

## DAVID BLUNIER PhD

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### Areas of interest

*Areas of specialization:* Formal semantics and pragmatics, morphology, sign language linguistics

*Areas of competence:* Syntax, pragmatics of narratives, philosophy of language

### Employment

Lecturer in linguistics, University of Poitiers, France 2024 -

### Education

PhD in linguistics, University of Geneva, Switzerland 2024

M.A. in French literature and linguistics, University of Geneva, Switzerland 2019

Certificate of Specialization in Linguistics, University of Geneva, Switzerland 2018

M.A. in Philosophy, École Normale Supérieure, Lyon, France 2013

B.Sc. in Psychology, University of Lausanne, Switzerland 2011

### Publications

#### Dissertation

Persons with a view. Indexicals in reported speech and beyond. University of Geneva, 2024.

*Advisors: Isabelle Charneval (Geneva), Yasutada Sudo (University College London).*

**Winner - 2025 Charles Bally Prize, Academic Society of Geneva**

#### Manuscripts

Disjointness inferences in logophoric contexts. On the competition of pronouns in attitude reports. Ms (submitted), Université de Poitiers.

(with Evgeniia Khristoforova) Interpreting indexicals under Role Shift in Sign Language of the Netherlands: experimental insights. Ms (submitted), Université de Poitiers and Universität zu Köln.

Le discours indirect libre comme épiphénomène linguistique. Ms, University of Geneva.

Elided indexicals. Ms., University of Geneva.

## Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

1. Khristoforova, Evgeniia & Blunier, David (2023). Indexicals under role shift in Sign Language of the Netherlands. *Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST) 10*.
2. Blunier, David (2022). Antipresuppositions, logophors and shifted indexicality. *Proceedings of the 2022 Amsterdam Colloquium*.
3. Blunier, David & Zorzi, Giorgia (2021). Catalan Sign Language ellipsis, role shift, and the QUD. *Proceedings of Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST) 9*.
4. Blunier, David (2021). Armenian speech reports: blurring the quotative line. *Proceedings of Penn Linguistics Conference 45*.
5. Blunier, David (2019). Indexicaux diégétiques. *Cahiers de linguistique française 33*.

## Talks

### Peer-reviewed conferences

1. (with L. Couteau) Reduplication as intensification. Evidence from French Sign Language.
  - Talk at CSSP (*Colloque de Syntaxe et de Sémantique à Paris*), November 12-14, 2025, Université Paris 8.
  - Talk at *Sinn und Bedeutung 30*, September 23-27, Goethe Universität Frankfurt.
2. *Un étrange cas d'ellipse, mais pas que*. Diagnosing a new elliptical construction in French.
  - Talk at CSSP (*Colloque de Syntaxe et de Sémantique à Paris*), November 12-14, 2025, Université Paris 8.
  - Poster at *Sinn und Bedeutung 30*, September 23-27, Goethe Universität Frankfurt.
3. Split indexicality.
  - *Mismatches in anaphoric relations* (Research Network on Referential Expressions in Discourse (RED). May 29-30, 2025, University of Graz, Austria.
  - Workshop *Special definites, demonstratives, and pronouns*. November 16, 2024, University of Bucharest, Romania.
  - Workshop *Varieties of Perspective Shift*. June 7, 2024, Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.
  - Research seminar, Université Nice Côte d'Azur (invited talk). April 12, 2024.
4. (with J. Khristoforova) Indexicals under role shift in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT): experimental insights

- *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory (FEAST) 10*. University of Bergen, Norway, June 29, 2023.
  - *Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium*. June 12, 2023, University of Olomouc, Czech Republic.
  - *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 46* (poster, references). April 13, 2023, University of Vienna, Austria.
  - *18th Workshop on Syntax, Semantics and Phonology (WOSSP)*. October 20-21, 2022, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.
5. The pragmatics of shifted reference (poster, references). *Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium*, June 10, 2023, University of Olomouc, Czech Republic.
6. A unified analysis of shifted indexicals and logophoric pronouns
- *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 46*. April 11, 2023, University of Graz, Austria.
  - *23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*. December 19–21, 2022, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
7. Rethinking quotation, cross-linguistically
- Workshop *Cross-disciplinary perspectives on quoting and speech reporting*. October 7, 2022, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.
8. Armenian speech reports: blurring the quotative line. *Penn Linguistics Conference 45*, March 19-21, 2021, Pennsylvania State University, USA.
9. (with G. Zorzi) Catalan Sign Language ellipsis, role shift, and the QUD
- *Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST) 9*. June 1-4, 2021, Hong-Kong University.
  - *30th Colloquium of Generative Grammar (30CGG)*. May 12-14, 2021, University of Oviedo, Spain.
  - *46th Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG 46)* (poster, references). February 25-27, 2021, University of Siena, Italy.
  - GLIF seminar, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain (invited talk).
  - Workshop *QUDs and exhaustivity: experiments, computation, and theory*. September 25, 2020, University of Graz, Austria.
10. Indexical shift in Modern Eastern Armenian
- *ConSOLE 29* (poster, references). January 26-28 2021, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, The Netherlands.
  - *International Cyprus Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (ICULC)*. November 28-29, 2020, University of Cyprus, Greece.
11. (with A. Mari, S. Bourgeois-Gironde, D. Nicolas) Grammatical mood and ambiguity aversion. *10th International Conference of Experimental Linguistics (ExLing)*, September 25-27, 2019, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

## Teaching

### As Primary Instructor

1. University of Poitiers, France
  - Introduction to formal semantics (undergraduate course), Spring 2025.
  - Introduction to linguistic typology and fieldwork (undergraduate course), Spring 2025.
  - Introduction to sign language linguistics (undergraduate course), Fall 2024.
  - Evolutionary perspectives on language (undergraduate course), Fall 2024.

### As Teaching Assistant

1. University of Poitiers, France
  - Introduction to morphology (undergraduate course), Spring 2025.
  - Introduction to linguistics (undergraduate course), Fall 2024.
2. University of Geneva, Switzerland
  - Introduction to linguistics (undergraduate course), Prof. Isabelle Charnavel, Fall 2022-Fall 2024.
  - Introduction to linguistics (undergraduate course), Prof. Ur Shlonsky, Fall 2019-Fall 2021.
  - Introduction to linguistics (undergraduate course), Prof. Jacques Moeschler, Fall 2017-Fall 2018.

## Academic service

### Reviewing

- *Linguistics and Philosophy*
- *Journal of Semantics*

### Project managing

1. Coordinator, *Langage & Communication* Research group. University of Geneva, September 2017 - September 2019 (General supervision: Prof. Jacques Moeschler).

## Conference and workshop organizing

### As main organizer

1. CUSO workshop *Experimental approaches to meaning*. November 7-10, 2023, University of Geneva. Invited speakers: Stavroula Alexandropoulou (UCL), Yasutada Sudo (UCL).
2. *Sign Languages and Linguistics in Geneva, 1st edition*. November 16-19, 2021, University of Geneva. Invited speakers: Vadim Kimmelman (Bergen), Giorgia Zorzi (Bergen), Cindy van Boven (Amsterdam), Jenia Khristoforova (Amsterdam), Bastien David (Geneva).
3. Conference Langage & Communication: enjeux et impacts sociétaux. September 3-4, 2019, University of Geneva.
4. *Variation in form and meaning (VariaForMea)* graduate school. May 13-19, 2019, Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale (Procida), Italy. Invited speakers: Valentina Bianchi (Siena), Tatjana Nazir (ISC Lyon), Monica Martinat (Lyon), Anne Reboul (ISC Lyon), Deirdre Wilson (UCL), Julien Musolino (Rutgers).
5. *Variation in form and meaning (VariaForMea)* graduate school. November 27-29, 2017, Biel, Switzerland. Invited speakers: Liliane Haegeman (Gent), Diana Mazzarella (Neuchâtel), Nausicaa Pouscoulous (UCL).

### As co-organizer

1. (with Genovevá Puskas) CUSO workshop *The syntax-pragmatics interface*. September 22-24, 2021, Château-d'Oex, Switzerland. Invited speakers: Eva Wittenberg (CEU Budapest), Andreas Trotzke (Konstanz).
2. (with Hasmik Jivanyan) CUSO workshop *The linguistic analysis of modality and mood*. June 24-25, 2019, University of Geneva, Switzerland. Invited speakers: Anastasia Giannakidou (University of Chicago), Jason Merchant (University of Chicago)
3. (with Lucas Tual) CUSO workshop *Going formal!*. June 15-16, 2017, University of Geneva, Switzerland. Invited speakers: Benjamin Spector (ENS, CNRS), Emmanuel Chemla (ENS, CNRS).

## Graduate schools

1. Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG). July 22-August 2, 2024, University of Brasov, Romania.
2. ESSLi 2021. July 26-August 13, 2021, University of Bolzano, Italy.
3. FieldLing 2020. September 7-11, 2020, Université Paris-VII, France.
4. NCCR 'Evolving Language' summer school. September 2-5, 2020, Les Diablerets, Switzerland.

5. CreteLing 2019. July 2019, University of Rethymnon, Greece.
6. Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG). July 30 - August 10, 2018, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
7. SIGN-HUB & CNRS Summer School in Sign Language Linguistics. June 11-15, 2018, Como, Italy.
8. Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG). July 24 - August 4, 2017, Olomouc, Czech Republic.
9. Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG). July 23 - August 10, 2016, Lagodekhi, Georgia.

## Academic references

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| 1. Professor Isabelle Charneval<br>University of Geneva, Department of<br>Linguistics<br>isabelle.charneval@unige.ch | 4. Professor Emar Maier<br>Department of Philosophy, University<br>of Groningen<br>e.maier@rug.nl                  |
| 2. Professor Yasutada Sudo<br>University College London, Department<br>of Linguistics<br>y.sudo@ucl.ac.uk            | 5. Professor Jacques Moeschler<br>University of Geneva, Department of<br>Linguistics<br>jacques.moeschler@unige.ch |
| 3. Dr. Jeremy Kuhn<br>Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale<br>Supérieure, Paris<br>jeremy.d.kuhn@gmail.com             |  |

## Miscellaneous

1. Iphilo, editor-in-chief  
February 2015 - December 2017, University of Geneva, Switzerland.  
*For three years, I was responsible of a student-reviewed philosophy journal in the analytic tradition, Iphilo. The publishing activities included: selection of contributors to the journal, survey of the reviewing process, management of the visual (texts and layouts), survey of the printing process. I also published two small but fun articles in various issues (in French), one on epistemology and another on indexicals.*
2. Aefram, chairman  
November 2016 - December 2018, University of Geneva, Switzerland.  
*I have been chairman of the French Department's student association (Aefram) at the University of Geneva, which organized various gatherings and workshops.*

## About me

During my free time, I entertain various hobbies like gymnastics, calisthenics, yoga, dancing and lyrical singing; I am fond of opera, which I enjoy both off- and onstage, having been regularly cast as an actor and/or dancer in various productions in Geneva and Lausanne houses. My last show (onstage) was Claudio Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, by Antwerp collective FC Bergman. I have also been working (offstage) as an intern assistant-stage director for Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's production of Mozart's *Idomeneo* (Grand Théâtre de Genève, 2024), and as a stage manager for Mariame Clément's production of Gaetano Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* (Grand Théâtre de Genève, 2024).

I am the proudest father of a beautiful little Diane, who was born on December 9th, 2025, whom I had together with my wife, Italian soprano Federica Lombardi.

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