

11th International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu11)

Provisional program July 16, 2026

online talks

Tuesday August 18, 2026				
09:00-09:30	Registration and coffee			
09:30-10:00	Opening			
10:00-11:00	Keynote Thera Crane "What can modality teach us about multilingualism in South Africa?"			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS4 BLR	WS3 Clause chaining	Sociolinguistics	Morphology
11:00-11:30	Ricquier "Of Words, Things and Capricious Classifications"	Intro WS3	Karani & Laine "The language ecology of Temi (E46) and its contact with Maasai"	Bebiné "Vers une classification morphosemantique des lexemes nominaux en Nuasue (A62A)"
11:30-12:00	Wills & Marongedze "Introducing the South Bantu Etymological Dictionary"	Gibson et al. "Comparing Bantu and Papuan Clause Chains"	Zantei et al. "Changes in kinship terminology as indication for societal change in the frontier of Tanzanian Rift Valley"	Anlauff & Witzlack-Makarevich "Nominal concord in Kusua"
12:00-12:30	Goes & Bostoen "Towards a new model for the integration of Bantu lexical reconstructions and comparative lexical data"	Wald "The interplay among the KV- verb prefixes in clause-chaining across East Bantu"	Buregeya & Otiso "Kinship terminology in Bantu Languages: Marked features within some languages"	Baraka Bose "The gender system of Gɛzɔ (Bantu C401)"
12:30-13:30	Lunch			
	WS4 BLR & WS9 Irregular sound change	WS3 Clause chaining	Sociolinguistics	Morphology
13:30-14:00	Discussion WS4	Persohn "Bantu consecutives and temporal progress. Theory, evidence, and methodology"	Fendt et al. "Linguistic change in progress in Kikongo-Kituba: Studying processes of restructuring through a cross-varietal lens"	Kujath "Noun Class Degradation in Kango (C403)"
14:00-14:30	Kieffer "Double Reflexes in Ruruuli: Evidence of Lexical Strata and Intense Contact"	Crane "Narrative morphology in Zambian and Namibian Totela varieties"	Nassenstein & Mpunga wa Ilunga "On missionaries text collections and ethnopoetic genres: Current insights into the critical study of Ciluba materials in the Leo Stappers Archive"	Mous "Diachronic developments in noun class membership in (East African) Bantu"
14:30-15:00	Mfouhou "Origins and Outcomes of Vowel Sequences and Vowel Length in Tyèé (Bantu B73d, Republic of Congo)"	Sikuku et al. "Multi-verb constructions in Lubukusu"	Legodi & Ditsele "Possible influences of mixed languages on linguistic and cultural identities: A case study of a Southern Bantu people in Pretoria, South Africa"	Gunnink "Noun class assignment of loanwords in Bantu: comparing European and African source languages"

15:00-15:30	Coffee break			
	WS9	WS3 Clause chaining	Applied linguistics	Morphology
15:30-16:00	Discussion WS9	Veselovsky & Witzlack-Makarevich "Aspects of clause chaining in Ruuli"	Bizongwako & Ininahazwe "From Mixed Language Website to Corpus: Automated Kinyarwanda Extraction Using Linguistic Markers and Parallelized Scraping"	Cobbinah "The morphosyntax and functions of locative classes in Kimbundu varieties"
16:00-16:30		Savić "Tense and aspect in syntactically dependent verb forms in isiXhosa"	Wierenga "Towards an Automated Readability Model for isiZulu"	Keith-Hill et al. "On the Absence of Superlative Morphology in EXCEED-Type Languages"
16:30-17:00		Discussion WS3	Mapengo & Chauke "Unravelling love through songs"	Lee-Kleinberg "Causative and perfective influence in Kinyarwanda applicative doubling"
18:00-19:00	Welcome at medieval City Hall Ghent			

Wednesday August 19, 2026				
9:00-10:00	Keynote Rozenn Guérois "Tracing the origins of Chikunda through history and comparative linguistics"			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS8 Phonetics & phonology	WS1 Negative patterns	Syntax	Language history
10:30-11:00	Intro WS8	Intro WS1	Creissels "Non-verbal copulas and predicative inflection of non-verbal words in the equative, ascriptive and locative clauses of Tswana (S31)"	Wills "Reconstructing Proto-Bantu *s"
11:00-11:30	Lee et al. "Acoustics of voiceless fricatives in nine Bantu languages in South Africa"	Njui "Negation patterns in Chrambo"	Slater & Bloom-Ström "Formal restrictions on non-verbal copula constructions in Xhosa"	De Coene et al. "Great Lakes Bantu: a new lexicon-based phylogenetic classification"
11:30-12:00	Batchelder-Schwab "Acoustic Correlates of Place Contrasts in Spoken and Whistled TshiVenda"	Simango "Negation in ciNsenga"	Van de Velde "The relative origin of the Bantu connective"	Fiaccapriile "Comparative study of a subgroup of Bantu languages: the Upper Congo languages"
12:00-12:30	Bennett & Demolin "New insights in the production of Southern Bantu clicks"	Zahran "Modal negation in the Lower Zambezi (N40)"	Carstens "Demonstrative-licensed augment-drop in Xhosa DPs"	Coutros et al. "Bantu Expansion(s): Probing the Past of The Earliest Settlers Below the Rainforest"
12:30-13:30	Lunch			
	WS8 Phonetics & phonology	WS1 Negative patterns	Syntax	Sociolinguistics
13:30-14:00	Demolin "New experimental methods in Bantu phonetics"	Pretorius & Berg "Negative coordination in Tswana"	Struck "Revealing hidden subjects: What the Bantu noun-class system tells us about the argument-structure of exceed-comparatives"	Obwoye & Obwang'i "The Influence of Loanwords and Calques on EkeGusii Sociolinguistics: Patterns, Adaptations and Implications"
14:00-14:30	William Wayimba et al. "Two types of Swahili NC sequences: Acoustic, aerodynamic, and EGG evidence"	Jiyane "Negation in isiZulu: The case of 3SG affix"	Oliver & Kahnemuyipour "On the distribution and function of the Swahili connective morpheme"	Dube "The Doke Legacy- The Heritage Based Curriculum Revalorising Zimbabwe's Indigenous Languages"
14:30-15:00	Maselli & Pacchiarotti "Mpiemo tone, an electroglottographic study"	Devos & Bernander "Before-clauses, complement clauses of fear-verbs and epistemic possibility in main clauses: related cases of expletive negation in Swahili?"	Righetto "Non-Subjective Relative Constructions in Kimbundu (H21)"	Minerba "The rhythm of poetry and history: Tracing poetic verse and cultural exchange in Eastern Bantu traditions"

15:00-15:30	Coffee break			
	WS8 Phonetics & phonology	WS1 Negative patterns	Syntax	TAMP
15:30-16:00	Ollomo "Ethnophonologie du langage tambouriné chez les Ntumu"	Bucci "Locative class markers as negative polarity items: a preliminary Bantu overview"	Ndapo "Implicit Arguments in Oshiwambo"	Nicolle "Expressing Conditionality in Bantu Languages: Insights from Semantic Map Analysis"
16:00-16:30	Discussion WS8	Msovela & Johnson "Negation: morphology and information structure in Kihehe (G62, Tanzania)"	Kihara et al. "Neuter and applicative in Gĩkũyũ"	Bossuyt "Conditional coding in "even (if)" concessive conditionals: Bantu and beyond"
16:30-17:00		Discussion WS1	Kinchsular & Ndapo "Applicatives in Oshiwambo"	Bar-el et al. "Partial results and failed attempts: (non-)culmination in Kagulu, Kwere and Luguru"
17:00-18:30	Reception at conference venue			

Thursday August 20, 2026				
9:00-10:00	Keynote Cesar Fortes-Lima "The legacy of the expansion of Bantu-speaking peoples from a genomic perspective"			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS5 Interdisciplinary approaches	WS10 Cross Bantu typology	Phonetics & Phonology	TAMP
10:30-11:00	Intro WS5	Intro WS10	Bickmore "Karanga Shona Verbal Tonology"	Zahran & Guérois "Functions and grammaticalization pathways of FILL IN in South-Eastern Bantu"
11:00-11:30	Giannelli et al. "Reconstructing the Bantu expansion through an individual-based simulation integrating genomic and linguistic evolution"	Güldemann "A typologically informed analytical approach to the Bantu noun class system"	Kula "Lamba tone in relation to Copperbelt Bemba: in search of contact in tonal change"	Kawalya "Modal auxiliary verb constructions in Ugandan Bantu languages"
11:30-12:00	Good "Reconstructing the sociolinguistic configuration of early Bantu communities"	Tiroshi "The augment in Kiitharaka: Referentiality or syntax?"	Zantei "The Low, the High and the Super High. Verbal tone and the mystery of the Super High Tone in Kiitharaka (E54)"	Bernander et al. "The many manners of modal -pas(h)a across Swahili"
12:00-12:30	Bostoen et al. "Recovering Relics of the Congo Rainforest's Lost Linguistic Diversity: On Unique Phonological Substrates and Unknown Genetic Components"	Marten et al. "Comparing focus and inversion constructions in Bantu languages"	Hasegawa "Investigating Sound Symbolism from Tone: Perceptual Correlates of Weight, Speed, and Height in Xitsonga"	Lusekelo "Mechanisms for the Expression of Modality in Kinyakyusa (Bantu M31)"
12:30-13:30	Lunch			
	WS5 Interdisciplinary approaches	WS10 Cross Bantu typology	Phonetics & Phonology	TAMP
13:30-14:00	Güldemann "The Bantu arrival in the Kalahari Basin: a new hypothesis"	Shinagawa "Parameter correlations in locatives: a case of locative enclitics and gapless relatives"	de Wit "Vowel harmony in transition, the case of Leboale"	Gluckman & Vumilia "Possibility and Ability in Kisubi"
14:00-14:30	Guérois & Rodrigues "Revisiting the Chikunda and Zambezi Valley communities: New historical and linguistic perspectives"	Discussion WS10	Kujath & Faytak "Phonetic characteristics of two series of high vowels in Kango"	Gutiérrez-Maté "Discontinuous negation in Palenquero Creole and its link to Vernacular Kikongo"
14:30-15:00	van der Vlugt et al. "Historical relationships between Bantu languages of the Lower Zambezi Valley: A phylogenetic approach"		William Wayimba "Optional High Vowel Deletion in Swahili"	Jiyane & Simango "Tracing the shifts in isiZulu negation"

15:00-15:30	Coffee break			
	WS5 Interdisciplinary approaches	WS7 Ethnolinguistics	Phonetics & Phonology	TAMP & Pragmatics
15:30-16:00	De Coene "Healing history through words in East Africa: The roots of kubandwa in Great Lakes Bantu and beyond"	Intro WS7	Yoneda "Four different domains for phonological rules in Matengo (N13)"	Chavula "Mirativity and Evidentiality in Citumbuka (N21)"
16:00-16:30	Coutros & Pacchiarotti "The northern Bantu Borderlands: Archaeology, Ethnography and Linguistics of the Ubangi/Bantu boundary"	Utenga & Lusekelo "Crop Naming and Noun Class Allocation in Bantu: Insights from Bena, Hehe, and Sangu"	Patin & Lee "The prosody of non-canonical questions in Southern Bantu languages"	Kroger "Questions, they are formed how, in Mozambican Ngoni (Xingoni)?"
16:30-17:00	Ricquier et al. "Who were the first Bantuphone peoples at the eastern bend of the Congo River?"	Lusekelo & Amir "Mechanisms of Naming Farm and Wild Crops among the Nyamwezi and Sukuma of Tanzania"	Maleka & Pretorius "Prosody of negative morphemes in Setswana"	Nshemezimana & Bizongwako "The absence of disjoint morphology in topic-comment structures in Kirundi (DJ62)"
17:00-17:30		Musafiri et al. "Sémantique vernaculaire et pharmacosémie : apports à la pharmacognosie et à One Health"	Yosseu "Where length meets Type : wordhood and constraints in Fe'Fe'"	Charwi "The Problem of Mixed Categories: Investigating the Syntactic Projection of Swahili Conjunctions"
18:30-22:30	Conference dinner at the conference venue			

Friday August 21, 2026				
9:00-10:00	Keynote Amani Lusekelo "The Lexicalization of Names of Crops and Plants in Tanzanian Bantu Languages: The Case of Maize, Sugarcane and Tobacco"			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break			
	WS	WS	WS & GS	WS & GS
	WS2: Swahili, Sabaki & beyond	WS7: Ethnolinguistics & WS6: maximality constraints	WS5: Interdisciplinary approaches GS: Phonetics and phonology	WS11 Semantax
10:30-11:00	Intro WS2	Mavar Manga Sodila et al. "Tripolarisation in Kumu (D24): Ethnobotanical and Ethnolinguistic Surveys in the Democratic Republic of Congo"	Grollemund & Philippson "Wide vs. Narrow Bantu. Is the division still meaningful?"	Intro WS11
11:00-11:30	Fanego Palat & Nassenstein "Habitual and Present Tense Marking in Common Mombasa Swahili and Northern Mijikenda Varieties"	Discussion WS7	Discussion of WS5	Ayiega & Wagner "Morphological leveling and cues to animacy in Nairobi Swahili subject-verb agreement"
11:30-12:00	Miyazaki & Takemura "Variation in anterior expressions from data of Unguja & Pemba varieties"	Intro WS6	Everson & Mokgosi "Stylistic Variation in a Documentation Corpus: Variable Click Production in Tjhuaba"	Kouankem et al. "Analysing Medumba numeral classifiers"
12:00-12:30	Walsh "Sabaki and the sea: lexical and other evidence for early adaptations to the marine environments of the western Indian Ocean"	Grimm "An areal view on maximality constraints: Is Northwest Bantu different?"	Dlamini & Bennett "Contrastive nasal clicks in Siswati"	Puleng "The Syntax of Noun Phrases in Lesotho Sign Language"
12:30-13:30	Lunch			
	WS2: Swahili, Sabaki & beyond	WS6: Maximality constraints	Phonology & Documentation	WS11 Semantax & GS: Pragmatics & Syntax
13:30-14:00	Popova et al. "Swahili history and a contact typology for Kenyan and Tanzanian Bantu languages"	Kerr "Variation in the degree of maximality constraints and stem-initial prominence effects: Evidence from the Mbam"	van der Vlugt "The diachrony of whistled fricatives in Bantu"	Ndongo-Ibara "Bare NPs in Embosi"
14:00-14:30	Furumoto & Petzell "Vowel Copying to Null: A Potential Shared Innovation in Northeast Coast Bantu"	Faytak et al. "Phonetic correlates of positional prominence in Kom"	Eaton "Comparing Nyika and Nyiha: Phonological similarities and grammatical differences"	Discussion WS11
14:30-15:00	Discussion WS2	Bébiné & Ngoumamba "Organisation suffixale et contraintes morphophonologiques dans le thème verbal dérivé nuasue (A.62A)"	Terna & Blench "An Introduction to Gura"	Seephephe "Metaphor, Grammar, and Social Meaning: A Cognitive Approach to Sesotho Verbal and Politeness Systems"

15:00-15:30	Coffee break			
		WS6: Maximality constraints	Phonology & Documentation	Pragmatics
15:30-16:00		Akumbu "Verbal extensions and suffixation in Ring languages"	Blench "An introduction to Labir"	Matfunjwa & Mlambo "The Diminutive in Siswati: Formation, Semantic and Pragmatic Properties"
16:00-16:30		Discussion WS6		Mlambo & Matfunjwa "Exploring the Pragmatic Functions of Diminutives in the Play Xivoni xa Vutomi"
16:30-17:00	Bantu Book Presentation Session			