

Maria Kouneli

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Employment

- 2023–present **Linguistics Department, Rutgers University**
Assistant Professor
- 2020–2023 **Institut für Linguistik, Universität Leipzig**
Assistant Professor (Juniorprofessorin, W1)
- 2019–2020 **Institut für Linguistik, Universität Leipzig**
Post-doctoral researcher

Education

- 2014–2019 **New York University**
Ph.D., Linguistics
Dissertation: The syntax of number and modification: An investigation of the Kipsigis DP
Committee: Stephanie Harves & Alec Marantz (co-chairs), Richard Kayne, Ruth Kramer, Gary Thoms
- 2010–2014 **Yale University**
B.A., Linguistics *with honors* and Economics
Senior thesis: The syntax of silent locative prepositions in Greek
Advisors: Bob Frank & Jim Wood

Grants

- 2020–2024 German Research Foundation (DFG) grant for project *Layers of morphosyntactic number in Eastern Sudanic* (project number: 439622645, award money: €424.800)
Part of the Collaborative Research Unit *Cyclic Optimization*
(The grant was transferred to Prof. Jochen Trommer when I moved to Rutgers)

Publications (peer-reviewed journal articles)

- under revision Fenger, Paula, Maria Kouneli and Jonathan Bobaljik. Dominant Domains in Vowel Harmony.

- 2024 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. C-Agree is local subject-verb agreement in Kipsigis. *Natural Language & Linguistics Theory*.
- 2023 Asimwe, Allen, Maria Kouneli, and Jenneke van der Wal. Determiner Spreading in Rukiga. *Linguistics* 61.5: 1285–1339.
- 2022 Kouneli, Maria. Inflectional classes in Kipsigis. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 47(1).
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria and Yining Nie. Across-the-board tonal polarity in Kipsigis: Implications for the morphology-phonology interface. *Language* 97.2: e111–e138.
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria. Number-based noun classification: The view from Kipsigis. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 39.4: 1195–1251.

Publications (peer-reviewed chapters in edited volumes)

- to appear Fenger, Paula and Maria Kouneli. Words and Features. *Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax*.
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria. Plural marking on mass nouns: Evidence from Greek. In Myriam Dali, Eric Mathieu & Gita Zareikar [eds.], *Gender and noun classification*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 Kouneli, Maria, Julien Meyer and Andrew Nevins. Whistled languages: including Greek in the continuum of endangerment situations and revitalization strategies. In Mari C. Jones & Sarah Ogilvie [eds.], *Keeping Languages Alive; Documentation, Pedagogy and Revitalization*:198–211. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Publications (conference proceedings)

- to appear Kouneli, Maria, Paula Fenger, and Jonathan Bobaljik. Syntactic Limitations on Phonological Dominance. *Proceedings of WCCFL 40*.
- to appear Driemel, Imke, and Maria Kouneli. <v,t>-type complementation in Kipsigis. In *Proceedings of WCCFL 39*.
- 2022 Kouneli, Maria, and Yuriy Kushnir. Failed clitic doubling of plural indirect objects in Greek. In Özge Bakay, Breanna Pratley, Eva Neu and Peyton Deal [eds.], *NELS 52: Proceedings of the Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, Vol. 2: 159-172. Amherst: GLSA.

- 2022 Driemel, Imke, and Maria Kouneli. A dedicated topic position in Kipsigis. In Henrison Hsieh [ed.], *Proceedings of TripleA 8: Fieldwork Perspectives on the Semantics of Understudied Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia, and Oceania*, 1-20. Singapore: NUS ScholarBank.
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria. Low (in)transitivity: Evidence from Kipsigis. In Alessa Farinella & Angelica Hill [eds.], *Proceedings of the Fifty-First Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 51)*, 53-66. Amherst: GLSA.
- 2019 Kouneli, Maria. Determiner spreading and modification in Kipsigis. In *Proceedings of the 54th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 54)*.
- 2017 Kouneli, Maria. The morphological expression of number in Kalenjin. In Andrew Lamont & Katerina Tetzloff [eds.], *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 47)*, Vol.2: 167-176. Amherst: GLSA.

Invited Talks

- 2024 Kouneli, Maria. Marked nominative as a type of ergative. Colloquium talk given at Georgetown University, April 19.
- 2024 Kouneli, Maria. Marked nominative as a type of ergative. Keynote talk given at *WCCFL 42*, UC Berkeley, April 12–14.
- 2024 Kouneli, Maria. Marked nominative is ergative in disguise. Invited talk given at the *1st Workshop on Morphology at Princeton (WOMP)*, March 22–24.
- 2023 Kouneli, Maria. Movement within *vP*: the case of possessor raising in Kipsigis. Keynote talk at the workshop *The syntax at the vP edge in African languages* at the Goethe Universität Frankfurt, June 29–30.
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria. Fieldwork in generative linguistics. Keynote talk at the 69th StuTS (Studentische Tagung Sprachwissenschaft) at Universität Leipzig.
- 2019 Kouneli, Maria. A relative clause analysis of Determiner Spreading. Colloquium talk at Yale University, 21 October 2019.
- 2014 Kouneli, Maria. Methods of revitalization of the whistled language (Τρόποι διάσωσης της σφυριχτής γλώσσας). First international workshop on the whistled language, Antia, Greece, 23 August 2014.
- 2014 Kouneli, Maria. The whistled language of Antia: strategies for revitalization. Hellenic Studies Program Speakers Series, Yale University, 10 February 2014.

Conference presentations (peer-reviewed)

- 2024 Kouneli, Maria. Kipsigis comparatives: syntax matters. *55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics* (ACAL 55), McGill University, May 2–4 2024 [oral presentation]
- 2023 Kouneli, Maria. External possession in Kipsigis. *54th Annual Conference on African Linguistics* (ACAL 54), University of Connecticut, June 12–14 2023. [oral presentation]
- 2022 Kouneli, Maria. Demonstratives as heads (in some languages). *Nominal Determination: form, function, and else* at Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Maceió, Brazil, Nov 3-4. [oral presentation]
- 2022 Barabas-Weil, Leonie, Nadja Fiebig, Armel Jolin, Maria Kouneli, Katie McCann, Robin Ortlepp and Helene Streffer. Verbal number suppletion in nominalizations. *2022 Meeting of the LAGB* at Ulster University. [oral presentation]
- 2022 Kouneli, Maria, Paula Fenger and Jonathan Bobaljik. Syntactic limitations on phonological dominance. *WCCFL 40* at Stanford University, May 13-15 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria and Yuriy Kushnir. Failed clitic doubling of plural indirect objects in Greek. *NELS 52* at Rutgers University, Oct 29-31 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria and Yuriy Kushnir. Failed clitic doubling of plural indirect objects in Greek. *SinFonJIA 14* at the University of Novi Sad, Sep 22-24 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. A dedicated topic position in Kipsigis. *TripleA 8* at the University of Singapore, Jun 23-25 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria. Conjugation class and transitivity in Kipsigis. Workshop on *Thematic Vowels in (V)P Structure and beyond* at the University of Graz, Apr 22-23 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. C-Agree is local subject-verb agreement in Kipsigis. *GLOW 44*, Apr 15-17 (online) [flash talk]
- 2021 Kouneli, Maria. High vs. Low external arguments: evidence from Kipsigis. Workshop on *Syntactic Asymmetries in African Languages*, University of Potsdam, Apr 15-16 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2021 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. $\langle v, t \rangle$ -type complementation in Kipsigis. *WCCFL 39*, University of Arizona, Apr 8-11 (online) [oral presentation]

- 2021 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. Verb-y and noun-y complementation in Kipsigis. Workshop *On the nouniness of propositional arguments* at the 43rd Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS), Freiburg, Feb 24-26 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2020 Driemel, Imke and Maria Kouneli. ‘Say’-based complementation: Insights from Kipsigis. *BCGL 13: The syntax and semantics of clausal complementation*, Dec 17-18 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2020 Kouneli, Maria. Low (in)transitivity: Evidence from Kipsigis. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 51* at UQAM, Nov 6-8 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2020 Kouneli, Maria. N-to-D movement in the Kipsigis DP. *Linearising Constituents Across Domains Workshop*, Bled Institute, Slovenia, Oct 15-16 (online) [oral presentation]
- 2020 Kouneli, Maria. Low (in)transitivity in Kipsigis. *51st Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 51)*, Rutgers University [cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 Kouneli, Maria. The singulative of abundance: when one means a lot. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 50*, MIT, Oct 25-27 2019. [oral presentation]
- 2019 Kouneli, Maria. Countability distinctions in languages with a tripartite system of number marking. Workshop on *Countability Distinctions of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*, UC Berkeley, Feb 8-9 2019. [oral presentation]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria, and Yining Nie. Paradigmatic tonal polarity in Kipsigis. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 49*, Cornell University, Oct 5-7 2018. [oral presentation]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria. Determiner spreading and modification in Kipsigis. *Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) 54*, University of Chicago, Apr 26-28 2018. [oral presentation]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria. Adjectival modification in Kipsigis. *GLOW 41*, Budapest, Apr 10-14 2018. [poster]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria, and Deniz Ozyildiz. Graded nominal tense in Kipsigis. *49th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 49)*, Michigan State University, Mar 22-25 2018. [poster]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria. Determiner spreading in Kipsigis. *49th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 49)*, Michigan State University, Mar 22-25 2018. [poster]
- 2018 Kouneli, Maria. Does Kipsigis have adjectives? *44th Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG)*, Università Roma Tre, Mar 1-3 2018. [poster]

- 2016 Kouneli, Maria. Acoustics of epenthetic vowels in Brazilian Portuguese. *ASA/ASJ joint meeting*, Honolulu, November 28 – Dec 2, 2016. [poster]
- 2016 Kouneli, Maria. The morphological expression of nominal number in Kalenjin. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 47*, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Oct 14-16, 2016. [poster]
- 2015 Kouneli, Maria. Plural marking on mass nouns: Evidence from Greek. *Gender, Class, and Determination: A Conference on the Nominal Spine*, University of Ottawa, 18 Sep 2015. [oral presentation]
- 2011 Kouneli, Maria, Julien Meyer & Andrew Nevins. Whistled Languages: A Continuum of Endangerment Situations and Strategies for Revitalisation. *University of Cambridge CRASSH Conference on Language Endangerment: Documentation, Pedagogy, and Revitalization*, University of Cambridge, 25 Mar 2011. [oral presentation]

Presentations (non-peer-reviewed)

- 2024 Kouneli, Maria. Movement asymmetries in external possession as a diagnostic for possessor raising. Talk given at the Syntax Brown Bag, NYU, 2 February 2023.
- 2022 Kouneli, Maria. Causative-Applicative interactions and the Mirror Principle. Talk given at UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, 31 October 2022.
- 2022 Barabas-Weil, Leonie, Nadja Fiebig, Armel Jolin, Maria Kouneli, Katie McCann, Robin Ortlepp and Helene Streffer. Verbal number suppletion in nominalizations. Talk at *GG5 46* at Universität Stuttgart.
- 2020 Kouneli, Maria. Low (in)transitivity: Evidence from Kipsigis. Talk at RUESHel lab meeting of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 23 November 2020.
- 2020 Kouneli, Maria. The causative alternation in Kipsigis. Talk at ComSyn, Leiden University, Oct 1st 2020
- 2020 Driemel, Imke & Maria Kouneli. “Say”-complementation and agreement in Kipsigis. Talk at the NYU Syntax Brown Bag Talk series, May 1st 2020
- 2020 Driemel, Imke & Maria Kouneli. “Say”-complementation and agreement in Kipsigis. Talk at the University of Potsdam Kolloquium, April 28 2020.
- 2019 Kouneli, Maria. A typology of determiner spreading. Talk at the Workshop on *Iterativity in Grammar*, University of Leipzig, December 2-3 2019.

2019 Kouneli, Maria. Some remarks on Kipsigis nominalizations. Talk at RUESHel lab meeting of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 18 November 2019.

Other Research

2013–2014 Research Assistant for Senior Lecturer in Modern Greek at Yale University, Maria Kaliambou. *Project*: writing of textbook of Greek as a foreign language. *Role*: review and refine vocabulary and grammar exercises.

2013 Research and online case study on the social enterprise “Honey Care Africa” in Kenya. (together with Jane Bang and Christina Wang)

2011–2012 Research Assistant for Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Yale University, Jelena Krivokapić. *Project*: linguistic rhythm and convergence. *Role*: label data in Praat.

Teaching (as main instructor)

At Rutgers University:

Fall 2024 Undergraduate course, Introduction to Linguistic Theory
Spring 2023 Undergraduate course, Syntax
Spring 2023 Graduate course, Syntax II
Fall 2023 PhD seminar, The syntax of the noun phrase

At the University of Leipzig:

Summer Semester 2023 BA course, Syntax seminar: The syntax of African languages
Summer Semester 2023 MA/PhD course, The morphosyntax of number
Winter Semester 2022–2023 MA/PhD course, Morphology
Winter Semester 2022–2023 PhD course, The Mirror Principle and the relation between syntax and morphology (co-taught with Philipp Weisser)
Summer Semester 2022 BA course, Syntax seminar: Agreement
Summer Semester 2022 MA/PhD course, Field Methods (Ngemba)
Winter Semester 2021 BA course (double credits), Structure of Kipsigis
Summer Semester 2021 BA course, Introduction to Distributed Morphology

Summer Semester 2021	PhD course, IGRA 08: Topics in the syntax of argument structure
Winter Semester 2020–2021	MA/PhD course, Morphology
Winter Semester 2020–2021	BA course, Topics in the morphosyntax of Nilo-Saharan languages
Summer Semester 2020	MA/PhD course, Topics in Morphology: The Morphosyntax of Gender
Summer Semester 2020	MA/PhD course, Field Methods (Kikuyu)
Winter Semester 2019–2020	PhD course, IGRA 02: Interacting Building Blocks in Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax II: Excitatory and Inhibitory Simultaneous Interactions (co-taught with Gereon Müller and Ezer Rasin)

At Summer Schools:

EGG 2021 Determiner Spreading

Teaching (as teaching assistant)

Spring 2018 TA for Language, with Hadas Kotek, NYU

Spring 2017 TA for Grammatical Analysis, with Chris Collins, NYU

Spring 2016 TA for Language, with Lucas Champollion, NYU

2011-2014 Official tutor of the Yale Center for Language Study for Greek and Portuguese, Yale University

Advising at Rutgers University

Qualifying paper, chair:

in progress	Aidan Sharma
in progress	Marjorie Leduc
in progress	Utku Zobarlar

Qualifying paper, committee member:

2024	Gérard Avelino (<i>Noncanonical Tagalog sluicing and Philippine-type voice</i>)
2024	Thuong Bui (<i>On mình in Vietnamese</i>)
2024	Jiayuan Chen (<i>Turning common nouns into names: the semantics of quasi-names</i>)
2024	Ariela Ye (<i>A Say verb or Complementizer: Analyzing shuo following communicatives and non-communicatives</i>)

2024 Aidan Sharma (*Uyghur umlaut as vowel reduction*)

Advising at the University of Leipzig

Dissertations, chair:¹

in progress	Leonie Barabas-Weil
in progress	Sasha Belkind
in progress	Nadja Fiebig
in progress	Armel Jolin
in progress	Helene Streffer

Dissertations, committee member:

2023 Madeline Bossi (UC Berkeley - external committee member, dissertation title: *Epistemic modality across syntactic categories in Kipsigis*)

MA thesis, main supervisor:

2023	Tsan Tsai Chan (<i>A biclausal approach to Western Austronesian voice</i>)
2022	Armel Jolin (<i>Topics in the morphophonology of tonal case in Southern Nilotic languages</i>)
2021	Helene Streffer (<i>Gender Syncretism</i>)

MA thesis, second reader:

2021 Nadja Fiebig (*Unmarked Gender in Animal Nouns*)

BA thesis, main supervisor:

2022	Robin Ortlepp (<i>On Post- and Presyntactic Impoverishment and Obliteration</i>)
2021	Paula Baer (<i>The Katcha Number and Gender System Under a Minimalist Lens</i>)
2021	Sinoël Dohlen (<i>Theoretical approaches to syncretism in marked-nominative languages</i>)

BA thesis, second reader:

2023	Pauline Wölflick (<i>Die Interpretation von relativen und absoluten Adjektiven im Griechischen</i>)
2022	Hendrik Pigola (<i>SAY-complementation</i>)
2022	Nora Geppert (<i>Linearisierung Pronominaler Possessivaffixe im Sprachvergleich</i>)

¹Since my move to Rutgers in 2023, I have nominally been the external committee member of these students.

Awards

2014–2019	Henry H. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
2018	GSAS Dean’s Student Travel Grant, New York University (\$500)
2017, 2018	The Student Senators Council (SSC) Conference Fund award, New York University (2x\$1000)
2013	Yale Jackson Institute Fellowship to conduct summer research on Honey Care, Kenya (\$5000)
2014	Engberg Fellowship (for top student of the incoming PhD cohort), New York University (\$1000)

Service

Fall 2024	Search committee member for tenure-track position in Semantics and Pragmatics at Rutgers
2020–2023	Organizer of the IGRA lecture series at Universität Leipzig
2015–2022	Volunteer interviewer for undergraduate admissions to Yale College
2015–2018	Member of the Colloquium Organizing Committee, Department of Linguistics, New York University
2013	Student representative at the Organizing Committee of the Portuguese Department at Yale University
2011–2014	President and Treasurer of the Yale Hellenic Society and Treasurer of the Yale Latin American Student Organization, Yale University

Reviewing - Journals

2024	Phonology (x1), Linguistic Inquiry (x1), Glossa (x1)
2023	ACAL Proceedings (x1)
2022	Natural Language & Linguistic Theory (x1), Phonology (x1), Glossa (x4), ACAL Proceedings (x1), Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax (x1)
2021	Natural Language & Linguistic Theory (x3), Linguistic Inquiry (x1), Phonology (x1), Journal of the Language Association of East Africa (x1), Glossa (x1)
2020	Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics (x1), Natural Language & Linguistic Theory (x1), Acta Linguistica Academica (x1)

2019 Linguistic Inquiry (x1)

Reviewing - Abstracts

2023 WCCFL 42
2022 LAGB, NELS 53
2021 NELS 52
2020 NELS 51
2018 Stony Brook-Yale-NYU-CUNY (SYNC) mini-conference, Tu+4 (4th workshop on Turkic and languages in contact with Turkic)

Summer Schools (as a student)

2017 **CreteLing Summer School, University of Crete**
2015 **LSA Summer Institute, University of Chicago**
2011 **Yale Summer Session in Brazil**
Portuguese language and Brazilian culture courses
2010 **Universidad Complutense de Madrid**
Summer courses in advanced level Spanish
2008 **Harvard Extension School**
Introduction to Linguistics, Introduction to Syntax

Languages

Native Modern Greek
Fluent English, Spanish, (Brazilian) Portuguese
Advanced French
Intermediate German (European level B2)
Conversational Kipsigis
Basic reading Classical Greek
Elicitation Kalenjin dialects (Kipsigis, Nandi, Endo-Marakwet, Pokot), Ewe, Didinga, Kikuyu, Ngemba

Technology

Praat, R, LaTeX