

# Maša Bešlin

University of Maryland  
1407B Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD

✉ [mbeslin@umd.edu](mailto:mbeslin@umd.edu)  
🏠 [masabeslin.com](http://masabeslin.com)

---

## 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* (SinFonJA 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* (SinFonJA 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

---

## Languages

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

## References (in order)

**Professor Maria Polinsky**

University of Maryland  
1417A Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
[polinsky@umd.edu](mailto:polinsky@umd.edu)

**Professor David Embick**

University of Pennsylvania  
3401-C Walnut Street, Suite 300C  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228  
[embick@ling.upenn.edu](mailto:embick@ling.upenn.edu)

**Professor Norbert Hornstein**

University of Maryland  
3416G Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
[nhornste@umd.edu](mailto:nhornste@umd.edu)

**Dr. Tonia Bleam**

University of Maryland  
1401E Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
[tbleam@umd.edu](mailto:tbleam@umd.edu)

**Associate Professor Tanja Milićev**

University of Novi Sad  
Dr Zorana Đinđića 2,  
21000 Novi Sad  
[tanja.milicev@ff.uns.ac.rs](mailto:tanja.milicev@ff.uns.ac.rs)

**Dr. Omer Preminger**

ID.me, previously Associate Professor  
at the University of Maryland  
[omer@preminger.xyz](mailto:omer@preminger.xyz)

*CV Last Updated: October 10, 2024*