Rozwadowska

2006 – 2009 | **BA in English Philology**, Wroclaw University, Poland

2010 – 2011 | Utrecht University, Linguistics Department (visiting student)

Research interests and expertise

Syntax | Theory of syntactic operations, head movement, A-movement, periphrasis, extended projections, selection, clausal complementation, agreement, nominalization, control

Morpho-phonology | Wordhood and word formation, phonologically conditioned allomorphy, prosodic minimality

Fieldwork languages | Northern Ndebele, Shona, Swahili, Zulu

Awards and honors

2022 | National Science Foundation research grant ([BSC 2214933](#))

- Role: Principal Investigator
- Project title: *The typology of subordinate clauses: A case study*

2018, 2019 | Provost Teaching Excellence Commendation Letter, University of Connecticut

2016 | National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ([BCS 1551787](#))

- Role: Student PI
- Project title: *The structure of complex verbal expressions in Ndebele*

2016 | Mellon Humanities Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The University of Chicago

2016 | African Studies Research Fund, The University of Chicago

2013, 2014 | Rella Cohn Research Fund (fieldwork on Ndebele), The University of Chicago

2010 | Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, Utrecht University

Fieldwork

- Spring | Durban, South Africa
2023 | Sponsor: National Science Foundation ([BSC 2214933](#))
- Summer | Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 | Sponsor: National Science Foundation ([BCS 1551787](#))

Peer-reviewed publications

- 2023 | Pietraszko A. "Timing-driven derivation of a NOM/ACC agreement pattern", *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 8(1)
- 2023 | Pietraszko A. "Cyclic Selection. Auxiliaries are merged, not inserted." *Linguistic Inquiry*, 54(2):350–377.
- 2021 | Arregi K. & A. Pietraszko. "The ups and downs of head displacement." *Linguistic Inquiry*, 52 (2): 241-289
- 2021 | Pietraszko A. "The coming apart of case and focus in Bantu." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 39:579–59
- 2019 | Pietraszko A. "Obligatory CP nominalization in Ndebele." *Syntax*, 22: 66-111
- 2018 | Pietraszko A. "Auxiliary vs INFL in Bantu. The syntactic and phonological complexity of Ndebele verbs." *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 36: 265–308

Current manuscripts

- 2023 | Arregi K. & A. Pietraszko. "The relation between head movement and periphrasis"
Ms. under review at Journal of Linguistics
- 2024 | A. Pietraszko. "Operational opacity at the clausal middlefield"
Ms. under review at Natural Language and Linguistic Theory

Conference proceedings

- 2021 | Pietraszko A. "Backward Control without A-movement or ϕ -agreement." *Proceedings of NELS* 51
- 2021 | Arregi, K. & A. Pietraszko. "Unifying long head movement with phrasal movement: a new argument from spellout." *Proceedings of WCCFL* 38
- 2019 | Arregi, K. & A. Pietraszko. "Do-support as spellout of split head chains." *Proceedings of NELS* 49
- 2018 | Arregi, K. & A. Pietraszko. "Generalized Head Movement." *Proceedings of LSA* 92
- 2018 | Pietraszko, A. "The distribution of ϕ -probes in the inflectional structure." *Proceedings of LSA* 92
- 2018 | Pietraszko, A. "Direct and dependent valuation in Ndebele light-verb constructions." *Proceedings of WCCFL* 35
- 2016 | Pietraszko, A. "The syntax of simple and compound tenses in Ndebele." *Proceedings of LSA* 90
- 2015 | Pietraszko, A. "The correlative configuration in Polish." *Proceedings of FDSL* 10

Edited volumes

- Forthcoming | Proceedings of the 16th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, Pietraszko A. & A. Stenger (Eds.)
- 2014 | Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. Aparicio, H., G. Flinn, K. Franich, A. Pietraszko, T. Vardomskaaya (Eds.)

Invited talks

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| May 2024 | <i>In-situ subjects in Ndebele reveal a clause-internal phase</i>
Plenary talk at the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Montreal |
| April 2024 | <i>Clause internal phase and successive cyclic A-movement</i>
New York University, Syntax Brown Bag |
| March 2024 | <i>Operational opacity at the clausal middlefield</i>
Princeton University, Colloquium talk |
| March 2024 | <i>Clause internal phase and successive cyclic A-movement</i>
The University of Chicago, Syntax-Morphology Workshop |
| February 2024 | <i>Operational opacity at the clausal middlefield</i>
Tel-Aviv University, Colloquium talk |
| November 2023 | <i>Operational opacity at the clausal middlefield</i>
University of Pennsylvania, Colloquium talk |
| September 2023 | <i>A-movement across domains in Zimbabwean Ndebele</i>
Indiana University, Colloquium talk |
| October 2022 | <i>Reassessing functional verb diagnostics</i>
UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Workshop on Extended Projections |
| April 2022 | <i>Syntactic structure building: lessons from periphrasis</i>
Harvard University, Colloquium talk |
| April 2022 | <i>What Bantu languages can teach us about verbal periphrasis</i>
Southern African Linguistics Network |
| March 2022 | <i>Syntactic structure building: lessons from periphrasis</i>
Rutgers University, Colloquium talk |
| Feb 2022 | <i>Syntactic structure building: lessons from periphrasis</i>
University of Maryland, Colloquium talk |
| Jan 2022 | <i>Syntactic structure building: lessons from periphrasis</i>
University of Southern California |
| Nov 2021 | <i>Cyclic Selection and verbal periphrasis</i>
HSE University, Russia, Colloquium talk |
| July 2021 | <i>Cyclic Selection and verbal periphrasis</i>
University of Goettingen, Germany, Colloquium talk |
| March 2021 | <i>Backward Control without A-movement or Phi-agreement</i>
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Syntax Workshop |
| Nov 2018 | <i>Do-support crosslinguistically: when head chains split</i>
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, SuSurrus Workshop |
| Jul 2018 | <i>Synthesis and Periphrasis. How complex do words get?</i>
The New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture 16, Saint Petersburg, Russia |
| Nov 2017 | <i>Obligatory CP nominalization in Ndebele</i>
MIT Ling Lunch |

- Feb 2017 | *How many verbs and why? Deriving synthesis and periphrasis from their syntactic context*
University of Florida
- Sep 2016 | *Clause nominalization in isiNdebele: an argument from relative clauses*
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- Apr 2015 | *The morphosyntax of compound tenses in Ndebele*
Language Variation and Change Workshop, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Conference presentations

- 2023 | *The clause internal phase in Ndebele: evidence from syntactic opacity*
Verbal Domains Workshop, Newcastle University, June 2023
- 2020 | *An argument for true c-selection in clausal complementation*
Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 13, Dec 2020
- 2020 | *Backward Control Without A-movement or Phi-Agreement*
NELS 51, UQAM, Nov 6 2020
- 2020 | *Unifying long head movement with phrasal movement: a new argument from spellout* (with Karlos Arregi)
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 38, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2020 | *Periphrasis is not failure of word building* (with Karlos Arregi)
94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 | *Multiple Probing in A-over-A configurations*
55th Annual Meeting of Chicago Linguistic Society, The University of Chicago
- 2018 | *Do-support as spellout of split head chains* (with Karlos Arregi)
49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Cornell University (poster)
- 2018 | *Generalized Head Movement* (with Karlos Arregi)
92st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2018 | *The distribution of ϕ -probes in the inflectional structure*
92st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2017 | *Direct and dependent valuation in Ndebele light-verb constructions*
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 35, Calgary, Canada (poster)
- 2017 | *Tense agreement in Ndebele light-verb constructions*
48th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Bloomington, IN
- 2017 | *Clause size and transparency in Ndebele*
91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Austin, TX (poster)
- 2016 | *Local interactions in the prosodic structure of Ndebele verbs*
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 34, Salt Lake City, UT (poster)
- 2016 | *The Ndebele relative marker as a nominal linker*
47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Berkeley, CA
- 2016 | *The syntax of synthetic and periphrastic tenses in Ndebele*
90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington DC
- 2015 | *Discourse Configurationality and agreement in Ndebele*
89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR

2014		<i>Structural focus in Bantu: Evidence from Ndebele</i> Graduate Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies, Milwaukee, WI
2013		<i>The correlative configuration in Polish</i> Formal Description of Slavic Languages 10, Leipzig, Germany
2015		<i>Augmentless arguments in Northern Ndebele: nominal and clausal domain</i> 43rd Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics, Leiden, The Netherlands
2011		<i>On the bizarre nature of the Polish relative complementizer</i> Young Linguists in Dialogue 4, Wroclaw, Poland
2010		<i>Free Relatives and Negation</i> Semantics in the Netherlands 8, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Teaching Experience

University of Rochester (2019–present)		LING 501 Linguistic Proseminar LING 220/420 Introduction to Grammatical Systems LING 260/460 Syntactic Theory LING 389 Senior Seminar (a field methods course) LING 589 Graduate Field Methods
University of Connecticut (2017-2019)		LING 6050 Field Methods in Linguistics LING 3511Q Syntax LING 2010Q The Science of Linguistics LING 1030 The Diversity of Languages
The University of Chicago (2015)		LING 20202: Advanced Syntax
Summer/winter schools		The New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition & Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Backward control, crossed control and voice restructuring</i>, 2021 (Co-taught with Susi Wurmbrand, University of Salzburg) • <i>Words and Other Things: What do you need to list in your head?</i>, 2020, 2021 (Co-taught with Omer Preminger, University of Maryland) • <i>How languages move their heads</i>, 2019

Advising

Since 2024		Bryan Isaac (PhD), Role: Program and Research Advisor, University of Rochester
Since 2023		Yizhen Ma (PhD), Role: Program Advisor, University of Rochester
2024-25		Audrey Stenger (BA), Role: Honors Thesis Supervisor, University of Rochester
2024-25		Lateef Adekele (PhD), Role: QP Committee Member, University of Rochester
2023-25		Constanza Aceves (PhD), Role: QP Committee Member, University of Rochester QP title: <i>Coordination strategies in Ombeayiüts</i>
2023-24		Suganya Schmura (PhD), Role: QP Committee Member, University of Rochester QP title: <i>Discourse Variation in Tamil: Investigating the Apparent Grammaticalization of "vanthu"</i>
2023-24		Rebecca Everson (MA), Role: Project Advisor, University of Rochester Project title: <i>Object Markers are Reflexes of A-Bar Movement in Shekgalagadi</i>

2023-24	Sreyoshi Basu (MA), Role: Project Advisor, University of Rochester Project title: <i>Scrambling and Movement</i>
2022-23	Jane Loney (BA), Role: Honors Thesis Supervisor, University of Rochester Thesis title: <i>Raising and Agreement in Ndebele</i>
2021-22	Beryl Bui (MA), Role: Masters Thesis Supervisor, University of Rochester Thesis title: <i>Vietnamese anaphors and pronominals</i>
2021-22	Zhendong Liu (MA), Role: Project Advisor, University of Rochester Project title: <i>A unified operator movement analysis for Adverbial Clauses and Relative Clauses in Swahili</i>
2020-21	Jennifer Gormish (BA), Role: Honors Thesis Supervisor, University of Rochester Thesis title: <i>Conjoined Subject Agreement in Zulu</i>
2019-20	Jiaxing Yu (MA), Role: Masters Thesis Supervisor, University of Rochester Thesis title: <i>(Lexical) Semantics of Mandarin classifiers in Num-CL-N structure</i>
2019-20	Paula Fenger (PhD), Role: PhD Thesis Committee Member (external), University of Connecticut Thesis title: <i>Words within words: the internal syntax of verbs</i>
2018	Christos Christopoulos (PhD), Role: QP Committee Member, University of Connecticut Paper title: <i>Aspect and Voice morphology in Greek verbs</i>
2018	Paula Fenger (PhD), Role: QP Committee Member, University of Connecticut Paper title: <i>Affixation, periphrasis and anything in between</i>

Service

Administration	1. Director of Undergraduate Studies, Linguistics, University of Rochester	Spring 2023–present
	2. Member of the Linguistics Department Curriculum Committee	Fall 2024–present
	3. IRB Scientific Reviewer for the Department of Linguistics	Summer 2024–present
	4. Member of the Faculty Council, University of Rochester	2020–2021
Reviewer	National Science Foundation, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Glossa, Nordic Journal of African Studies, The Timing of Ellipsis (edited volume, OUP), The Oxford Guide to Bantu Languages, Association of Contemporary African Linguistics, Linguistic Vanguard	
Academic	1. Organizer of the 16th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, Oct 2022, University of Rochester	
	2. Director of the Field Syntax Lab (University of Rochester)	
	3. Morphology Reading Group: coordinator (University of Connecticut)	
	4. Syntax Reading Group: coordinator (The University of Chicago)	
	5. The 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society: conference organizer	
	6. The Central European Summer School in Generative Grammar: local organizer (2012, 2013)	

Languages

Native speaker	Polish
L2 speaker	English (proficient), German (intermediate)
Research	Breton, Danish, Monnese, Northern Ndebele, Polish, Swahili, Zulu, varieties on British English