

GIOIA CACCHIOLI, Ph.D.

📅 22 October 1991
Swiss / Italian

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🏛 Department of Linguistics
Université de Genève
2 rue De-Candolle, 1211 Genève 4 (CH)

🏛 Psycholinguistics & Speech-Therapy Research Unit
Université de Genève
Chemin de Pinchat 22, 1227 Carouge (CH)

RESEARCH PROFILE

Theoretical syntax and **comparative morphosyntax**, with a specialization in **Tigrinya** and **Ethio-Semitic languages**.
Extensive experience in **controlled elicitation** and **fieldwork** with **underdescribed languages**.
Research interests include **subordination**, **clause structure**, the **syntax-semantics interface**,
and **comparative approaches** to linguistic variation.
Additional research experience in **experimental linguistics** and **second language acquisition**,
including **empirical data collection**.

POSITIONS

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Faculty-funded postdoctoral fellowship awarded through a competitive selection process
Université de Genève, Department of Linguistics

08-2026 - **present**
(ends 07/2027)

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Swiss National Science Foundation [Project 212974](#): “First language acquisition and foreign language learning
in French-speaking children with DLD: Targeting grammar through explicit intervention” (P.I. Dr. Hélène Delage)
Université de Genève, Psycholinguistics & Speech-Therapy Research Unit

06-2026 - **present**
(ends 05/2027)

LECTURER

Université de Genève, Department of Linguistics

03-2026 - 07/2026

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Université de Genève, Department of Linguistics

08/2021 - 02/2026

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Université de Genève, Department of Linguistics

09/2020 - 07/2021

DEGREES

PH.D., LINGUISTICS Université de Genève

Thesis: “The Syntax of Clausal Prefixes in Tigrinya” Grade: *Summa Cum Laude* with Congratulations of the Committee

Supervisors: Ur Shlonsky, Eric Haeberli

Committee: Ruth Kramer, Jason Overfelt, Coppe van Urk, Tabea Ihsane

2026

SPECIALIZATION CERTIFICATE, LINGUISTICS Université de Genève

Thesis: “Tigrinya Restrictive Relative Clauses” Grade: 6/6

Supervisor: Ur Shlonsky

2019

M.A., ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE Université de Genève

Thesis: “Women’s Language and Female Characters: A Case Study of Gender-based Linguistic Differences in Novels” Grade: 6/6

Supervisor: Genoveva Puskás

2019

B.A., LINGUISTICS Université de Genève

2019

B.A., ARABIC STUDIES &

2016

B.A., ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE Université de Genève

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Cacchioli, Gioia, & Jason Overfelt. “The Syntax of Verbal Modality in Tigrinya”. *under review*
- Cacchioli, Gioia, & Ivano Caponigro. “Varieties of Headless Relative Clauses *to appear*
in Tigrinya”. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*.

- Cacchioli, Gioia. “The Tigrinya **zi-** prefix: A Morphological Reflex of Successive-Cyclic Movement”. *Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 15(1): 232-261. 2023
<https://doi.org/10.1163/18776930-01501004>

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Overfelt, Jason & Gioia Cacchioli. “Hyperagreement and Case-licensing in Tigrinya”. *to appear* *Selected Proceedings of the 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. McGill University. Montréal. Canada.
- Cacchioli, Gioia. “A note on Verum Focus in Tigrinya”. 2024
Language Use and Linguistic Structure: Proceedings of the Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium 2023, eds. Markéta Janebová, Michaela Čakányová, and Joseph Emonds. Olomouc: Palacký University. 24–41. DOI: www.doi.org/10.5507/f.24.24465081

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Cacchioli, Gioia. “Patterns of Subordination in Tigrinya”. *under review*
Subordination in Ethiopian Afroasiatic Languages, eds. Ronny Meyer, Anbessa Teferra and Chris H. Reintges.
- Cacchioli, Gioia, & Jason Overfelt. “Topics in the Syntax of Tigrinya”. *to appear*
Handbook of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics, eds. Karim Bensoukas, and Alireza Korangy. Springer Handbooks of Languages and Linguistics.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

- Cacchioli, Gioia. “Subjunctive Mood in Tigrinya?”. 2025
Generative Grammar in Geneva (GG@G): Studies in Honour of Genoveva Puskás, eds. Anne-Elisabeth Donzé, Eric Haeberli, Tabea Ihsane, and Wenli Tang. Geneva: Université de Genève, 29–40.
https://www.unige.ch/lettres/linge/syntaxe/journal/Volume12/3_Cacchioli.pdf

PH.D. THESIS

- Cacchioli, Gioia. “The Syntax of Clausal Prefixes in Tigrinya”. Université de Genève, Genève. 2026
<https://doi.org/10.13097/archive-ouverte/unige:191615>

MANUSCRIPTS

- Cacchioli, Gioia. “The Syntax of Negation in Tigrinya”. *in preparation*
- Cacchioli, Gioia. “Itinerant Relative Clauses in Tigrinya”. *in preparation*

TALKS

INVITED

- Is Tigrinya Negation Really Circumfixal?** *forthcoming*
Affixation in Afroasiatic Workshop (AfAf3). Princeton University. Princeton (NJ), U.S.
- Varieties of Headless Relative Clauses in Tigrinya** (joint work with Ivano Caponigro) 2026
Research Seminar of LLACAN (Langages, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique). CNRS Villejuif. Paris, France.
- Varieties of Headless Relative Clauses in Tigrinya** (joint work with Ivano Caponigro) 2026
Syntax and Semantics Babble. UC San Diego. California, U.S.. Online.
- Copular Clauses in Tigrinya** 2023
Structure of Ethio-Semitic Languages (Seminar). Oakland University. Michigan, U.S. Online.
- The Tigrinya **zə-** prefix: A Morphological Reflex of Successive-Cyclic Movement** 2022
Workshop on Prefixes vs Suffixes in Afroasiatic. CNRS Structures formelles du langage Laboratory. Paris, France.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Introduction to (Ethio)-Semitic Morphosyntax	2026
<i>Morphology, Syntax and the Semitic Languages</i> . Université de Genève. Geneva, Switzerland.	
Polar Questions in Tigrinya	2025
<i>Séminaire de Recherche en Linguistique</i> . Université de Genève. Geneva, Switzerland.	
The Syntax of Complement Clauses in Tigrinya	2025
<i>Language and Languages at the Crossroads of Disciplines (LLcD)</i> . Université de Lille. Lille, France.	
Subordination as Relativization in Tigrinya	2025
<i>BerlinBrnoVienna Workshop</i> . Masaryk University. Brno, Czech Republic.	
Issues in Tigrinya Syntax	2025
<i>PhD Day of Swiss Linguistics</i> . Université de Lausanne. Lausanne, Switzerland.	
The Syntax of Sentential Negation in Tigrinya	2024
<i>Sentential Negation Across the Globe (SNAG)</i> . Université Paris Cité. Paris, France.	
The Syntax of Sentential Negation in Tigrinya	2024
<i>BerlinBrnoVienna Workshop</i> . Masaryk University. Brno. Czech Republic.	
Hyperagreement and Case-licensing in Tigrinya with Jason Overfelt	2024
<i>The 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 55)</i> . McGill University. Montreal, Canada.	
Copular Clauses in Tigrinya	2024
<i>PhD Day of Swiss Linguistics</i> . Universität Bern. Bern, Switzerland.	
The Syntax of Modality in Tigrinya with Jason Overfelt.	2023
<i>16th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis</i> . Masaryk University. Brno, Czech Republic.	
The Syntax of Modality in Tigrinya with Jason Overfelt.	2023
<i>Séminaire de Recherche en Linguistique</i> . Université de Genève. Geneva, Switzerland.	
Verum Focus in Tigrinya	2023
<i>The Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium</i> . Palacký University. Czech Republic.	
The Tigrinya Relative Clause with Bahareh Samimi & Ur Shlonsky	2018
<i>2nd BRILL's Journal of Afro-Asiatic Languages and Linguistics International Conference</i> . Université de Nantes. Nantes, France.	
The Tigrinya Relative Clause with Bahareh Samimi & Ur Shlonsky	2018
<i>Séminaire de Recherche en Linguistique</i> . Université de Genève. Geneva, Switzerland.	

POSTERS

Subordination as relativization: Evidence from Tigrinya	2026
<i>Rencontres Autour de la Linguistique Formelle (RALFe)</i> . Université Paris 8. Paris, France.	
The morphosyntax of sentential complementation in Tigrinya:	2023
Subordination as relativization with Ur Shlonsky	
<i>48^{imo} Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG48)</i> . University of Florence. Florence, Italy.	
The Tigrinya zə- prefix: A Morphological Reflex of Successive-Cyclic Movement	2022
<i>47^{imo} Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG47)</i> . University of Catania. Catania, Italy.	

TEACHING

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology (taught in French)	Spring Semester 2026
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Danfeng Wu	
Introduction to the Science of Language (taught in French)	Fall Semester 2025
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Isabelle Charnavel	
Introduction to the Science of Language (taught in French)	Fall Semester 2024
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Isabelle Charnavel	
Language and its Structure (taught in French)	Spring Semester 2024
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Dr. Giuseppe Samo	
Introduction to the Science of Language (taught in French)	Fall Semester 2023
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Isabelle Charnavel	
Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics (taught in French)	Academic Year 2022-2023
BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Isabelle Charnavel	

Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics (taught in French)

BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Isabelle Charnavel

Academic Year 2021-2022

Syntactic Cartography (taught in French)

BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Ur Shlonsky

Spring Semester 2021

Theoretical Syntax (taught in French)

BA Level - UNIGE; Primary Instructor: Prof. Ur Shlonsky

Fall Semester 2021

MENTORING**PH.D. THESIS ADVISING**

Tsefaldet Gebremedhin, University of Pretoria (South Africa), Faculty of Theology and Religion

present

Title: "Readability and Accuracy in the Tigrinya Bible Translation"

MASTER'S THESIS ADVISING

Svitlana Salova, UNIGE, Department of English Language & Literature

present

Amélia Modupè Peters, UNIGE, Department of English Language & Literature

present

Léa Fleischmann, UNIGE, Department of Psycholinguistics and Speech-Therapy

present

Lara Taimi, UNIGE, Department of Psycholinguistics and Speech-Therapy

present

Alicia Ericsson, UNIGE, Department of Psycholinguistics and Speech-Therapy

present

Catherine Hunt-Giboin, UNIGE, Department of English Language & Literature

present**MASTER'S THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Cloé Pasche, UNIGE, Department of Psycholinguistics and Speech-Therapy

September 2026

Yoon Shin, UNIGE, Department of Linguistics

June 2026

Yery Mendoza, UNIGE, Department of Linguistics

June 2025

Stéphanie Pereira Gomes, UNIGE, Department of English Language & Literature

June 2024

SERVICE**REVIEWING***Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (article reviewer)*ad hoc**The Linguistic Review* (article reviewer)*ad hoc**Brill's Journal of Afro-Asiatic Languages and Linguistics* (article reviewer)*ad hoc**DM meets Nano* (abstract reviewer)

2026

DEPARTMENTAL**Assistants' & Lecturers' Representative, *Commission Mixte***

09/2022 - 06/2024

Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève

Member, Nomination Committee for a Student Assistant (*ARE*)

05/2024

Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève

Member, Nomination Committee for a Professor in Syntax

05/2023 - 10/2023

Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève

Member, Nomination Committee of Tabea Ihsane

05/2023

As Associate Professor (*Nomination par appel*)

Department of Linguistics & Department of English Language and Literature, Université de Genève

Website Manager

09/2022 - 06/2023

Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève

Research Seminar Organizer and Chair

08/2020 - 07/2022

Department of Linguistics, Université de Genève

Students' Representative, *Commission Mixte*

09/2014 - 02/2019

Department of English Language & Literature, Université de Genève

ORGANIZATIONS

Member, Scientific Committee of the Linguistics Doctoral Program of CUSO (<i>Conférences Universitaires de la Suisse Occidentale</i>), Switzerland	08/2023 - 02/2026
Vice-president, AELCA (<i>Association d'Etudiants en Langue et Civilisation Arabes</i>) Université de Genève	09/2014 - 06/2016
Accounts Auditor, UniART (<i>Association d'Artistes à l'UNIGE</i>) Université de Genève	09/2017 - 09/2020

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

Organizer, Workshop, <i>Morphology, Syntax and The Semitic Languages</i> Université de Genève	2026
Organizer, Doctoral School, <i>Latex for Linguists: A Hands-On Workshop</i> Université de Genève	2025

LANGUAGE CONSULTING

On Tigrinya Grammar <i>Consultant on Tigrinya grammar and morphosyntax</i> Dr. Nathalie Dherbey Chapuis - Institut de Plurilinguisme, Université de Fribourg (Switzerland)	2023
On Tigrinya Morpho-Syntax <i>Consultant on Tigrinya data used in:</i> Franck Julie & Despina Papadopoulou. (2022). "L2 French learning by Eritrean refugee speakers of Tigrinya". <i>Bilingualism: Language and Cognition</i> 25, 631–644.	2021

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Podcast "Tigrinya and Gioia Cacchioli" Episode 14 of <i>A Language I love is...</i> of Danny Bate Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/episode/4jzWLDtlo9ga129aOrsx7u?si=f03499ce44d24727	2023
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LANGUAGES

ITALIAN	Native Speaker	TIGRINYA	Advanced (grammar)
FRENCH	Proficiency (C2)	ARABIC	Advanced (grammar)
ENGLISH	Proficiency (C2)	AMHARIC	Beginner (grammar)
GERMAN	Elementary (A2)	LATIN	High School Level
ARABIC	Beginner (A1)		

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL SKILLS

<i>Google Project Management</i> Google (Coursera)	ongoing
<i>Crash Course on Python</i> Google (Coursera)	ongoing
<i>SQL Fundamentals for Data Analysts</i> Corporate Finance Institute (Coursera)	ongoing
<i>Tableau Fundamentals</i> Corporate Finance Institute (Coursera)	ongoing
<i>Arabic for Beginners: Arabic Alphabet and Phonology</i> Khalifa University (Coursera)	2026
<i>Machine Learning for Everyone</i> IBM (Coursera)	2025
<i>Basic Statistics</i> University of Amsterdam (Coursera)	2025
<i>Introduction to Generative AI</i> Google Cloud (Coursera)	2025
<i>Certificate in Advanced English</i> Cambridge	2013

TEX (fluent); R, SQL, PYTHON, HTML, PRAAT (basic)

REFERENCES

Professor **Ur Shlonsky** (for research)
Département de Linguistique, Université de Genève
ur.shlonsky@unige.ch

Professor **Ruth Kramer** (for research)
Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University
rtk8@georgetown.edu

Professor **Jason Overfelt** (for research)
Department of Linguistics, Oakland University
overfelt@oakland.edu

Doctor **Coppe van Urk** (for research)
Lang., Ling. and Film Dept., Queen Mary University of London
c.vanurk@qmul.ac.uk

Professor **Isabelle Charnavel** (for teaching)
Département de Linguistique, Université de Genève
isabelle.charnavel@unige.ch