

# Romi Hill

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*Last Updated: September 2025*

## EDUCATION

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### **Boston University**

*PhD in Linguistics*

September 2024 - 2029 (expected)

*Boston, Massachusetts*

### **University of Konstanz**

*Master of Speech and Language Processing*

October 2021 - February 2024

*Konstanz, Germany*

*Specialization: Machine Language Processing*

*Thesis Title: Syntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology of Reduplication: A Theoretical and Computational Perspective*

### **University of Melbourne**

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours) & Concurrent Diploma in Mathematics*

February 2015 - December 2019

*Melbourne, Australia*

*Major: Linguistics & Applied Linguistics*

*Diploma Specialisation: Discrete Mathematics and Operations Research*

*Thesis Title: Murrinhpatha Noun Classifiers - Syntax and Discourse Functions*

### **Ludwig Maximilian University**

*Exchange Student*

March 2017 - July 2017

*Munich, Germany*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Interactions at the syntax phonology interface, reduplication, argument structure, language documentation

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **Language Documentation & Conservation**

2023

*WordSpinner: Developing a tool to convert plain-text lexicon files into dictionary webpages*

Authors: Caroline Jones, Jesse Tran, Eleanor Jorgensen, **Romi Hill**, Patricia Ellis, Jane Simpson, Felicity Meakins, Ben Foley, Marcel Reverter-Rambaldi, Lowana Tudor-Smith, Paul Williams, Clair Hill, Mark Richards, Quang Vinh Nguyen

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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### **Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)**

2023

*R. Skarnitzl and J. Volín (eds.).*

*pp. 1459 - 1464*

*The phonetics-phonology-syntax interface: a computational implementation*

[Link]

Authors: Tina Bögel, **Romi Hill**, Justin Hofenbitzer, Tianyi Zhao

Also: Poster presentation in Prague, Czechia.

## CONFERENCE TALKS

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### **Association of Contemporary African Linguistics 56 (ACAL)**

May 2025

*Accepted as Poster Presentation*

*Morphosyntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology of Reduplication*

Authors: **Romi Hill**

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

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### **WOLF Lab @ Harvard University**

September 2022

*Invited Talk*

Cambridge, MA

*Syntactic Constraints on the Morphophonology on Reduplication in Bantu*

Presenters: **Romi Hill**

### **University of Edinburgh**

September 2022

*Invited Talk*

Edinburgh, Scotland

*The prosody-syntax interface: theoretical assumptions and computational implementation*

Presenters: Tina Bögel, **Romi Hill**, Justin Hofenbitzer, Tianyi Zhao

### **Australian Languages Workshop**

February 2020

*Presentation*

Queensland, Australia

*Murrinhpatha noun classifiers: Syntax and discourse functions*

Presenters: **Romi Hill**, Rachel Nordlinger, John Mansfield

### **Australian National University**

January 2019

*Presentation*

Canberra, Australia

*Two projects: Computational methods for corpus and dictionary-making: Warlpiri corpus and Dhurga dictionary*

Presenters: **Romi Hill**, Eleanor Jorgensen

## TEACHING ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT

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### **University of Konstanz**

October 2023 - February 2024

*Core Components of Language B*

University of Konstanz

Master's course on the foundations of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. [Also October 2022 - February 2023.]

I prepared weekly exercises and solutions, and marked assignments.

*Instructor:* Colin Davis.

### **University of Konstanz**

October 2023 - February 2024

*Statistics*

University of Konstanz

Masters course on linear and logistic regression for linguistics.

I prepared weekly exercises and solutions.

*Instructor:* Massimiliano Canzi.

### **University of Konstanz**

September 2023

*Finite State Morphology*

University of Konstanz

Undergraduate course on finite state morphology with XFST.

I assisted students with theoretical and technical questions in class.

*Instructor:* Tina Bögel.

**University of Konstanz***English Syntax*

April 2023 - July 2023

*University of Konstanz*

Undergraduate course on an introduction to syntactic theory, with a focus on English.

I prepared weekly exercises and solutions, and marked assignments.

*Instructor:* Colin Davis.

**University of Melbourne***PASS Leader*

February 2019 - November 2019

*University of Melbourne*

I facilitated “Peer Assisted Study Sessions”: weekly study sessions led by a high-achieving student who has successfully completed the subject in the previous year.

I was a PASS leader for two third-year linguistics subjects:

Semantics

*Instructor:* Jonathon Lum

Exploring Linguistic Diversity

*Instructor:* Barbara Kelly

I prepared questions and discussion topics, and mentored students around university life.

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**RESEARCH ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT****Prosodic Structure at the Interface Between Language and Speech**

March 2022 - March 2024

*Project leads:**University of Konstanz**Tina Bögel (University of Konstanz)*[\[Link\]](#)*Catherine Lai & Alice Turk (University of Edinburgh)*

Collaborated on developing a prosody–syntax interface within the Lexical Functional Grammar framework, incorporating language redundancy information; implemented this interface in a computational XLE grammar; and wrote a Python script to calculate average syllable durations in German as a measure of acoustic salience.

**Information Structure and Questions in Urdu/Hindi**

December 2021 - January 2022

*Project lead:**University of Konstanz**Miriam Butt (University of Konstanz)*[\[Link\]](#)

Wrote Praat scripts for Urdu phonetic transcriptions to extract prosodic information from non-canonical questions. The scripts automated tasks including calculation of average phoneme, syllable, word, and utterance durations; mean word intensity; extraction of F0 values at equidistant time points; identification of pre-word pauses; and general TextGrid file management.

**Are super-complex words represented like sentences in speakers’ minds?** May 2021 - September 2021*Project leads:**University of Melbourne**Brett Baker (University of Melbourne)*[\[Link\]](#)*Rikke Bundgaard-Nielsen (Western Sydney University)*

Contributed to an ARC-funded project on speakers’ knowledge of “super-complex” words in the Australian language Wubuy. Wrote Python scripts to clean a Wubuy XML corpus into HTML, automate interlinear glossing, and implement phonological rules to generate variants of dictionary headwords. These outputs supported calculations of information density as a measure of word complexity.

## Learning to tell a narrative in Murrinhpatha

*Project leads:*

*Barbara Kelly, Gillian Wigglesworth,  
& Lucy Davidson (University of Melbourne)*

May 2021 - July 2021  
*University of Melbourne*  
[\[Link\]](#)

Contributed to an ARC-funded project on children's linguistic skills in the polysynthetic language Murrinhpatha. Used ELAN to code information structure in children's narrative videos and developed a controlled vocabulary to target relevant aspects of information structure.

## Nafsan Corpus

*Project lead:*

*Rosey Billington (University of Melbourne)*

November 2019 - January 2020  
*Melbourne, Australia*

Contributed to a corpus of the Oceanic language Nafsan by correcting phonetic transcription boundaries in Praat.

## Summer Scholar

*Supervisors:*

*Jane Simpson & Hanna Suominen (Australian National University)*

November 2018 - January 2019  
*Australian National University*

Summer scholar funded by the Australian Signals Directorate, contributing to two projects using computational methods for linguistic outcomes. Developed a workflow with forced alignment techniques for a Warlpiri corpus, including testing aligners, creating guidelines, and supporting non-technical users. Collaborated with a community leader to build a revival dictionary for Dhurga using HTML/CSS, and contributed to WordSpinner, a tool for online dictionaries of under-resourced languages.

## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

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### Appen

*Computational Linguist*

January 2020 - July 2021  
*Sydney, Australia*

Developed high-quality training data for diverse NLP projects, including TTS/ASR pronunciation lexicons, NER annotation, text generation, and tool development. Used Python, regex, and linguistic expertise.

### Real Thing AI

*Conversational Designer*

July 2021 - October 2021  
*Melbourne, Australia*

Served as subject matter expert in linguistics for RealSAM, a voice-command system for Blind and Visually Impaired users, advising the CEO and engineers on dialogue design to improve natural language understanding.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### The 50<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development

*Co-Organizer*

June 2025 - December 2025  
*Boston University*

### Structures of Under-Research Languages Lab (SULa)

*Lab Member*

September 2024 - Present  
*Boston University*

### WOLF Lab

*Affiliated Member*

January 2025 - Present  
*Harvard University*

### The 49<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development

*Participant, Registration Volunteer*

November 2024  
*Boston University*

**Basque Summer Tutorial in Language Documentation***Participant*

August 2022

*Larrau, France***CoEDL Summer School Workshop***Participant, Volunteer Helping Assistant*

November 2019

*Melbourne, Australia***CoEDL Summer School Workshop***Participant*

November 2018

*Canberra, Australia***TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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<b>Computational Languages</b>	Python, C, SQL, HTML & CSS, JavaScript, R, Praat scripting, XLE, XFST
<b>Command Line Interfaces</b>	bash/zsh, sed, git
<b>Text Editing</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, vim, regex, VSCode
<b>Linguistics Software</b>	ELAN, Praat, FLE <sub>x</sub> , WebMAUS
<b>Human Languages</b>	Native Australian English, B2 German, Beginner's Mandarin Chinese

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

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**Begabtenbefreiungssatzung**

2022 - 2024

*Exemption to Pay International Fees**University of Konstanz*

Identified as a particularly gifted international student, and received an exemption to pay international fees.

**DAAD Scholarship (Master Studies for All Academic Disciplines)**

2022 - 2023

*Scholarship**University of Konstanz*

Monthly scholarship payments for excellently-qualified graduates. The scholarship is awarded by an independent selection committee, and selection is based on academic achievements, relevant internships and work experience, quality of the study project, and potential of the applicant.

*Value:* Monthly payments of €934.

**R.G. Wilson Scholarship**

2019

*Scholarship**University of Melbourne*

Three scholarships awarded to the highest average honours students in the Faculty of Arts.

*Value:* One-off payment of AU\$3,200.

**Dwight Final Assessment Prize**

2019

*Prize**University of Melbourne*

Awarded to the highest achieving honours student in Linguistics.

*Value:* One-off payment of AU\$1,600.

**Dean's Honours List**

2019

*Recognition**University of Melbourne*

Awarded to the top 3% of students within each year of the program in the Bachelor of Arts.

**Appen Prize for Excellence in Linguistics**

2018

*Prize**University of Melbourne*

Awarded to the highest achieving Linguistics student across all their Linguistics subjects, who goes on to enrol in honours.

*Value:* One-off payment of AU\$1,000.

## Melbourne Global Scholars Award

*Scholarship*

2017

*University of Melbourne*

Awarded to high achieving students who are undertaking overseas study for 12 weeks or more.

*Value:* One-off payment of AU\$2,500.

## REFERENCES

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### **Neil Myler**

*Associate Professor in Linguistics*

Boston University

myler@bu.edu

### **Tina Bögel**

*Postdoctoral Researcher in Linguistics*

University of Konstanz

tina.boegel@uni-konstanz.de

### **Colin Davis**

*Associate Professor of English Linguistics*

Nord University

colin.davis@nord.no

### **Miriam Butt**

*Professor in Linguistics*

University of Konstanz

miriam.butt@uni-konstanz.de