

MIRELLA L. BLUM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS Tone, morphophonology, morphosyntax, field linguistics and documentation, African languages, Dinka (West Nilotic)

EDUCATION **University of Edinburgh** — Edinburgh, UK — Expected 2023 [submitted]
PhD in Linguistics
Dissertation: *Aspects of cross-variety Dinka tonal phonology*
Committee: Dr. Bert Remijsen, Prof. D. Robert Ladd, Prof. Caroline Heycock

University of Edinburgh — Edinburgh, UK — 2020
Master of Science in Linguistics, with Distinction
Dissertation: *Cross-dialect variation in Dinka tonal morphology*
Supervisor: Dr. Bert Remijsen

Barnard College of Columbia University — New York, NY — 2018
Bachelor of Arts in French Translation and Literature, *cum laude*, with Department Honors

Université Lumière Lyon 2 — Lyon, France — 2017
Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Françaises niveau C1 (University Diploma of French Studies, level C1)

PUBLICATIONS **Mirella L. Blum.** 2021. On the nature of adjectives: evidence from Dinka. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.5765>

D. Robert Ladd and **Mirella L. Blum.** 2021. On the systematic nature of Dinka noun number morphology. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics* 42(2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/jall-2021-2020>

Mirella L. Blum. In press. The tone system of the Ngok dialect of Dinka. *Proceedings of the 10th World Congress of African Linguistics*. Language Sciences Press 'Contemporary African Linguistics' series.

Bert Remijsen, **Mirella L. Blum**, and Jon Pen de Ngong. Under review at *Glossa*. Voice quality and tone as independent dimensions of contrast in Dinka.

Mirella L. Blum. In preparation, to be submitted to *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. Floating tone and phrasal tone sandhi in Dinka.

Mirella L. Blum. In preparation, to be submitted to *Studies in African Linguistics*. Cross-variety patterns in Dinka transitive verbs.

INVITED TALKS

Mirella L. Blum. 2023. Correspondence and variation in Dinka tone. Phonology Circle, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. April 3.

Mirella L. Blum. 2023. Cross-dialect variation in Dinka tone systems. PhonLab, Harvard University. February 24.

Mirella L. Blum. 2022. Methodology for remote fieldwork during (and after) COVID-19. LACITO (Langues et civilisations à tradition orale), CNRS, Paris. 23 February.

Mirella L. Blum. 2021. Insights into Dinka noun number morphology. Linguistics Circle, Surrey Morphology Group, University of Surrey. November 9.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-reviewed conference presentations

2023

Mirella L. Blum. Building remote bridges: challenges and solutions in long-distance language documentation. Northwest Linguistics Conference 39, University of Victoria, British Columbia.

Mirella L. Blum. Allomorphy in unexpected tonal alternations in Dinka. Purdue Linguistics Symposium, Purdue University.

Mirella L. Blum. Fieldwork methodology during a pandemic: case study of West Nilotic. ICLDC8 (8th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation). [poster]

2022

Mirella L. Blum. The interaction of tone sandhi and prosodic domain in Dinka. Western Conference on Linguistics, California State University, Fresno.

Mirella L. Blum. Floating tone in Dinka. Colloquium of African Languages and Linguistics, Leiden University.

Matthew Baerman and **Mirella L. Blum.** Incongruent analogy in Dinka vowel grades. International Conference on Historical Linguistics 2022, University of Oxford.

Bert Remijsen and **Mirella L. Blum.** The interaction of voice quality and tone in Dinka. 18th Conference on Laboratory Phonology. [poster]

Mirella L. Blum. Does Dinka have tripartite number marking? Annual Conference of African Linguistics 53, University of California, San Diego.

2021

Mirella L. Blum. Floating tone in Dinka and its tie to time pressure on contour tones. 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI). Sonderborg, Denmark.

Mirella L. Blum. On the definition of adjectives in Dinka. Workshop ‘Adjective: the unknown category,’ Societas Linguistica Europaea, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Mirella L. Blum. The interaction of tone and vowel length in Bor South Dinka. 15th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium.

Mirella L. Blum and Bert Remijsen. Cross-dialect tonal variation in the Padang dialects of Dinka. Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and the Universitat de Barcelona. [poster]

Mirella L. Blum and Bert Remijsen. Between-dialect variation in Dinka tone systems. Workshop ‘Decomposing Tones in African Languages,’ 10th World Congress of African Linguistics, Leiden University.

Mirella L. Blum. On the definition of adjectives in Dinka. Annual Conference of African Linguistics 51-52, University of Florida.

2020

Mirella L. Blum. Verbal inflection and tense-aspect in Bor Dinka. 50th Colloquium of African Languages and Linguistics, Leiden University.

Mirella L. Blum. A descriptive analysis of the tone system of Hol Dinka. Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture & Society ‘Cancelled Conference Conference.’

Mirella L. Blum. A descriptive analysis of the tone system of Hol Dinka. Linguistics & English Language Postgraduate Conference at the University of Edinburgh (cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

TEACHING

As teaching assistant

2022. LEL1B (Second semester of Introductory Linguistics). University of Edinburgh. Led weekly question session; graded examinations and assignments.

2022. LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories. University of Edinburgh. Contributed to teaching weekly puzzle-solving session; graded examinations and assignments.

AWARDS

PhD Scholarship – University of Edinburgh – 2020 – 2023
Part of a Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant (RPG-2020-040 to Bert Remijsen)

Highly Commended Dissertation Prize – University of Edinburgh – 2020
For an MSc dissertation mark of 80+

LANGUAGES

English – native

French – full professional working proficiency (*Diplôme approfondi de langue française, niveau C1*)

Mandarin Chinese – intermediate

Japanese – elementary

Dinka (Thuɔŋjäŋ) – fieldwork experience/beginner

Gipuzkoa Basque – fieldwork experience

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Founder and convenor, Linguistics & English Language Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Decolonization reading group. September 2021 – present

Student Representative, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences (PPLS) Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. September 2021 – present

Co-organizer, 15th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium. July 2020 – August 2021

Co-organizer, Linguistics and English Language 2020 Postgraduate Conference, University of Edinburgh. December 2019 – May 2020

Researcher/volunteer, Endangered Language Alliance, New York, NY. February 2019 – September 2019

TECH SKILLS

FLEx, Python, Praat: basic proficiency