

# Nick Danis

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Department of Linguistics  
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## Research Interests

Phonology, Optimality Theory, African languages

## Current Affiliations

Princeton University, Lecturer  
Rutgers University, Visiting Student  
Rowan University, Adjunct Professor (Spring 2018)

## Education

- 2017** Rutgers University  
Ph.D. in Linguistics  
Dissertation: *Complex Place and Place Identity*  
Committee: Akin Akinlabi (chair), Paul de Lacy, Bruce Tesar, Alan Prince, Jaye Padgett
- 2011** Boston University  
M.A. in Applied Linguistics  
Master's Project: *The Phonological Word in Medumba*  
Supervisors: Jonathan Barnes, Catherine O'Connor
- 2008** Boston University  
B.A. in Linguistics, *cum laude*  
B.S. in Film and Television, *cum laude*

## Publications

### Conference papers

- 2017** Danis, Nick. Markedness and Complex Stops: Evidence from Simplification Processes. In Shigeki Kaji (ed.), *Proceedings of the 8th World Congress of African Languages Kyoto 2015*, 25–43. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa.
- 2017** Danis, Nick. Major place harmony in ABC and the (reduced) role of representation: Evidence from Ngbaka. In Karen Jesney, Charlie O'Hara, Caitlin Smith and Rachel Walker (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America.
- 2012** Danis, Nick, Jonathan Barnes, and Catherine O'Connor. Downstep and contour formation in Medumba: A prosodic account. In Michael R. Marlo, Nikki B. Adams, Christopher R. Green, Michelle Morrison, and Tristan M. Purvis (eds.), *Selected Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, 23–31. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. [www.lingref.com](http://www.lingref.com), document #2755.

*Manuscripts*

- Submitted** Danis, Nick. Yoruba vowel deletion involves compensatory lengthening: evidence from phonetics.
- In prep** Danis, Nick. Long-distance major place harmony in Ngbaka.
- In prep** Danis, Nick and Bruce Tesar. Chain shifts and output-driven preserving faithfulness.
- 2014** Danis, Nick. Deriving interactions of complex stops. Ms., Rutgers University. Second Qualifying Paper. Committee: Alan Prince (chair), Akin Akinlabi, Bruce Tesar. ROA-1220.
- 2013** Danis, Nick. Theta compatibility and manner of motion resultatives. Ms., Rutgers University. First Qualifying Paper. Committee: Jane Grimshaw (chair), Mark Baker, Bruce Tesar.
- 2011** Danis, Nick. The Phonological Word in Medumba. Ms., Boston University. Master's project. Advisors: Catherine O'Connor, Jonathan Barnes.

*Edited volumes*

- 2011** Danis, Nick, Kate Mesh, and Hyunsuk Sung (eds.). Proceedings of the 35th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development. Cambridge, MA: Cascadilla Press.

**Presentations***Oral*

- 2017** Danis, Nick, Eileen Blum, Luca Iacoponi, Hazel Mitchley and Adam Jardine. A computational method for evaluating theories of phonological representation. Chicago Linguistics Society 53. University of Chicago, May 25–27, 2017.
- 2016** Danis, Nick. Major place harmony in ABC and the (reduced) role of representation: evidence from Ngbaka. Annual Meeting on Phonology 2016. USC, October 21–23, 2016.
- 2016** Danis, Nick. Cross-category vowel-consonant interactions in Aghem and Vietnamese. University of Chicago Phonology Group, May 13, 2016.
- 2015** Danis, Nick. Markedness and complex segments: Evidence from simplification processes. 8th World Congress of African Linguistics. Kyoto University, Japan. August 21, 2015.
- 2015** Danis, Nick. A typology of complex segments: Multiple place interactions on a scale. Workshop on Formal Typologies. Rutgers University, May 30, 2015.
- 2015** Danis, Nick. Complex segments made simple: Markedness and doubly-articulated stops. Annual Conference on African Linguistics 46. University of Oregon, March 26–29, 2015.
- 2011** Danis, Nick, Jonathan Barnes and Catherine O'Connor. Downstep and contour formation in Medumba. The 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics. University of Maryland, June 10–12, 2011.

*Poster*

- 2017** Danis, Nick. A phonetic study of Yoruba vowel deletion: a case of incomplete neutralization? Annual Conference on African Linguistics 48. Indiana University, March 30–April 2, 2017.

## Teaching

### *Instructor*

**2017** *Spring*

Instructor, 01:615:190 Linguistic Perspectives on Language  
Topic: Invented Languages. Two sections.

**2016** *Fall*

Instructor, 01:615:190 Linguistic Perspectives on Language  
Topic: Invented Languages. Two sections.

*Spring*

Instructor, 01:615:190 Linguistic Perspectives on Language  
Topic: Invented Languages. Designed an original course on the linguistic structure of invented languages and the motivations for their creation. Online course.

**2015** *Summer*

Instructor, 01:615:201 Introduction to Linguistic Theory. Rutgers University.

**2014** *Spring*

Instructor, 01:615:201 Introduction to Linguistic Theory. Rutgers University.

**2013** *Fall*

Teaching Assistant, 01:615:201 Introduction to Linguistic Theory. Led weekly section in conjunction with lecture led by Veneeta Dayal. Rutgers University.

### *Assistance*

**2015** Grader, 01:615:315 Phonology. Instructor: Akin Akinlabi. Rutgers University.

**2013–2015** Tutor. Linguistics walk-in tutor for undergraduate students. Kreeger Learning Center, Rutgers University.

**2011** Grader, CAS LX 502 Semantics. Instructors: Peter Alrenga and Paul Hagstrom. Boston University.

**2010** Grader, CAS LX 510 Phonetics. Instructor: Sara Mackenzie. Boston University.

**2010** Grader/Teaching Assistant, CAS LX 501 Linguistic Field Methods. Medumba (Niger Congo, Cameroon), Catherine O'Connor. Boston University.

## Research Assistance

**2012** Data Entry, African Anaphora Project. Ken Safir. Rutgers University.

**2010** Research Assistant, NSF Grant BCS 1026724 Medumba [BYV] Linguistic Fieldwork and Collaborative Language Development (PI: M.C. O'Connor). Involved attending the 3L Summer School on Language Documentation in Leiden, Netherlands, and then traveling to Cameroon for one month of intensive fieldwork.

**2009** Research Assistant. Catherine O'Connor. Boston University.

**2009** Research Assistant. Peter Alrenga. Boston University.

## Field Experience

**2010** Medumba (Grassfields Bantu, Cameroon): Conducted fieldwork in Yaoundé, Bangangté, and local surrounding villages. Funded by NSF Grant BCS 1026724.

## Service

### *Reviewing*

**2015** *Diversity in African languages: Selected papers from the 46th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*

### *Departmental*

**2015** Rutgers Optimality Reading Group. Co-organizer. (“RORGanizer.”)

**2014** Linguistics Graduate Student Association. President. Rutgers University.

**2013** Linguistics Graduate Student Association. Vice President. Rutgers University.

**2012** Colloquium Organizer. Co-organized Linguistics colloquium events for the 2012–2013 academic year. Rutgers University.

### *Conference*

**2011** LSA Annual Meeting. Student Volunteer.

**2010** Boston University Conference on Language Development 35 Co-organizer and Technology Chair.

**2009** BUCLD 34 Abstracts Chair and Handbook Chair.

## Other Education

### *Summer Programs*

**2010** 3L Summer School on Language Documentation and Description  
Leiden, Netherlands

**2010** Medumba Intensive Literacy Course  
Comité de Langue pour l’Etude et la Production des Œuvres Bamiléké-Medumba (CEPOM)  
Bangangté, Cameroon

**2009** LSA Summer Institute  
University of California, Berkeley

### *Awards*

**2017** (Nominated) Graduate Student Teaching Award

**2016** Mellon Summer Study Grant

**2014** Excellence Fellowship for doctoral study in Linguistics  
Rutgers University

**2014** Mellon Summer Study Grant

**2012** Excellence Fellowship for doctoral study in Linguistics  
Rutgers University

**2011** Excellence Fellowship for doctoral study in Linguistics  
Rutgers University

## **Skills**

### *Language*

English (native); Italian (intermediate to advanced); Medumba ([byv], Cameroon) (research and field knowledge); French, German (academic reading); ASL (basic)

### *Technical*

Praat, OTWorkplace, VBA, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X