

ANDRÉ BATCHELDER-SCHWAB

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Phone: +41 (76) 620 61 53
andrebachelderschwab@gmail.com,
andre.batchelder-schwab@lingfil.uu.se
andreschwab.com

Uppsala, Sweden

I'm a postdoctoral researcher in Sweden who just finished a dissertation on African whistled languages at Boston University. My academic interests include whistled languages, sociolinguistics, phonetics, phonology, migration studies, and grammaticalization of emotion. I am currently working on researching Southern Bantu syntax, documenting whistled languages in Africa, documenting instrumental musical surrogate languages in Cameroon, and on documentation of Tshila in Botswana.

CURRENT POSITION

Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Uppsala June 2026-2028
Department of Linguistics and Philology
Topic: Language Documentation and Language Description

EDUCATION

PhD from Boston University, Linguistics May 2026
Dissertation Title: "Topics in African Whistled Languages"
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Barnes

MA from Boston University, Linguistics May 2021
QP 1: "Love is Possessive: an Alternate Way of Encoding Endearment"
Advisor: Dr. Neil Myler
QP 2: "Teaching Possession Splits to Anglophones: An Investigation"
Advisor: Dr. Cathy O'Connor

MA from New York University, Comparative Politics May 2019
Thesis: "Dialectal Priming Effects in Political Call Surveys:
The Case of Dexter, Maine."
Advisor: Dr. Gregory Guy

BA from New York University, Linguistics & German May 2018
Minor in Arabic Language and Literature
Minor in Politics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Khoe language workshop

2023-2024

Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Christopher Collins

- NSF-funded training program for graduate students studying Khoe languages
- Completion of a 1400-word dictionary, phonological sketch and a grammatical sketch of Tshila, an undocumented, endangered Khoe language with 250 speakers in Kaudwane, Botswana.

Kinande Surrogate Language Project

2023-present

Primary Investigator

Advisor: Dr. Philip Mutaka

- Collaborative work to document language surrogates of Kinande with researchers at ISP Muhangi and University of the Assumption in Congo.
- Fieldwork conducted in-situ in 2023 attested the existence of whistled, drummed, and fluted modalities of Kinande, with particular focus on phonological repertoire of the whistled language as well as its intelligibility.

ILIMA Institute

Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Zoliswa Mali

- Research on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) of isiNtu cultures of Southern Africa, including documenting modern practices of traditional educational and cultural institutions
- Analysis of lexicography practices in southern Africa, particularly through the lens of second-language acquisition

Boston University Northern Pomo Lab

2021-2024

Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Cathy O'Connor

- Curriculum design and in-situ workshop for Northern Pomo revitalization effort
- Tonal and syntactic analysis of records and corpus

Boston University Prosody Lab

2020

Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Jon Barnes

- Linguistic reconstruction of Khoe roots
- Historical phonology, syntax, and corpus work

New York University Sociolinguistics Lab

2018

Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Gregory Guy

- Transcription utilizing Praat and ELAN of Brazilian Portuguese
- Identification of complex stress and phonological processes

PUBLICATIONS

André Batchelder-Schwab, Vasileios Michos & Jonathan Barnes. 2025. Stress in Spoken and Whistled Greek. *Interspeech 2025*.

Julien Meyer, André Batchelder-Schwab, David Diaz & Bernard Gautheron. Forthcoming. “Whistled Speech and Whistled Languages.” *International Encyclopedia of Languages and Linguistics*, 3rd Edition. Elsevier.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. “Initiation Rites of the IsiXhosa Culture are Education Systems.” *Journal of the African Language Teachers Association*, 11. 147-163.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2023. “Truncation, Affection, and Pain in Southern Bantu.” *Linguistique et Langue Africaine*, 9(1).

PRESENTATIONS

André Batchelder-Schwab & Vasileios Michos. 2025. “Consonantal Distinctions in Whistled Greek.” *Phonetics and Phonology Europe 2025*. June 27.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2025. “Des avantages d’apprendre des langues moins étudiées.” *Apprendre des Langues Débutées à l’Université (ALADUN) 2025*. June 23.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2025. “Documenting Language Surrogates: How and Why.” *International Conference on Language Conservation and Development (ICLDC)*. March 8.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Vasileios Michos. 2025. “Green energy threatens a language’s vitality; the case study of whistled Greek.” *International Conference on Language Conservation and Development (ICLDC)*. March 7.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. “Undocumented Whistled Languages in Africa.” *Department Talk at MIT*. October 3.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. “Inkcubeko yesiNtu yokuncokola kude [The isiNtu culture of communicating at distance].” *Department Talk at Walter Sisulu University, eMthatha*. August 16.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. “African Whistled Languages.” *Department Talk at Rhodes University*. August 14.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. “Iilwimi ezithethwa ngokubetha umlozi ezingekachazwa [Whistled languages that have not yet been documented].” *Colloquium at the University of Fort Hare, eDikeni*. August 13.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. "The phonology and culture of whistled TshiVenda." *11th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL)*. August 7.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Whistled language shows how /h/ is a sonorant: the case of whistled TshiVenda." *CreteLing Summer School*. July 10.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Ying Gong. 2024. "Yuexi Ersu Sibilants." *Conference on the Endangered Languages of East Asia (CELEA)* 3. May 8.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Chris Collins. 2024. "The Classification of Tshila." *Annual Conference of African Linguistics (ACAL)* 55. May 2.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2024. "Indlela ezahlukeneyo zokunxibelelana zesiNtu: amakhwelo nemilozi" [Different isiNtu ways of communicating: whistles]. *Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA)* 27. April 13.

Zoliswa Mali & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Integrating Culture into Language Classroom: Learning Tone Through Whistling." *Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA)* 27. April 12.

Zoliswa Mali & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Types of Change in the Custom of Ulwaluko: to Resist or Accept Commodification." *North-East Regional Consortium of Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL)* Conference. February 23.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "Spoken, whistled, drummed, and fluted Kinande: An asymmetry for encoding pitch and rhythm." *North East Linguistics Society (NELS)* 54. January 26..

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2024. "A Syntactic Explanation of Preverbal Particle Order Variation in Indonesian Corrective Speech Acts." *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*. January 7.

Dalila Gaoua & André Batchelder-Schwab. 2023. "Language Maintenance in Kabyle-Tamazight: Social Consensus and Policy Victories." *Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)* 17. November 4.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Philip Ngessimo Mutaka. 2023. "Les langues sifflées. [Whistled languages]." *Colloquium at ISP Muhangi, Butembo, DRC*. August 3.

Jonathan Barnes, André Batchelder-Schwab & Okrah Oppong. 2023. "Phrase-level prosody of Akan-Twi in spoken and whistled modalities." *Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PaPE)* 2023. June 3.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2023. “Indigenous Knowledge Systems: the Case of IsiXhosa Intonjane and Ulwaluko Rites.” 26th Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA). April 14.

Cathy O’Connor, Buffie Schmidt, André Batchelder-Schwab & Brady Dailey. 2023. “Creating a High School Language Class in a Dormant Indigenous Language: Challenges and Opportunities.” 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC). March 5.

André Batchelder-Schwab, Buffie Schmidt & Cathy O’Connor. 2023. “Teaching Kinship in Northern Pomo.” 8th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (ICLDC). March 2.

André Batchelder-Schwab & Zoliswa Mali. 2022. “Using authentic materials and experiences as access points to some Indigenous Knowledge Systems and historic cultural information: sharing student experiences.” Northeast Regional Consortium for Programs in African Languages (NERCPAL) Conference. November 11-12.

André Batchelder-Schwab, Allison Smith & Zoliswa Mali. 2022. “Ukubaluleka kokusetyenziswa kwezixhobo zokwenene ekufundiseni ulwimi: sizekelisa ngesiXhosa.” [The importance of using authentic teaching materials: examples in isiXhosa]. 25th Annual Conference of the African Language Teachers Association (ALTA). April 16, 2022.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2021. “Inalienable kinship relations in colloquial isiXhosa: Towards a syntactic analysis.” 51st-52nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL). April 10.

André Batchelder-Schwab. 2021. “Alienability Distinctions in Southern Bantu.” 10th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL). July 20.

LANGUAGES

French	(native)
English	(native)
German	(fluent)
IsiXhosa	(fluent)
Fribourg Arpitan	(heritage)
Latin	(advanced)
Arabic	(intermediate)
Spanish	(intermediate)
Northern Pomo	(elementary)
Setswana	(elementary)
Kiswahili	(elementary)

Tshila	(fieldwork)
Kabyle (Tamazight)	(fieldwork)
TshiVenda	(fieldwork)
Sesotho	(fieldwork)
Xitsonga	(fieldwork)
Jakarta Indonesian	(fieldwork)
Damara Khoekhoe	(fieldwork)
Akan-Twi	(fieldwork)
Kinande	(fieldwork)
Yorùbá	(fieldwork)
Hawaiian	(fieldwork)
Bengali	(fieldwork)
Shekgalagadi	(fieldwork)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2023
Teaching Fellow, Department of Linguistics

- Taught discussion sections of Introduction to Linguistics, covering phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics
- Developed quizzes, exams, and homework
- Coordinated grading and labs with a team of two other teaching assistants and Dr. Kate Lindsey and Dr. Jonathan Barnes

Boston University Fall 2020
Guest Lecturer, Department of Linguistics

- Lectured in the Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology, taught by Dr. Kate Lindsey; Click phonetics, typology, and phonology.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Database Management, Optical Character Recognition, SPSS, RStudio, ArcGIS, Praat, ELAN, Transcription following Leipzig Conventions, MS Office, Translation

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- \$22,500. Graduate Dissertation Fellowship. 2025. *Boston University Center for the Humanities*.
- \$3500. Lewis and Clark Fund. 2025. *American Philosophical Society*. “Trilingual whistlers in Butembo, DRC.”
- \$2000. Language Revitalization Accelerator Grant. 2025. *Wikitongues*. “Starting a Tshila Language Nest in Kaudwane, Botswana.”
- \$5000. Learn More Research Grant. 2024. *Boston University Office of Diversity &*

Inclusion. “Supporting Northern Pomo Community Efforts in Language Reclamation.”

- \$16159. Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (GRAF). 2024. *Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*. “Topics in Whistled Languages.”
- \$6000. Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship, with Travel Award. 2024. *Boston University African Studies Center*.
- \$5000. Accelerating Classroom Transformation (ACT) Grant. 2023. *Shipley Center for Digital Learning and Innovation*. “Ultrasound equipment to improve teaching of linguistics and African languages” with Dr. Zoliswa Mali.
- \$2500. Research Grant. 2023. *Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)*. “Language Maintenance in indigenous Kabyle-Tamazight language” with Dalila Gaoua.
- \$500. Professional Development Grant. 2023. *Boston University Office of the Associate Provost*. “Linguistic fieldwork training program in Botswana.”
- \$3800. Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (GRAF). 2023. *Boston University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*. “Documenting Whistled Kinande in the DRC.”
- \$6000. Summer in the Field Fellowship. 2023. *Boston University Global Development Policy Center*. “Documenting Whistled TshiVenda in South Africa.”
- \$1000. GSO Travel Grant. 2023. *Boston University Graduate Student Organization*.
- \$2000. East and Inner Asia Council Small Grant. 2022. *Association for Asian Studies*. “Fieldwork on Ersu and Yi in Southwest China” with Ying Gong.
- \$25,134. Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship. 2022. *Boston African Studies Center*.
- \$2600. Pellegrini Scholarship. 2018. *Swiss Benevolent Society of New York*.
- \$15,000. Watson-Brown Scholarship. 2014-2018. *Watson Brown Foundation*.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Boston University Global House

2023-2024

- Organized cultural programming for a living and learning community
- Used Canva to design publicity materials for events and programs offered to students

Northern Pomo Revitalization Project.

2021-present

- Helped create a website with learning materials
- Designed lesson plans for a high school class
- Helped write a pocket dictionary, picturebooks, and other learning materials

Boston University Conference on Language Development Organizing Committee & Hospitality Chair

2020

- Engaged in moving the conference to a virtual platform
- Ensured various accommodations such as for nursing mothers, disability, and translation services

Boston University Conference on Language Development Organizing Committee & Hospitality Chair

2019

- Oversaw catering, event planning, poster session organization
- Ensured accommodations for nursing mothers, disabilities, and ASL interpreters

New York University Bobst Library Librarian Assistant

2018

- Organizational database management, administrative responsibilities
- Customer service, cataloging, inter-departmental communications
- Formal training in archival research materials, such as microfilm

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Boston University – Department of linguistics

Colloquium committee 2022-2023

Helped organize logistics for a series of colloquia by renowned academics invited to present their work at BU.

RISE – Fresh Start,

Curriculum developer 2022-2023

Refugee education initiative for refugees learning English. Designed and workshopped hour-long lesson plans for volunteer tutors to use in their online sessions with refugee students both in the United States and in Afghanistan.

Tarjimly

Translator 2020

Online service connecting volunteer translators to refugees in immediate need of legal documents, testimonials, and day-to-day activities; primarily translating between English and French.

New York University Linguistics Club

President 2017-2018

Organized a series of conference talks on various topics of interest, including professional development, graduate applications, and faculty research.