

Jessica Coon

CONTACT INFORMATION

MIT
Department of Linguistics
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Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. in Linguistics (expected 2010)

Reed College, Portland, OR

B.A., Linguistics–Anthropology, May 2004

Thesis: ‘Roots and Words in Chol Mayan: A Distributed Morphology Approach’
Advisor: Gülşat Aygen

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS)-Sureste, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México

Visiting Scholar, Fall 2008

LSA Institute, Cambridge, MA

Summer 2005

LSA Institute, Santa Barbara, CA

Summer 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications

to appear Coon, Jessica. ‘Rethinking Split Ergativity in Chol.’ To appear in *International Journal of American Linguistics*.

in press Coon, Jessica. ‘VOS as predicate fronting in Chol Mayan.’ To appear in *Lingua* (estimated early 2010).

2009 Gallagher, Gillian and Jessica Coon. ‘Distinguishing Total and Partial Identity: Evidence from Chol.’ *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 27, 3: 545–582.

2009 Coon, Jessica. ‘Comments on Austronesian Nominalism: A Mayan Perspective.’ *Theoretical Linguistics* 35, 1: 73–93.

2009 Coon, Jessica. ‘Interrogative possessors and the problem with pied-piping in Chol.’ *Linguistic Inquiry* 40, 1: 165–175

Volumes edited

2009 Avelino, Heriberto, Jessica Coon, and Elisabeth Norcliffe (eds). *New Perspectives in Mayan Linguistics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Working Papers in Linguistics, volume 59.

Papers in proceedings

- to appear Coon, Jessica. 'A Biclausal Analysis of Aspect Based Split Ergativity.' To appear in *WSCLA 2009: Proceedings of the Workshop on Structure and Constituency of Languages of the Americas*, ed. Heather Bliss and Amelia Reis Silva. Vancouver, BC: UBC Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2009 Coon, Jessica and Gillian Gallagher. 'Similarity and Correspondence in Chol Roots.' In *NELS 38: Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society*, ed. Anisa Schardl, Martin Walkow and Muhammad Abdurrahman, 203–216. Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- 2009 Coon, Jessica and Andrés Salanova. 'Nominalization and Predicate Fronting: Two Sources of Ergativity.' In *PLC 32: Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium*, ed. Laurel MacKensie, 45–54. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics 15.1.
- 2009 Coon, Jessica and Omer Preminger. 'Positional Roots and Case Absorption.' In *New Perspectives in Mayan Linguistics*, ed. Heriberto Avelino, Jessica Coon, and Elisabeth Norcliffe, 35–58. Cambridge, MA: MIT Working Papers in Linguistics 59.
- 2008 Coon, Jessica. 'When Ergative = Genitive: Nominals and Split Ergativity.' In *WCCFL XXVII: Proceedings of the 27th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. Natasha Abner and Jason Bishop, 99–107. Somerville MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.
- 2006 Coon, Jessica. 'Existentials and Negation in Chol Mayan.' In *CamLing: Proceedings of the Fourth University of Cambridge Conference in Language Research*, ed. Charles Chang, Esuna Dugarova, Irene Theodoropoulou, Elina Vilar Beltrán, and Edward Wilford, 51–58. Cambridge: Cambridge Institute of Language Research.
- 2004 Coon, Jessica. 'Nominal constructions and split-ergativity in Chol Mayan.' In *BLS 30: Proceedings of the 30th Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, ed. Marc Ettlinger, Nicholas Fleischer, and Mischa Park-Doob, 34–45. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistics Society.

Work in progress

- in prep Coon, Jessica and Pedro Mateo. 'Extraction and Embedding in Two Mayan Languages.'

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2010 TBA. *Colloquium Series*, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California.
- 2009 'Predicate Fronting and its Consequences: Ergativity in Chol.' *NYU Syntax Brown Bag*, New York University, New York, New York.
- 2009 'Predicate Fronting and its Consequences: Ergativity in Chol.' *CUNY Syntax Supper*, City University of New York, New York, New York.
- 2008 'Ergatividad escindida y formas nominales en chol.' CIESAS-Sureste, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico.

- 2008 'The source of split ergativity in Chol Mayan.' *The SSILA Annual Meeting, Mayan Symposium*, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2007 'VOS as predicate-fronting in Chol Mayan.' University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- 2009 'Rethinking Aspect Based Split Ergativity.' To be presented at *EHU International Workshop on Ergativity*, University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain.
- 2009 'A Biclausal Analysis of Aspect Based Split Ergativity.' Presented at *Workshop on Structure and Constituency of Languages of the Americas 14*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.
- 2008 'Posicionales y Pasivos en Chol.' Presented at *X Encuentro Internacional de Lingüística en el Noreste*, University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico. (with Omer Preminger)
- 2008 'When Ergative = Genitive: Nominals and Split Ergativity.' Presented at *The 27th West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics*, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.
- 2008 'Nominalization and Predicate Fronting: Two Sources of Ergativity.' Presented at *The 32nd Penn Linguistics Colloquium*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (with Andrés Salanova)
- 2008 'Identity and Consonant Harmony in Chol.' Presented at *The sixteenth Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe*, Paris, France. (with Gillian Gallagher)
- 2008 'Interrogative Possessors and the Problem with Pied-Piping in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *82nd Annual Meeting of the LSA*, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2007 'Similarity and Correspondence in Chol Roots.' Presented at *NELS 38*, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada. (with Gillian Gallagher)
- 2007 'Interrogative Possessors and the Problem with Pied-Piping in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *NELS 38*, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada.
- 2007 'Counting with verbs in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *Workshop on Determiners and Classifiers*, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- 2007 'VOS as predicate-fronting in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *Workshop on V1/V2*, University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2007 'Right-specifiers vs. V-movement: VOS in Chol.' Presented at *The SSILA Annual Meeting*, Anaheim, California.
- 2006 'Existentials and two types of negation in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *CamLing*, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 2005 'Cliticization and affixation in two Mayan languages.' Presented at *The SSILA Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, California. (with Kirill Shklovsky)

- 2004 'Nominal roots and stem formation in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *The Harvard Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium*, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 2004 'Nominal constructions and split-ergativity in Chol Mayan.' Presented at *the 30th Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, University of California, Berkeley, California.
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FIELDWORK

Fieldwork on Chol (Mayan) in Chiapas, Mexico

Ongoing linguistic fieldwork on the Tila dialect of Chol, a Mayan language spoken in Mexico. Fieldwork conducted in the Chol-speaking village El Campanario, municipality of Tila, Chiapas, Mexico. Special interest in Chol morphosyntax and ergativity.

Field trips and support:

- Spring 2008, Fall 2008 — NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant #0816923
 - Summer 2007, Winter 2007 — research funds granted to Noam Chomsky by Ik-Hoon Lee
 - Summer 2006, Winter 2006 — MIT's Ken Hale Fund for Field Research
 - Winter 2004 — Reed College Undergraduate Initiative Grant
 - Summer 2002, Summer 2003 — NSF grant #9980054 to John Haviland
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TEACHING

MIT

- Spring 2009 Principal teaching assistant for LING 24.900 Introduction to Linguistics, primary instructor Suzanne Flynn. Taught two weekly sections, designed problem sets and quizzes, as well as grading keys and material for other TAs to use during sections. Met with students, graded assignments and advised final papers.
- Winter 2008 Co-teacher for mini course on Kinande (Bantu) during MIT's winter term.
- Fall 2007 Teaching assistant for LING 24.902 Language and its Structure II: Syntax, primary instructor Norvin Richards. Organized and taught a weekly section, met with students, graded assignments and papers.
- Spring 2007 Guest lecturer on fieldwork and field methods for LING 24.900 Introduction to Linguistics, primary instructor Suzanne Flynn.
- Fall 2006 Teaching assistant for LING 24.900 Introduction to Linguistics, primary instructor Donca Steriade. Organized and taught a weekly section, met with students, graded assignments and papers.

Reed College

- 2002–2004 Tutor for General Linguistics 311, Introductory Syntax 322, Morphosyntactic Typology 328, primary instructors John Haviland and Matt Pearson.

GRANTS AND
AWARDS

- National Science Foundation conference funding: “Formal Approaches to Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) Workshop” #0841282, 2009–2010 (Co-PI with David Pesetsky)
 - National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant: “Ergativity and Constituent Order in Chol” #0816923, 2008–2010 (Co-PI with David Pesetsky and Norvin Richards)
 - MIT Ken Hale Fund for Field Research, 2006, 2007
 - National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship #1000032703, 2006–2009
 - Phi Beta Kappa, 2004
 - Reed College Undergraduate Initiative Grant, 2004
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ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Reviewer for the *International Journal of American Linguistics*
 - Co-founder and co-organizer of FAMLi (Formal Approaches to Mayan Linguistics), 2010
 - Co-organizer of SULA 5 (Semantics of Underdocumented Languages in the Americas), 2009
 - MIT Ling Lunch Organizer, 2007–2008
 - MIT Job Search Committee, student member, Spring 2008
 - MIT Liaison for annual ECO5 Syntax Workshop, 2006–2009
 - MIT Colloquium Series Organizer, 2006–2007
 - MIT Linguistics Graduate Student Representative, 2005–2006
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MEMBERSHIPS

- Linguistics Society of America
 - Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas
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LANGUAGES

- Native: English
 - Advanced: Spanish, German
 - Intermediate/Fieldwork: Chol (Mayan)
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REFERENCES

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