

11th International Conference on Bantu Languages (Bantu11)

Final program August 17, 2026

online talks

WS = workshop

GS = general session

Tuesday August 18, 2026				
08:30-09:20	Registration and coffee (Palmarium)			
09:30-10:00	Opening of the Bantu 11 conference by Bantu 11 organizing committee, UGent vicerector Prof. Herwig Reynaert, Africa Platform of Ghent University Association coordinator Dr. Annelies Verdoolaege and the Bantu Conference steering committee president Prof. Amani Lusekelo (Auditorium 6)			
10:00-11:00	Keynote Thera Crane "What can modality teach us about multilingualism in South Africa?" introduced by Hilde Gunnink (Auditorium 6)			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS4 BLR (Room 0.1)	WS1 Negative patterns (Room 0.2)	Sociolinguistics (Room 1.3)	Morphology (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Hilde Gunnink	Chair: Maud Devos	Chair: Arnaud Bizongwako	Chair: Elisabeth Kerr
11:00-11:30	Ricquier "Of Words, Things and Capricious Classifications"	Njui "Negation patterns in Chrambo"	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"	Simango "Negation in ciNsenga"	Zantei, Harvey & Mous "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"	Zahran "Modal negation in the Lower Zambezi (N40)"	Buregeya & Otiso "Kinship terminology in Bantu Languages: Marked features within some languages"	Baraka Bose "The gender system of Gəzə (Bantu C401)"
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Palmarium)			



	WS4 BLR & WS9 Irregular sound change (Room 0.1)	WS1 Negative Patterns (Room 0.2)	Sociolinguistics (Room 1.3)	Morphology (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Lorenzo Maselli	Chair: Aron Zahran	Chair: Pieter De Coene	Chair: Nina van der Vlugt
13:30-14:00	Discussion WS4	Pretorius & Berg "Negative coordination in Tswana"	Fendt, Muziazia, Nassenstein & Carneiro "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"	Jiyane "Negation in isiZulu: The case of 3SG affix"	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)"	Devos & Bernander "Before-clauses, complement clauses of fear-verbs and epistemic possibility in main clauses: related cases of expletive negation in Swahili?"	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 (Palmarium)			
	WS9 (Room 0.1)	WS1 Negative patterns (Room 0.2)	Applied linguistics (Room 1.3)	Morphology (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Sara Pacchiarotti	Chair: Aron Zahran	Chair: Pieter De Coene	Chair: Chrishnah Mfouhou
15:30-16:00	Discussion WS9	Bucci "Locative class markers as negative polarity items: a preliminary Bantu overview"	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		Msovela & Johnson "Negation: morphology and information structure in Kihehe (G62, Tanzania)"	Mapengo & Chauke "Unravelling love through songs"	Keith-Hill, Kinchular, Oliver, Weingartz, Hohaus & Lima "On the Absence of Superlative Morphology in EXCEED-Type Languages"
16:30-17:00		Discussion WS1	Wierenga "Towards an Automated Readability Model for isiZulu"	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" introduced by Elisabeth Kerr (Auditorium 6)			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break (Palmarium)			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WS8 Phonetics & phonology (Room 0.1)	WS3 Clause chaining (Room 0.2)	Syntax (Room 1.3)	Language history (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Lorenzo Maselli	Chair: Maud Devos	Chair: Paulin Baraka Bose	Chair: Sara Pacchiarotti
10:30-11:00	Intro WS8	Intro WS3	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, Suzuki, Hasegawa, Cook, Arakaki, Shinohara, Schmit, Richardson & Ostroushko "Acoustics of voiceless fricatives in nine Bantu languages in South Africa"	Gibson, Riedel & Sarvasy "Comparing Bantu and Papuan Clause Chains"	Slater & Bloom-Ström "Formal restrictions on non-verbal copula constructions in Xhosa"	De Coene, Grollemund & Philippson "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"	Wald "The interplay among the kV- verb prefixes in clause-chaining across East Bantu"	Van de Velde "The relative origin of the Bantu connective"	Fiaccaprile "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"	Persohn "Bantu consecutives and temporal progress. Theory, evidence, and methodology"	Carstens "Demonstrative-licensed augment-drop in Xhosa DPs"	Coutros, Doman & Matonda Sakala "Bantu Expansion(s): Probing the Past of The Earliest Settlers Below the Rainforest"
12:30-13:30	Lunch (Palmarium)			

	WS8 Phonetics & phonology (Room 0.1)	WS3 Clause chaining (Room 0.2)	Syntax (Room 1.3)	Sociolinguistics (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Seunghun J. Lee	Chair: Maud Devos	Chair: Aron Zahran	Chair: Pieter De Coene
13:30-14:00	Demolin "New experimental methods in Bantu phonetics"	Crane "Narrative morphology in Zambian and Namibian Totela varieties"	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	Wayimba, Braver & Bennett "Two types of Swahili NC sequences: Acoustic, aerodynamic, and EGG evidence"	Sikuku, Diercks & Major "Multi-verb constructions in Lubukusu"	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"	Veselovsky & Witzlack-Makarevich "Aspects of clause chaining in Ruuli"	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 (Palmarium)			
	WS8 Phonetics & phonology (Room 0.1)	WS3 Clause chaining (Room 0.2)	Syntax (Room 1.3)	TAMP (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Lorenzo Maselli	Chair: Maud Devos	Chair: Elisabeth Kerr	Chair: Arnaud Bizongwako
15:30-16:00	Ollomo "Ethnophonologie du langage tambouriné chez les Ntumu"	Savić "Tense and aspect in syntactically dependent verb forms in isiXhosa"	Ndapo "Implicit Arguments in Oshiwambo"	Nicolle "Expressing Conditionality in Bantu Languages: Insights from Semantic Map Analysis"
16:00-16:30	Discussion WS8	Discussion WS3	Kihara, Wiskandt & Fleischhauer "Neuter and applicative in Gikūyū"	Bossuyt "Conditional coding in "even (if)" concessive conditionals: Bantu and beyond"
16:30-17:00			Kinchsular & Ndapo "Applicatives in Oshiwambo"	Zahran & Guérois "Functions and grammaticalization pathways of *ngà 'like, as' in South-Eastern Bantu"
17:00-18:30	Reception (Palmarium)			

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" introduced by Sara Pacchiarotti (Auditorium 6)			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break (Palmarium)			
	WS	WS	GS	GS
	WSS Interdisciplinary approaches (Room 0.1)	WS10 Cross-Bantu typology (Room 0.2)	Phonetics & Phonology (Room 1.3)	TAMP (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Hilde Gunnink	Chair: Heidi Goes	Chair: Chrishnah Mfouhou	Chair: Aron Zahran
10:30-11:00	Giannelli, Gargano, Hammarström & Schlebusch "Reconstructing the Bantu expansion through an individual-based simulation integrating genomic and linguistic evolution"	Intro WS10	Bickmore "Karanga Shona Verbal Tonology"	Bar-el, Kanijo & Petzell "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"	Shinagawa "Parameter correlations in locatives: a case of locative enclitics and gapless relatives"	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, Fortes-Lima, Pacchiarotti & Schlebusch "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, de Schryver, Devos & Kanijo "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, Gibson & Shinagawa "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 (Palmarium)			
	WSS Interdisciplinary approaches (Room 0.1)	WS10 Cross Bantu typology & WS7 Ethnolinguistics (Room 0.2)	Phonetics & Phonology (Room 1.3)	TAMP (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Hilde Gunnink	Chair: Heidi Goes	Chair: Sara Pacchiarotti	Chair: Maud Devos
13:30-14:00	Guérois & Rodrigues "Revisiting the Chikunda and Zambezi Valley communities: New historical and linguistic perspectives"	Güldemann "A typologically informed analytical approach to the Bantu noun class system"	de Wit "Vowel harmony in transition, the case of Leboale"	Gluckman & Vumilia "Possibility and Ability in Kisubi"

14:00-14:30	van der Vlugt, Gunnink & Chousou-Polydouri "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 (Palmarium)			
	WS5 Interdisciplinary approaches (Room 0.1)	WS7 Ethnolinguistics (Room 0.2)	Phonetics & Phonology (Room 1.3)	TAMP & Pragmatics (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Nina van der Vlugt	Chair: Heidi Goes	Chair: Chrishnah Mfouhou	Chair: Paulin Baraka Bose
15:30-16:00	Good "Reconstructing the sociolinguistic configuration of early Bantu communities"	Utenga "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, Fiaccaprile, Joiris, Kopa wa Kopa, Livingstone-Smith, Nieblas Ramirez & Nikis "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	Discussion of WSS	Grodya Musafiri, Mavar Manga Sodila, Kumbatulu Sita, Tsutsha Ehata, Ndjango Ngona & Alphonse "Sémanitique vernaculaire et pharmaco-sémiose : 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		Mavar Manga Sodila, Grody Musafiri, Kumbatulu Sita, Tsutsha Ehata, Ndjango Ngona & Alphonse "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 (Palmarium)			

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" introduced by Maud Devos (Auditorium 6)			
10:00-10:30	Coffee break (Palmarium)			
	WS	WS	WS & GS	WS & GS
	WS2 Swahili, Sabaki & beyond (Room 0.1)	WS7 Ethnolinguistics & WS6 maximality constraints (Room 0.2)	GS Phonetics and phonology (Room 1.3)	WS11 Semantax (Room 1.4)
	Chair: Koen Bostoen	Chair: Mark Van de Velde	Chair: Hilde Gunnink	Chair: Chrishnah Mfouhou
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, Kiessling & Akumbu "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 (Palmarium)			
	WS2 Swahili, Sabaki & beyond (Room 0.1)	WS6 maximality constraints (Room 0.2)	Phonology & Documentation (Room 1.3)	WS11 Semantax & GS: Pragmatics & Syntax (Room 1.3)
	Chair: Koen Bostoen	Chair: Elisabeth Kerr	Chair: Sara Pacchiarotti	Chair: Chrishnah Mfouhou
13:30-14:00	Popova, Laine, Di Garbo & Verkerk "Swahili history and a contact typology for Kenyan and Tanzanian Bantu languages"	Faytak, Yang & Njuasi Forghema "Phonetic correlates of positional prominence in Kom"	Kaviti, Basweti & wa Mberia "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 (Palmarium)			
		WS6: Maximality constraints (Room 0.2)		Pragmatics (Room 1.4)
		Chair: Elisabeth Kerr		Chair: Heidi Goes
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 & Closing Words (Auditorium 6)			