**Michael Diercks**
Assistant Professor, Pomona College
Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
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CV Date: June 28 2016

## Faculty Positions

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| 2016 – present | Associate Professor, Pomona College (Linguistics & Cognitive Science) |
| 2010 - 2016 | Assistant Professor, Pomona College (Linguistics & Cognitive Science) |

## Education

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| 2010 | PhD: Linguistics | Georgetown University |
| | *Dissertation: Agreement with Subjects in Lubukusu* | |
| | *Committee: Raffaella Zanuttini, Paul Portner, Ruth Kramer, Mark Baker* | |
| 2008 | MS: Linguistics | Georgetown University |
| 2004 | BA: Intercultural Studies | Houghton College |
| | *Summa Cum Laude* and Valedictorian, Class of 2004 | |

## Research Interests

- Syntactic theory, morphological theory
- Bantu languages, specifically morphology and syntax, and issues relating to agreement, Case licensing, object marking, and extraction contexts
- Documentation and description of understudied languages (using fieldwork methodologies)
- The role of language in understanding core principles of human interaction

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

☼with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges

Diercks, Michael and Justine Sikuku. To appear, 2015. Pragmatic Effects of Clitic Doubling: Two Kinds of Object Markers in Lubukusu. To appear in Linguistic Variation.

☼Diercks, Michael, Lindsey Meyer and Mary Paster. 2015. Agreement with conjoined arguments in Kuria. Studies in African Linguistics 44.1: 27-46.

Diercks, Michael. 2013. Indirect Agree in Lubukusu complementizer agreement. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 31.2: 357-407.

Carstens, Vicki and Michael Diercks. 2013. Agreeing How? Implications for theories of agreement and locality. *Linguistic Inquiry* 44.2: 179-237.

☼Bax, Anna and Michael Diercks. 2012. Information Structure Constraints on Object Marking in Manyika. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* 30.2: 185-202.

Diercks, Michael. 2012. Parameterizing Case: Evidence from Bantu. *Syntax* 15.3: 253-286.

Diercks, Michael. 2011. The morphosyntax of Lubukusu locative inversion and the parameterization of Agree. *Lingua* 121.5: 702-720.

**Publications in Proceedings, Working Papers, and Edited Volumes:**

Diercks, Michael. To appear. Locative Inversion. Overview article for the Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Syntax, Second Edition.

Halpert, Claire, and Michael Diercks. To appear. More on *have* and *need*. To appear in the *Selected Proceedings of the 44th Annual conference on African Linguistics*.

☼Diercks, Michael, Rodrigo Ranero, and Mary Paster. 2014. Evidence for a Clitic Analysis of Object Markers in Kuria. In *Selected Proceedings of the 44th Annual conference on African Linguistics,* eds. Ruth Kramer, Elizabeth C. Zsiga, and One Tlale Boyer, 52-70. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Carstens, Vicki and Michael Diercks. 2013. Parameterizing Case and Activity: Hyper-raising in Bantu. In *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, eds. Seda Kan, Claire Moore-Cantwell, Robert Staubs, 99-118. Amherst: GLSA.

Diercks, Michael. 2011. Incorporating Location in Argument Structure: The Lubukusu Locative Clitic. In *Selected Proceedings of the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics: African Languages and Linguistics Today,* eds. E. Bokamba, R Shosted, and BT Ayalew, 65-79. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Diercks, Michael. 2011. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement: Binding to Agree. To appear in the Proceedings of NELS 41, UMass GLSA.

Diercks, Michael. 2009. Subject extraction and (so-called) anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. In *Proceedings of Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, Volume 45, Number 1*, edited by Ryan Bochnak, Nassira Nicola, Peet Klecha, Jasmin Urban, Alice Lemieux and Christina Weaver, 55-69.

Diercks, Michael. 2009. Challenges to Case Theory from Bantu. *The Georgetown University Working Papers in Theoretical Linguistics* VII, edited by L. Krawczyk and C. Hutchinson, 1-42.

**In-progress Articles** ☼with a student (underlined) from the Claremont Colleges

Under Review. Diercks, Michael, Marjo van Koppen, and Michael Putnam. 2016. Anaphoric and Non-anaphoric Feature Valuation: Directionality of Agree and the Phase Reference Model of Syntax. *Under Review*.

☼In preparation. Diercks, Michael and Meghana Rao. Complementizer Agreement in Kipsigis. For submission to the Proceedings of the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics.

☼In preparation. Diercks, Michael, Madeline Bossi, Peter Staub, and Jordan Wong. Kipsigis Phrase Structure.

**In-Progress Book Projects**

In preparation. Diercks, Michael and Aggrey Wasike (eds). Aspects of Lubukusu Syntax. *A product of an NSF Collaborative Research Grant (Structure and Tone in Luyia: BCS-1355749).*

In preparation. Diercks, Michael (ed). Comparative Luyia Syntax. *An empirically-centered investigation of the syntax of 4 Luyia languages: Lubukusu, Luwanga, Lutirichi, and Llogooli. A product of an NSF Collaborative Research Grant (Structure and Tone in Luyia: BCS-1355749).*

In preparation with the Luyia Languages Project team: 4 grammar sketches on Lubukusu, Llogoori, Luwanga, and Lutirichi.

Grammatical Topics under investigation for the book projects:

Lubukusu: hyper-raising, conjunction, adverbials, subject pronoun doubling,
Logoori: interrogatives, subject clitic doubling, locatives, object marking, hyper-raising
Wanga: complementizer agreement, hyper-raising, subject clitic doubling, object marking
Tiriki: interrogatives, hyper-raising, subject clitic doubling, object marking

**Volumes edited**

2006. *Georgetown University Working Papers in Theoretical Linguistics IV*. With Jim Gruber.

**Teaching Awards**

Recipient of the Wig Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching from Pomona College (2015).

**Grants**

2014. NSF Collaborative Research Grant. Structure and Tone in Luyia. Collaborative research between Pomona College, University of Missouri, and CASL (University of Maryland). Collaborators include Michael Marlo, Vicki Carstens, Mary Paster, David Odden, Chris Green, Meredith Landman, and Kris Ebarb. Pomona budget: approximately $63,000. Overall budget: approximately $485,000.

2013. Pomona College Hirsch Research Initiation Grant, for fieldwork on languages in Kenya and Tanzania. Awarded in February, 2013, for an amount of $13,205.

2010. NSF doctoral dissertation research improvement grant entitled "Dissertation research on the morphosyntax of Bukusu." Co-Principal Investigator along with the Principal Investigator Paul Portner. ($11,951)

*Not included here are a variety conference travel grants and pedagogical grants at Pomona College and Georgetown University.*

**Fieldwork Experience** in the US, Kenya and Tanzania

**Languages**

English: native speaker

Swahili: conversational speaking and reading knowledge

Spanish: (much diminished) speaking and reading knowledge

Linguistic Fieldwork: Lubukusu, Ikikiizu, Manyika Shona, Igikuria, Lutirichi, Lulogoori, Kipsigis

**Presentations** ☼with a student (or students) from the Claremont Colleges

Conference/Workshop Presentations

2016. with Aggrey Wasike. Lubukusu Adverbial Syntax. Presentation at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.

☼2016. with Cliff Mountjoy-Venning. Raising in Logoori. Presentation at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.

☼2016. with Meghana Rao. Complementizer Agreement in Kipsigis. Poster presented at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.

2015. with Justine Sikuku. Pragmatic Effects of Clitic Doubling: Two Kinds of Object Markers in Lubukusu. Presentation at ACAL 46 at the University of Oregon.

2014. with Claire Halpert. On the decomposition of 'need.' Presentation at ACAL 45 at Kansas University.

2013. with Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. Presentation at WCCFL 31, Arizona State University.

☼2013. with Rodrigo Ranero and Rebekah Cramerus. On Object Marking in Kuria. Presentation at the joint conference of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics and the Georgetown University Round Table, Georgetown University.

2013. On the value of linguistic fieldwork. Invited talk given at the workshop: Fieldwork in the 21st Century: Goals, Tools and Techniques preceding the joint conference of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics and the Georgetown University Round Table, Georgetown University.

2012. Upwards-oriented complementizer agreement in Lubukusu. Generative Initiatives in Syntactic Theory 6, Ghent University, workshop on complementizer agreement (invited talk).

2012. with Michael Putnam and Marjo van Koppen. Upward- vs. downward-probing Agree: Defining a single feature-valuation relation. Presentation at *WCCFL 30*, Santa Cruz.

☼2012. with Anna Bax. Out with the new and in with the old: Topic-based object marking in Manyika. Presentation at LSA, Portland, January 5-8.

2011. with Michael Putnam and Marjo van Koppen. The Directionality of Agree: Can a Universal Feature Valuation Operation be Established? Presented in Potsdam, Germany at the workshop *The Minimalist Program: Quo Vadis? – Newborn, Reborn, or Stillborn?* October 3-6.

2011. with Vicki Carstens. Agreeing How? Presentation at B4ntu, Berlin, April 7-9.

2011. with Justine Sikuku. Lubukusu object marking as pronominal incorporation. Presentation at B4ntu, Berlin, April 7-9.

2010. with Vicki Carstens, Loyiso Mletshe, Juvénal Ndayiragije, Justine Sikuku. DP Positions in African Languages. Presentation at the Afranaph Workshop, Rutgers University, December 10-11.

2010. with Vicki Carstens, Luis Lopez, Loyiso Mletshe, Juvénal Ndayiragije, Justine Sikuku. Properties of Subjects in Bantu Languages. Presentation at the Afranaph Workshop, Rutgers University, December 10-11.

2010. On the Nature of Logophoric Relations: Complementizer Agreement in Lubukusu. Poster presented at NELS 41, University of Pennsylvania, October 22-24.

2010. Complementizer agreement in Lubukusu and the properties of subjects. Talk presented at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Jan. 9.

2009. with Vicki Carstens. Parameterizing Case and Activity: Raising verbs in Bantu. Presented at the 40th annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. Nov. 13-15.

2009. Complementizer Agreement in Lubukusu: Intersections with logophoricity and factivity. The Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Oct. 9-10.

2009. with Vicki Carstens. Implications of Bantu raising verbs. The Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Oct. 9-10.

2009. Subject extraction and (so-called) anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. The 45th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, April 17.

2009. Arguments for a Motion Phrase: The Bukusu locative clitic. At the 40th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, April 10.

2009. The implications of Bukusu locative constructions: Expletives and agreement. At the syntax workshop at the 3rd International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu 3), March 28.

2009. The morphosyntax of Bukusu locative inversion. At the 3rd International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu 3), March 26.

2009. Null expletives and agreement in Bukusu locative inversion. At the Annual Meeting of the LSA, January 8.

2008. Licensing Inversion: Bukusu in the Typology of Bantu Inversion Constructions. At the Movement and Word Order in Bantu conference, Leiden University, March 7-8.

Invited Presentations

April 25, 2016. w. Justine Sikuku. Hidden Complexity in Object Clitics in Lubukusu and related Luyha Languages. Talk given at the Department of Linguistics, University of California, San Diego.

March 19, 2015. w. Justine Sikuku. Object Clitics in Bantu Languages. Talk given at the Fieldwork Forum at University of California, Berkeley.

April 14, 2014. What Kinds of Agreement Are Possible? Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and (Non)Anaphoric feature valuation. Department of Linguistics, University of Southern California.

April 11, 2014. What Kinds of Agreement Are Possible? Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and (Non)Anaphoric feature valuation. Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley.

March 6, 2014. Professional development workshop for graduate students. Moi University, Kenya. Department of Foreign Language and Linguistics.

March 5, 2014. Language Patterns, Vocabulary, and Oral Literature in Luyia Languages. Moi University, Kenya. Department of Foreign Language and Linguistics.

May, 2013. w. Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. UCLA Linguistics Department.

January, 2013. w. Vicki Carstens. The Great Escape: Raising out of finite clauses in Bantu languages. UCSC Linguistics Department.

Nov 2, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Hyper-raising in Bantu. Georgetown University Linguistics Department.

☼October 5, 2012. w. Carmen Fought, Karen Eisenhauer, Kaya LeGrand, Chris Leon, Hannah Walhout. Toward explaining social awkwardness: A linguistic approach to a new empirical domain. University of California, Santa Barbara, in the Language, Interaction, and Social Organization group.

July 25, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Raising and Hyper-raising in Bantu. MIT Linguistics Department.

June 24, 2012. w. Vicki Carstens. Raising and Hyper-raising in Bantu. University of Missouri African Linguistics Workshop.

February 16, 2012. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and upward-oriented Agree(ment). Cornell University Linguistics Department.

October 21, 2011. with Justine Sikuku. Object Marking as Pronominal Incorporation in Lubukusu. Rutgers University Department of Linguistics.

April 18, 2011. Indirect Agreement: How complementizer agreement in Lubukusu shakes up syntactic theory. California State Fullerton Linguistics Symposium.

April 27, 2010. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement. Harvard University Linguistics Department.

January 27, 2010. Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement and the Role of Subjects. Pomona College.

December 1, 2009. Typological and Theoretical Implications of Lubukusu Complementizer Agreement. The Center for Advanced Study of Language, University of Maryland.

September 11, 2009. Agreeing with subjects in Lubukusu: Examining complementizer agreement. Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.

November 21, 2008. Subject extraction and anti-agreement effects in Bukusu: A Criterial Freezing approach. Yale University Linguistics Department.

**Unpublished Manuscripts/Projects** ☼with a student (or students) from the Claremont Colleges

2015. with Vicki Carstens. Parameterizing Case and Activity: The Typology of Hyper-Raising in Bantu.

☼2014. with Rodrigo Ranero and Mary Paster. One of these things is not like the others: Deriving clitics by movement and Agree.

☼2014. with Carmen Fought, Adam Pearson, Karen Eisenhauer, Kaya LeGrand, Lily Clifford, Hannah Walhout. Awkwardness: A linguistic approach to a new empirical domain.

2011. Against Feature Inheritance: Phase heads are not defined by unvalued phi features.

2011. with Justine Sikuku. The Alternative Agreement Affect in Lubukusu.

*Some of these may eventually see the (publication) light of day, others not*

**General-Audience Lectures**

February 15, 2013. Explaining Social Awkwardness. A presentation for students and families at Pomona Family Weekend.

Nov 2, 2012. Explaining Social Awkwardness. A presentation to Pomona alumni in Washington, DC.

**Presentations on Teaching and Pedagogy**

Oct 24, 2012. Getting the Survey Monkey off your back. A discussion of the use of Qualtrics in classroom settings. Panel member.

April, 2011. Using iClickers in the Classroom. Panel member.

**Service**

Associate Editor*, Linguistic Variation, 2013-2016*

Ad-hoc reviewer

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| *Journals:* | *Linguistics, Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, Linguistic Inquiry, The Linguistic Review, Language, Lingua, Linguistic Variation, South African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies* |
| *Grants:* | *National Science Foundation* |
| *Conferences:* | *LSA (Linguistic Society of America), ACAL (Annual Conference on African Linguistics), WCCFL (West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics), GLS conference (Georgetown Linguistics Society), NELS (North Eastern Linguistics Society)* |

College Service, Pomona College

Department chair, Linguistics and Cognitive Science, July 2016-present

Search Committee Member, Ling/CogSci, 2015-2016

Academic Procedures Committee, Fall 2014, 2015-2016

Study Abroad Committee, 2011-2013

Reader and interviewer for Fulbright Committee, Fall 2012

Member of departmental committee on Mary Paster's tenure review, Fall 2011

Search Committee Member, Semantics/Cognitive Science Search, Pomona College, 2010-2011

Thesis supervision:

*External*: Ph.D. thesis committee member, Claire Halpert, MIT, 2012

Ph.D. thesis committee member, Kyle Jerro, University of Texas, 2016

*Claremont Colleges Undergraduate Theses*: Pooja Paul (2011), Arianna Schreiber (2012), Alexander Rhodes (2012), Katie Feller (2013), Martha Johnson (2013), Rebekah Cramerus (2013, Meredith Landman primary), Rodrigo Ranero (2014, Meredith Landman primary), Kaya LeGrand (2015), Emma Manning (2015), Meghana Rao (2016), Cliff Mountjoy-Venning (2016)

**Courses Taught**

Pomona College:

ID1: Language, Culture, and Human Nature (2010), Explaining Social Awkwardness (2012)

LGCS 10: Introduction to Linguistics

LGCS 125: Linguistic Field Methods

LGCS 105: Syntax (first level)

LGCS 118: Social Awkwardness and the Principles of Human Interaction

LGCS 185S: Topics in Syntax (advanced level)

Georgetown University

Phonetics, Introduction to Linguistics

**Graduate Fellowships and Awards**

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| Teaching Assistantship, Georgetown University Linguistics Department. *Full tuition and stipend.* | 2004-2009 |
| Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow, Summer Cooperative African Languages Institute (SCALI), Indiana University. *Full tuition, stipend, and travel stipend.* | Summer 2006 |
| Conference travel grants amounting to $4,000 | 2008-2009 |

**Non-Academic Linguistics Work**

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|---|---|
| Linguistic Consultant, Second Language Testing | April 2008 |
| Linguistic Consultant, SIL: Orthography Development | February 2007 |