

11th International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu11)

Provisional program August 5, 2026

online talks

Tuesday August 18, 2026				
09:00-09:30	Registration and coffee			
09:30-10:00	Opening of the Bantu 11 conference by UGent vicerector Prof. Herwig Reynaert and the Bantu 11 organizing committee			
10:00-11:00	Keynote Thera Crane "What can modality teach us about multilingualism in South Africa?"			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS4 BLR	WS1 Negative patterns	Sociolinguistics	Morphology
11:00-11:30	Ricquier "Of Words, Things and Capricious Classifications"	Intro WS1	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"	Njui "Negation patterns in Chrambo"	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"	Simango "Negation in ciNsenga"	Buregeya & Otiso "Kinship terminology in Bantu Languages: Marked features within some languages"	Baraka Bose "The gender system of Gɛzo (Bantu C401)"
12:30-13:30	Lunch			
	WS4 BLR & WS9 Irregular sound change	WS1 Negative Patterns	Sociolinguistics	Morphology
13:30-14:00	Discussion WS4	Zahran "Modal negation in the Lower Zambezi (N40)"	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"	Pretorius & Berg "Negative coordination in Tswana"	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 T'yèé (Bantu B73d, Republic of Congo)"	Jiyane "Negation in isiZulu: The case of 3SG affix"	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	WS1 Negative patterns	Applied linguistics	Morphology
15:30-16:00	Discussion WS9	Devos & Bernander "Before-clauses, complement clauses of fear-verbs and epistemic possibility in main clauses: related cases of expletive negation in Swahili?"	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		Bucci "Locative class markers as negative polarity items: a preliminary Bantu overview"	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		Msovela & Johnson "Negation: morphology and information structure in Kihehe (G62, Tanzania)"	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 by Filip Watteuw, senior deputy mayor in the city of Ghent, and guided tour by Prof. Anne-Laure Van Bruaene, Professor of Early Modern History at Ghent University			

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 & WS3 Clause chaining	Syntax	Language history
10:30-11:00	Intro WS8	Discussion 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"	Intro WS3	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"	Gibson et al. "Comparing Bantu and Papuan Clause Chains"	Van de Velde "The relative origin of the Bantu connective"	Fiaccapriale "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"	Wald "The interplay among the KV- verb prefixes in clause-chaining across East Bantu"	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	WS3 Clause chaining	Syntax	Sociolinguistics
13:30-14:00	Demolin "New experimental methods in Bantu phonetics"	Persohn "Bantu consecutives and temporal progress. Theory, evidence, and methodology"	Struck "Revealing hidden subjects: What the Bantu noun-class system tells us about the argument-structure of exceed-comparatives"	Obwoge & 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"	Crane "Narrative morphology in Zambian and Namibian Totela varieties"	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"	Sikuku et al. "Multi-verb constructions in Lubukusu"	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	WS3 Clause chaining	Syntax	TAMP
15:30-16:00	Ollomo "Ethnophonologie du langage tambouriné chez les Ntumu"	Veselovsky & Witzlack-Makarevich "Aspects of clause chaining in Ruuli"	Ndapo "Implicit Arguments in Oshiwambo"	Nicolle "Expressing Conditionality in Bantu Languages: Insights from Semantic Map Analysis"
16:00-16:30	Discussion WS8	Savić "Tense and aspect in syntactically dependent verb forms in isiXhosa"	Kihara et al. "Neuter and applicative in Gikūyū"	Bossuyt "Conditional coding in 'even (if)' concessive conditionals: Bantu and beyond"
16:30-17:00		Discussion WS3	Kinchsular & Ndapo "Applicatives in Oshiwambo"	Zahrn & Guérois "Functions and grammaticalization pathways of *ngà 'like, as' in South-Eastern Bantu"
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	Giannelli et al. "Reconstructing the Bantu expansion through an individual-based simulation integrating genomic and linguistic evolution"	Intro WS10	Bickmore "Karanga Shona Verbal Tonology"	Bar-el et al. "Partial results and failed attempts: (non-)culmination in Kagulu, Kwere and Luguru"
11:00-11:30	Coutros & Pacchiarotti "The northern Bantu Borderlands: Archaeology, Ethnography and Linguistics of the Ubangi/Bantu boundary"	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	Bostoen et al. "Recovering Relics of the Congo Rainforest's Lost Linguistic Diversity: On Unique Phonological Substrates and Unknown Genetic Components"	Tiroshi "The augment in Kĩĩtharaka: Referentiality or syntax?"	Zantei "The Low, the High and the Super High. Verbal tone and the mystery of the Super High Tone in Kĩĩtharaka (E54)"	Bernander et al. "The many manners of modal -pas(h)a across Swahili"
12:00-12:30	Güldemann "The Bantu arrival in the Kalahari Basin: a new hypothesis"	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 & WS7 Ethnolinguistics	Phonetics & Phonology	TAMP
13:30-14:00	Guérouis & Rodrigues "Revisiting the Chikunda and Zambezi Valley communities: New historical and linguistic perspectives"	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	van der Vlugt et al. "Historical relationships between Bantu languages of the Lower Zambezi Valley: A phylogenetic approach"	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	De Coene "Healing history through words in East Africa: The roots of kubandwa in Great Lakes Bantu and beyond"	Intro WS7	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	Good "Reconstructing the sociolinguistic configuration of early Bantu communities"	Utenga & Lusekelo "Crop Naming and Noun Class Allocation in Bantu: Insights from Bena, Hehe, and Sangu"	Yoneda "Four different domains for phonological rules in Matengo (N13)"	Chavula "Mirativity and Evidentiality in Citumbuka (N21)"
16:00-16:30	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"	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	Grollemund & Philippson "Wide vs. Narrow Bantu. Is the division still meaningful?"	Musafiri et al. "Sémantique vernaculaire et pharmacosémie : apports à la pharmacognosie et à One Health"	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	Discussion of WS5	Mavar Manga Sodila et al. "Tripolarisation in Kumu (D24): Ethnobotanical and Ethnolinguistic Surveys in the Democratic Republic of Congo"	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	GS Phonetics and phonology	WS11 Semantax
10:30-11:00	Intro WS2	Discussion WS7	Everson & Mokgosi "Stylistic Variation in a Documentation Corpus: Variable Click Production in Tjhuaba"	Intro WS11
11:00-11:30	Furumoto & Petzell "Vowel Copying to Null: A Potential Shared Innovation in Northeast Coast Bantu"	Intro WS6	Dlamini & Bennett "Contrastive nasal clicks in Siswati"	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"	Grimm "An areal view on maximality constraints: Is Northwest Bantu different?"	van der Vlugt "The diachrony of whistled fricatives in Bantu"	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"	Kerr "Variation in the degree of maximality constraints and stem-initial prominence effects: Evidence from the Mbam"	Eaton "Comparing Nyika and Nyiha: Phonological similarities and grammatical differences"	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"	Faytak et al. "Phonetic correlates of positional prominence in Kom"	Kaviti & Ombati "Ethnolinguistic Vitality of the Kimbeere Language of Eastern Kenya"	Ndongo-Ibara "Bare NPs in Embosi"
14:00-14:30	Fanego Palat & Nassenstein "Habitual and Present Tense Marking in Common Mombasa Swahili and Northern Mijikenda Varieties"	Bébiné & Ngoumamba "Organisation suffixale et contraintes morphophonologiques dans le thème verbal dérivé nuasue (A.62A)"	Terna & Blench "An Introduction to Gura"	Discussion WS11
14:30-15:00	Discussion WS2	Akumbu "Verbal extensions and suffixation in Ring languages"	Blench "An introduction to Labir"	Seephephe "Metaphor, Grammar, and Social Meaning: A Cognitive Approach to Sesotho Verbal and Politeness Systems"

15:00-15:30	Coffee break			
		WS6: Maximality constraints		Pragmatics
15:30-16:00		Fotso "Radical Verb Stem Reduction in Nda'nda': Monosyllabism, Extension Loss, and Compensatory Grammaticalization"		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			