

Maša Bešlin

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Education

- 2019– **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, *University of Maryland*.
DISSERTATION TITLE:
“Lexical categories, (re)categorization, and locality in morphosyntax”
Advisors: Dr. Maria Polinsky (UMD) and Dr. David Embick (UPenn)
Expected completion: DECEMBER 2024
- 2015–2019 **B.A. in English Language and Literature**, *University of Novi Sad*.
2016 **Erasmus+ Student Mobility Program**, *University of Deusto*.

Research Interests

- BROAD syntax and its interfaces with phonology and semantics, cognitive science
NARROW (mixed) categories, locality, raising, case, bare-NP adverbials, NP/DP debate, argument/event structure, grammatical aspect, tense, Slavic, Mayan

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- in prep* **Bešlin, Maša**. Reconsidering Phase-based locality.
- in prep* **Bešlin, Maša**. Apparent Voice mismatches in K’iche’ Ellipsis: Consequences for the Syntactic Identity Condition and theories of features.
- accepted* **Bešlin, Maša**. Active participles are (deverbal) adjectives. *Journal of Linguistics*.
- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša**. Revisiting passive participles: Category status and internal structure. *Linguistic Inquiry* 54 (4), 729-758.

PROCEEDINGS

- in prep* **Bešlin, Maša**. What *actually* delimits the domain of allomorphy?. In *Proceedings of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 55)*.
- in press* **Bešlin, Maša**. On the incompatibility of two types of phases. In *Proceedings of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 54)*. MIT: MIT press.
- in press* **Bešlin, Maša**. DP in a model NP language: Evidence from Serbo-Croatian personal pronouns. In *Proceedings of the Israeli Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL 36)*, MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2024 Milićev, Tanja and **Maša Bešlin**. Word order in Old English embedded clauses: Syntactic instantiation and pragmatic factors. In *Proceedings of ELALT 6*, Annual Review of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad.

- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Reanalyzing K'iche' as a tensed language. In J. A. G. Douglas-Tavani & G. Belmar Viernes (eds.), *Proceedings of the Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 25)*, UC Santa Barbara Linguistics Department.
- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Passive *vP* is not phasal in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (PLSA)* 8(1). 5499.
- 2022 **Bešlin, Maša.** Raising as a free syntactic operation: Evidence from Serbian. In P. Kovačević, T. Milićev, & N. Milićević (eds.), *Proceedings of SinFonIJA 14, Annual Review of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad*. 63–86. University of Novi Sad: Faculty of Philosophy.
- 2019 Milićev, Tanja and **Maša Bešlin.** Instrumental: Why it is absent from the clitic system in Serbian/Croatian. In V. Lopičić & B. Mišić-Ilić (eds.), *Proceedings of Jezik, književnost, teorija*. 153–168. University of Niš: Faculty of Philosophy.

VOLUMES EDITED

- under contract* **Bešlin, Maša,** Katherine Howitt, Alexandra Krauska, Luisa Seguin, and Juan Uriagereka. *Structured sentences and the computational theory of mind*. Cambridge University Press.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Exceptives in K'iche'. In *Variation in Exceptive Structures*. Zenodo. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.8059592
- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Exceptives in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. In *Variation in Exceptive Structures*. Zenodo. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7851016.

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** What's up with 'verbal' morphology inside BCS agent nominals? *Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL 17)*, Masaryk University, Brno.
- 2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** Is a unified locality theory nothing but a pipe dream? (And why that may not be such a bad thing). *Yale Syntax Reading Group*, Yale University.
- 2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** Understanding the role of lexical categories in syntax and semantics. *Institute of Linguistics*, Leipzig University.
- 2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** What's in Universal Grammar? On participles and the inventory of grammatical primitives. Presented at:
 - *Princeton Linguistics Colloquium Series*, Princeton University
 - *UW-Madison Language Sciences Colloquium*, UW-Madison
 - *University of Florida Linguistics Colloquium*, University of Florida
- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Domain mismatches in syntax and morphophonology: Consequences for Phase theory. *SynNYU workshop*, NYU.
- 2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** The Darwin-Plato tension, grammatical primitives, and linguistic principles. *Theoretical and Experimental Syntax Colloquium Series*, Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics.

2021 **Bešlin, Maša.** A Mayan temporal puzzle. *Berkeley Syntax and Semantics Circle*, University of California, Berkeley.

CONFERENCE TALKS

2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** What *actually* delimits the context for allomorphy?. *North East Linguistics Society 55* (NELS 55), Yale University.

2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** Apparent Voice mismatches in K'iche' ellipsis: Consequences for the Syntactic Identity Condition. *Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi VII)*, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

2024 **Bešlin, Maša.** Domain mismatches in syntax and morphophonology: The case of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian adjectives (poster). *North East Linguistics Society 54* (NELS 54), Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Distinct locality domains above and below the 'word' level: Evidence from Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian adjectives. *Rencontres d'Automne de Linguistique Formelle (RALFE)*, Université Côte d'Azur.

2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Temporal interpretation in K'iche'. *Workshop on American Indigenous Languages 25* (WAIL 25), UC Santa Barbara.

2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Reanalyzing K'iche' (Mayan) as a Tensed language. *The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting* (online).

2023 **Bešlin, Maša.** Passive vP is not phasal in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. *Linguistic Society of America 97th Annual Meeting* (LSA 97), Denver, CO.

2022 Milićev, Tanja and **Maša Bešlin.** Embedded clauses in Old English: Between syntax and pragmatics. *Formal Approaches to Embedding workshop, English Language and Anglophone Literatures Today 6* (ELALT 6), University of Novi Sad.

2021 **Bešlin, Maša.** On raising-to-subject as a free syntactic operation. *Crossing boundaries: Empirical and theoretical aspects of A-dependencies in complementation workshop, 46th Austrian Linguistics Conference* (ÖLT 46), University of Vienna (online).

2021 **Bešlin, Maša.** On personal and impersonal *trebati* 'need' in Serbo-Croatian: Implications for raising. *14th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis* (SinFonIJA 14), University of Novi Sad (online).

2021 **Bešlin, Maša.** On the distribution of full object-pronouns in Serbo-Croatian. *16th Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society* (SLS 16), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (online).

2021 **Bešlin, Maša.** DP in a model NP language: Evidence from Serbo-Croatian personal pronouns. *36th Annual Conference of the Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics* (IATL 36), Bar Ilan University (online).

2020 **Bešlin, Maša.** Encoding the eventive/resultative/stative distinction on passive participles cross-linguistically. *13th Conference on Syntax, Phonology, and Language Analysis* (SinFonIJA 13), Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (online).

2020 **Bešlin, Maša.** No such thing as a *verbal participle*. *14th European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages* (FDSL 14), University of Leipzig (online), moved to June 2021 due to COVID-19.

- 2020 **Bešlin, Maša.** What's in a name? The syntax of passive participles. *15th Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS 15)*, Indiana University Bloomington (online).
- 2019 **Bešlin, Maša.** On the categorial status of the passive participle in Serbo-Croatian. *Novi Sad Linguistic Colloquium 9*, University of Novi Sad.
- 2019 Milićev, Tanja and **Maša Bešlin.** Case alternations with temporal bare-NP adverbials in Old English. *English Language and Anglophone Literatures Today 5 (ELALT 5)*, University of Novi Sad.
- 2018 **Bešlin, Maša.** How often is *subotom*? Some observations on temporal instrumentals in Serbo-Croatian. *Novi Sad Linguistic Colloquium 8*, University of Novi Sad.
- 2018 **Bešlin, Maša** and Predrag Kovačević. An argument in favor of a rescue-by-PF-deletion analysis of P-stranding under sluicing in Serbo-Croatian. *EGG School Open Podium*, University of Banja Luka.
- 2018 Milićev, Tanja and **Maša Bešlin.** Instrumental: A curious gap in the clitic system. *Jezik, književnost, teorija*, University of Niš.
- 2017 **Bešlin, Maša.** The case of temporal bare-NP adverbials in Serbo-Croatian. *Novi Sad Linguistic Colloquium 7*, University of Novi Sad.

Awards and Honors

- 2024 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, UMD
- 2023 Howard Lasnik Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student
- 2023 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, UMD
- 2023 Southeast European Studies Association Travel Grant
- 2022 Charles E. Townsend Memorial Award for outstanding scientific contribution to the Slavic Linguistics Society
- 2022 College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Award, UMD
- 2022 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, UMD
- 2021 Honorable Mention: Charles E. Townsend Memorial Award, Slavic Linguistics Society
- 2020 Honorable Mention: Charles E. Townsend Memorial Award, Slavic Linguistics Society
- 2020–2024 Dean's Fellowship, UMD
- 2019–2020 University Fellowship, UMD
- 2018–2019 Serbian Government Scholarship for Gifted Students
- 2017–2018 Serbian Government Scholarship for Undergraduate Students
- 2016 Erasmus+ Scholarship
- 2014–2015 Woodhouse Grove School Academic Scholarship
- 2013–2014 The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) Projects in Central and Eastern Europe Scholarship

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTION

- FALL 2022 **LING 420 *Word Formation***, UMD
 DUTIES: designing and teaching a seminar-style class with 15 students, mentoring the students on their final research papers, grading, office hours
- JULY 2022 ***Introduction to Generative Syntax***, NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive and Linguistic Studies (online), with Dr. Paulina Lyskawa
 DUTIES: teaching a two-week class with 80 students, office hours
- JAN 2022 ***Introduction to Generative Syntax***, NY–St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (online), with Dr. Paulina Lyskawa
 DUTIES: teaching a two-week class with 60 students, office hours
- ASSISTANTSHIP
- FALL 2024 **LING 240 *Language and Mind***, UMD
 DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Margaret Antonisse
- JULY 2022 ***Verb-initial languages (emphasis on Austronesian and Mayan)***, The 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics (CreteLing)
 DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Maria Polinsky
- SPRING 2022 **LING 312 *Syntax II***, UMD
 DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Omer Preminger
- FALL 2021 **LING 311 *Syntax I***, UMD
 DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tonia Bleam
- JULY 2021 ***Introduction to Generative Syntax***, NY–St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (online)
 DUTIES: handling Zoom chat/issues, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Omer Preminger
- SPRING 2021 **LING 200 *Introductory Linguistics***, UMD (online)
 DUTIES: leading 3 weekly discussion sections, grading, office hours
 INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tonia Bleam

GUEST LECTURING

- DEC 2020 *Theory and Methodology in Morphological Analysis: A Case Study of Passive Participles*, Theoretical Grammar undergraduate seminar, University of Novi Sad
 Instructor: Dr. Tanja Milićev

Research Assistantship

- FALL 2024 Variation in Exceptive Structures NSF-funded project
 PIs: Dr. Maria Polinsky & Dr. Eric Potsdam
 DUTIES: mentoring two students in conducting fieldwork and writing up their findings on Thai and Korean exceptive constructions
- SPRING 2023 Variation in Exceptive Structures NSF-funded project
 PIs: Dr. Maria Polinsky & Dr. Eric Potsdam
 DUTIES: investigating the lexical, morphological, and syntactic properties of exceptives in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (native) and K'iche' (fieldwork)

Schools and Workshops

- 2024 *NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive, and Linguistic Studies*, online
2023 *NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive, and Linguistic Studies*, online
2023 *Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School*, University of Novi Sad
2022 *The 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics*, University of Crete
2021 *Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School*, online
2021 *NY-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture*, online
2021 *Ri K'iche' Tijob'al Keb' Tz'i'*, online intensive 2-week course in K'iche', co-organized by UMD, University of Toronto and Wuqu' Kawoq
2020 *Kab'lajuj Ey 2020*, intensive 2-week course in Kaqchikel at the UMD Language Science Center's Guatemala Field Station in Patzún, Guatemala
2019 *Introduction to Statistics: R*, University of Novi Sad
2018 *Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School*, University of Banja Luka
2018 *6th Novi Sad Workshop on Psycholinguistic, Neurolinguistic and Clinical Linguistic Research*, University of Novi Sad
2017 *Eastern Generative Grammar Summer School*, Palacký University Olomouc
2017 *Introduction to Neurolinguistics*, University of Novi Sad

Service

REVIEWING

Journals

Annual Review of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad

Catalan Journal of Linguistics

Folia Linguistica

Glossa: A journal of general linguistics

Journal of Slavic Linguistics

Linguistica Brunensia

Linguistic Inquiry

Books

Advances in Formal Slavic Linguistics 2023, Language Science Press

Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax, CUP

Semantics of Slavic Languages, Language Science Press

Conferences

Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL 17)

Syntax, Phonology, and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA) 14, 16, & 17

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas Annual Meeting (SSILA 2025)

OTHER SERVICE

2022– Proofreader for Language Science Press

2024 Co-organizer for *Mayfest 2024* in honor of Masha Polinsky, UMD

- 2023 Co-organizer for *Mayfest 2023* in honor of Howard Lasnik, UMD
- 2022 Co-organizer for *Mayfest 2020(+2)* in honor of Norbert Hornstein, UMD
- 2022 Volunteer at *Maryland Day*, open house at UMD for the local community
- 2022 Proctor for the *North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad*
- 2021–2023 Student Representative for the Linguistics department, Dean’s Graduate Advisory Board, UMD
- 2021 Co-organizer for *Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis 14 (SinFonIJA 14)*, University of Novi Sad (online)
- 2020–2021 Co-organizer, General Linguistics Lab Meeting, UMD
- 2018 Co-author and coordinator of the *Universal Grammar and Language Ability* workshop at the International Festival of Science and Education, University of Novi Sad
- 2017 Volunteer at the International Festival of Science and Education, University of Novi Sad. WORKSHOPS: *When Pigs Fly, What Type of Linguist Are You, Aphasia: When Language Goes Bad*

Work Experience

- 2015– Freelance translator for the following language combinations:
English>Serbian, Spanish>Serbian, Serbian>English
- 2018 Interpreter (Spanish>Serbian, Serbian>Spanish) at *Koteks Viscofan* in Novi Sad, Serbia
- 2016–2019 Tutor for the courses English grammar 3, English Grammar 4, Generative Syntax 1 and Generative Syntax 2 at the University of Novi Sad
- 2015–2018 Freelance language teacher for English and Spanish

Professional Membership

- 2022– Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA)
- 2020– Linguistic Society of America (LSA)
- 2020– Slavic Linguistics Society (SLS)

Technical Skills

MS Office, PsychoPy, SPSS, L^AT_EX

Languages

- native* Serbian (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian)
- fluent* English, Spanish
- beginner* German
- fieldwork* K’iche’

References (in order)

Professor Maria Polinsky

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Professor David Embick

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Professor Norbert Hornstein

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Dr. Tonia Bleam

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Dr. Omer Preminger

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