

Michael Becker

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Phonological determinants of word formation processes
- Computational modeling of lexical and behavioral word formation data
- Documentation and preservation of endangered languages

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2002	M.A. Magna cum laude in linguistics, Tel Aviv University
1997–2001	Interdisciplinary program for outstanding students, Tel Aviv University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–present	Associate professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2013–2019	Assistant professor, Stony Brook University
2012–2013	Assistant professor, Indiana University
2011–2012	Visiting assistant professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2009–2011	Lecturer, Harvard University
2008–2009	Visiting assistant professor, Reed College

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2020 | Honaida Ahyad and Michael Becker . Vowel unpredictability in Hijazi Arabic monosyllabic verbs. <i>Glossa: a journal of general linguistics</i> 5(1): 32. 1–18. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.814 . |
| 2018 | Michael Becker , Andrew Nevins, Filomena Sandalo, and Érick Rizzato. The acquisition path of [w]-final plurals in Brazilian Portuguese. <i>Journal of Portuguese Linguistics</i> 17(1),4. DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/jpl.189 |

- 2018 Jana Willer Gold, Boban Arsenijević, Mia Batinić, **Michael Becker**, Nermina Čordalija, Marijana Kresić, Nedžad Leko, Franc Lanko Marušić, Tanja Milićev, Nataša Milićević, Ivana Mitić, Anita Peti-Stantić, Branimir Stanković, Tina Šuligoj, Jelena Tušek, and Andrew Nevins. When linearity prevails over hierarchy in syntax. *PNAS* 115:3, pp. 495–500.
- 2017 **Michael Becker**, Lauren Eby Clemens, and Andrew Nevins. Generalization of French and Portuguese Plural Alternations and Initial Syllable Protection. *NLLT* 35:2, pp. 299–345.
- 2016 **Michael Becker** and Maria Gouskova. Source-oriented generalizations as grammar inference in Russian vowel deletion. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47:3, pp. 391–425.
- 2013 Maria Gouskova and **Michael Becker**. Nonce words show that Russian yer alternations are governed by the grammar. *NLLT* 31:3, pp. 735–765.
- 2012 **Michael Becker**, Andrew Nevins, and Jonathan Levine. Asymmetries in generalizing alternations to and from initial syllables. *Language* 88:2, pp. 231–268.
- 2011 **Michael Becker** and Anne-Michelle Tessier. Trajectories of faithfulness in child-specific phonology. *Phonology* 28:2, pp. 163–196.
- 2011 **Michael Becker**, Andrew Nevins, and Nihan Ketrez. The Surfeit of the Stimulus: Analytic biases filter lexical statistics in Turkish laryngeal alternations. *Language* 87:1, pp. 84–125.
- 2011 **Michael Becker** and Kathryn Flack Potts. The Emergence of The Unmarked. In Marc van Oostendorp, Colin J. Ewen, Elizabeth Hume, and Keren Rice (eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, pp. 1363–1379.
- 2010 Christopher Potts, Joe Pater, Karen Jesney, Rajesh Bhatt, and **Michael Becker**. Harmonic Grammar with Linear Programming: From linear systems to linguistic typology. With. *Phonology* 27:1, pp. 77–117.

SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPTS

- submitted to *Morphology* **Michael Becker** and Michael Dow. Gender without morphological segmentation in French.
- under revision for *Phonology* Blake Allen and **Michael Becker**. Learning alternations from surface forms with sublexical phonology. With lingbuzz/002503

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Anne-Michelle Tessier and **Michael Becker**. Vowel but not consonant identity and the very informal English lexicon. In Gillian Gallagher, Maria Gouskova and Sora Yin (eds.), *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2017 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America.
- 2017 **Michael Becker** and Peter Jurgec. Interactions of tone and ATR in Slovenian. In Wolfgang Kehrein, Björn Köhnlein, Paul Boersma & Marc van Oosterdorp (eds.) *Segmental structure and tone*. Tübingen: de Gruyter, pp. 11–25
- 2012 **Michael Becker**. Target selection in Error Selective Learning. *Brill's Annual of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 4, pp. 120–139.
- 2007 **Michael Becker**. Tone licensing and categorical alignment in Serbo-Croatian. In Leah Bateman et al. (eds.) *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 32: Papers in Optimality Theory III*. Amherst: GLSA, pp. 1–19.
- 2007 **Michael Becker** and Joe Pater. OT-Help user guide. In Michael Becker (ed.), *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 36: Papers in Theoretical and Computational Phonology*. Amherst: GLSA, pp. 1–12.
- 2003 **Michael Becker**. Lexical stratification of Hebrew: The disyllabic maximum. In Yehuda Falk (ed.) *Proceedings of IATL 19*.
- 2003 **Michael Becker**. Hebrew Stress: Can't you hear those trochees? In Elsi Kaiser and Sudha Arunachalam (eds.) *Proceedings of PLC 26*, 9.1: 45–58.

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Round table participant: Desafios teóricos e descritivos para a morfologia na atualidade. Part of the conference “ABRALIN ao vivo 2020”.
- 2020 Cairene Arabic stress is local. Atelier de Phonologie, Laboratoire Structures Formelles du Langage, Paris VIII.
- 2019 Sources of complexity in morphophonology. PEP lab, Department of Linguistics, New York University.
- 2018 Modeling the Arabic broken plural. Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

- 2017 The Sublexical Learner. Tutorial given as a part of the Annual Meeting on Phonology, NYU.
- 2017 A produtividade da distribuição vocálica em árabe. Department of Linguistics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Joint work with Honaida Ahyad (SBU).
- 2016 Segmental effects on stress in Slovenian. Invited keynote speaker at Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics, Cornell University.
- 2015 Acquiring and learning the irregular plural in Brazilian Portuguese. Department of Linguistics, Tel Aviv University. Joint work with Andrew Nevins (UCL) and Filomena Sandalo (UNICAMP).
- 2015 MaxEnt as a baseline theory of grammar. MFM Fringe Meeting, University of Manchester.
- 2015 Learning French plural morphology. Department of Linguistics and Translation at the University of Montreal. Joint work with Blake Allen (UBC), Lauren Clemens (SUNY Albany), Maria Gouskova (NYU) and Andrew Nevins (UCL).
- 2015 Learning grammars, not representations. Department of Linguistics at the University of Maryland. Joint work with Maria Gouskova (NYU) and Blake Allen (UBC).
- 2014 Multiple grammars organize speaker knowledge. SYNC conference, Stony Brook University. Joint work with Maria Gouskova (NYU) and Blake Allen (UBC).
- 2014 Experigen. Tutorial given as a part of Phonology 2014, MIT.
- 2013 A grammatical approach to exceptional Portuguese plurals. Departamento de Linguística, IEL-UNICAMP (State University of São Paulo). Joint work with Lauren Eby Clemens and Andrew Nevins.
- 2013 Computing morphophonology in a constraint-based framework. Linguistics department, Stony Brook University. Joint work with Maria Gouskova and Blake Allen.
- 2012 Universal Grammar protects Initial Syllables. Department of cognitive science, Johns Hopkins University. Joint work with Lauren Eby Clemens, Jon Levine, and Andrew Nevins.
- 2012 La grammaire universelle protège les syllabes initiales. Département de linguistique, Université du Québec à Montréal. Joint work with Lauren Eby Clemens, Jon Levine, and Andrew Nevins.

- 2012 Universal Grammar protects Initial Syllables. Linguistics department, Indiana University. Joint work with Lauren Eby Clemens, Jon Levine, and Andrew Nevins.
- 2011 Universal Grammar protects Initial Syllables. Linguistics department, Harvard University. Joint work with Lauren Eby Clemens, Jon Levine, and Andrew Nevins.
- 2010 Finding Universal Grammar in Initial Syllables. Linguistics department, Stony Brook University.
- 2010 Target selection in Error Selective Learning. At the workshop on computational modelling of sound pattern acquisition. University of Alberta, Edmonton.
- 2009 Learning hidden structure in paradigms. Université Paris 7.
- 2009 Learning hidden structure in paradigms. Linguistics department, UCSC.
- 2009 Surface-based generalizations over lexical exceptions. With Lena Fainleib (Tel Aviv). Linguistics department, UCLA.
- 2008 The role of markedness in generalizing over lexical exceptions. With Lena Fainleib (Tel Aviv). Linguistics department, NYU.
- 2008 Why and how to use Universal Grammar in learning irregular morphology. Linguistics department, Reed College.
- 2008 What do Hebrew speakers know about irregular patterns? The role of Universal Grammar. Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2007 The role of statistical generalizations in the grammar. Phonology reading group, University of Tromsø.
- 2007 The role of statistical generalizations in the grammar. Linguistics department colloquium, Ben Gurion University.
- 2006 Computational Optimality Theory with finite candidate sets. MIT Phonology Circle.
- 2006 Computational Optimality Theory with finite candidate sets. Thursday Interdisciplinary Colloquium, Tel Aviv University.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2019 Binarity and ternarity in the Kadiwéu verb. 93rd meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New York City. With Seoyoung Kim (Stony Brook University) and Filomena Sandalo (UNICAMP).
- 2018 Binarity and ternarity in the Kadiwéu verb. Annual Meeting on Phonology, UCSD. With Seoyoung Kim (Stony Brook University) and Filomena Sandalo (UNICAMP).
- 2018 Vowel distribution in the Arabic root. 92nd meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, Utah. With Honaida Ahyad (Stony Brook).
- 2017 Vowel but not consonant identity and the very informal English lexicon. Annual Meeting on Phonology, NYU. With Anne-Michelle Tessier, Simon Fraser University.
- 2017 Affix-specificity makes stress learnable. 91st meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Austin, TX.
- 2016 Inconspicuous unfaithfulness in Slovenian. Annual Meeting on Phonology, USC. With Peter Jurgec, University of Toronto.
- 2016 Sonority restricts laryngealized plosives in Southern Aymara. 43rd meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society. With Paola Céspedes (SBU).
- 2016 The predictability of vowel alternations in Urban Hijazi Arabic imperfective nonce forms. 43rd meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society. With Honaida Ahyad (SBU).
- 2015 The acquisition path of plurals in Brazilian Portuguese. The Romance Turn VII (Venice). With Andrew Nevins (UCL), Filomena Sandalo, and Érick Rizzato (UNICAMP).
- 2015 Fewer grammars, more coverage for the English past tense. 23rd Manchester Phonology Meeting. With Blake Allen (UBC).
- 2015 Learning alternations from surface forms with sublexical phonology. 89th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR. With Blake Allen (UBC).
- 2014 Learning alternations from surface forms with sublexical phonology. Phonology 2014, MIT. With Blake Allen (UBC).
- 2013 Gender without morphological segmentation in French. Phonology 2013, UMass Amherst. With Michael Dow (Indiana).
- 2013 A quantitative study of the caesura in Baudelaire's and Verlaine's alexandrines. Conference on metrical structure: text-setting and stress, MIT.

- 2013 Grammar inference expresses source-oriented generalizations in Russian yer deletion. 21st Manchester Phonology Meeting. With Maria Gouskova (NYU).
- 2013 Wug-testing source-oriented generalizations: grammar inference in yer deletion. 87th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Boston, MA. With Maria Gouskova (NYU).
- 2012 Source-oriented generalizations as grammar inference in yer deletion. 43rd Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, CUNY. With Maria Gouskova (NYU).
- 2012 A wug study of the grammar of Russian yers. 86th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR. With Maria Gouskova (NYU)
- 2012 Discrete grammar beats phonetics and usage-based predictors in alternations. 86th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR. With Lauren Eby Clemens (Harvard) and Andrew Nevins (UCL).
- 2011 Russian yer alternations are governed by the grammar. 42nd Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Toronto. With Maria Gouskova (NYU).
- 2011 A richer model is not always more accurate: the case of French and Portuguese plurals. 42nd Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Toronto. With Lauren Eby Clemens (Harvard) and Andrew Nevins (UCL).
- 2011 Differential treatment of initial syllables rears its head. 85th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA. With Jonathan Levine (Harvard) and Andrew Nevins (UCL).
- 2010 Differential treatment of initial syllables rears its head. 41st Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, UPenn. With Jonathan Levine (Harvard) and Andrew Nevins (UCL).
- 2010 Trajectories of faithfulness in child-specific phonology. 84th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Baltimore, MD. With Anne-Michelle Tessier (Alberta).
- 2010 Initial syllable faithfulness as the best model of word-size effects in alternations. 84th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Baltimore, MD. With Andrew Nevins (Harvard).
- 2009 Initial syllable faithfulness as the best model of word-size effects in alternations. 40th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, MIT. With Andrew Nevins (Harvard).

- 2009 The role of markedness in generalizing over lexical exceptions. 83rd meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, San Francisco, CA. With Lena Fainleib (Tel Aviv).
- 2008 The role of markedness constraints in learning lexical trends. 82nd meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Chicago, IL.
- 2007 Tone/ATR interactions in Slovenian. 7th European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL-7) in Leipzig. With Peter Jurgec (Meertens).
- 2007 From the lexicon to a stochastic grammar. 38th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, University of Ottawa.
- 2007 From the lexicon to a stochastic grammar. Workshop on Variation, Gradience and Frequency in Phonology, Stanford University.
- 2007 The role of markedness in Hebrew exceptional plurals. Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics 23, Tel Aviv University.
- 2007 Tone/ATR interactions in Slovenian. Workshop on Segments and Tone, Meertens Institute/Amsterdam University. With Peter Jurgec (Meertens).
- 2007 When and why to ignore lexical patterns in Turkish obstruent alternations. 81st meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Anaheim, CA. With Andrew Nevins (Harvard) and Nihan Ketrez (Yale).
- 2006 CCamelOT: An implementation of OT-CC's GEN and EVAL in Perl. 80th meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2003 Lexical stratification of Hebrew: The disyllabic maximum. Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics 19, Ben Gurion University.
- 2003 Hebrew Stress: Can't you hear those trochees? Penn Linguistics Collquium 26, University of Pennsylvania.

WORKSHOP TALKS

- 2009 Trajectories of faithfulness in child-specific phonology. Northeast Computational Phonology Circle (NECPhon) III, MIT. With Anne-Michelle Tessier (Alberta).
- 2008 Learning hidden structure in morphological bases. MUMM 2, a UMass-MIT phonology meeting.
- 2007 Prudent error-driven learning in OT-CC. Northeast Computational Phonology Circle (NECPhon), UMass Amherst.

- 2006 When and why to ignore lexical patterns in Turkish obstruent alternations. Yale Turkish Linguistics Workshop. With Andrew Nevins (Harvard) and Nihan Ketrez (Yale).
- 2006 Tone licensing and categorical alignment in Serbo-Croatian. HUMDRUM, Johns Hopkins University.
- 2006 Verum Focus and T-to- Σ movement in English. ECO5 syntax workshop, MIT.
- 2004 The interpretation of boundary tones: Turkish and beyond. Intonation Matters, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 2004 Lexical exceptions: Putting the grammar to work. HUMDRUM, Rutgers University.

LINGUISTIC SOFTWARE

- 2014 The sublexical morphophonological learner [web application]. With Blake Allen (UBC). Available at sublexical.phonologist.org
- 2010 Experigen: an online experiment platform. With Jonathan Levine (Harvard). Available at github.com/tlozoot/experigen
- 2007 LexLearn: a learner of irregular phonology using constraint cloning and OT-CC.
- 2007 OT-Help: typology explorer for Optimality Theory and Harmonic Grammar. With Joe Pater and Christopher Potts (UMass). Available at people.umass.edu/OThelp
- 2005 CCamelOT: an implementation of OT-CC's GEN and EVAL [web application]. Available at becker.phonologist.org/CCamelOT

INVITED LECTURE SERIES

- 2012 Four-day course: "Phonological Trends in the Lexicon"
Linguistics Department
State University of São Paulo, Brazil
- 2016 Four-day course: "Experimental and Computational Methods in Phonology and Morphology"
Linguistics Department
State University of São Paulo, Brazil

ADVISING

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Advisor

2019 Honaidah Ahyad
Predicting vowel choice in the Arabic verbal system

Member

expected Chikako Takahashi
2019 The interaction between L1 and L2 phonetic learning

expected Varvara Magomedova
2019 Two Arguments against Late Vocabulary Insertion: Evidence from Russian

2017 Sophia Kao
The naturalness of tone sandhi

2017 Ammar Alammar
The phonetics of pharyngealization in Najdi Arabic

2016 Itamar Kastner (NYU)
Form and meaning in the Hebrew verb

QUALIFYING PAPER COMMITTEES

Advisor

expected Howard Treadwell
2019 Phonotactics of Algonquian languages

expected Andrija Petrovic
2019 Vowel change and dissimilation in Serbo-Croatian inflection

2019 Seoyoung Kim
Modeling super-gang effects in MaxEnt Grammar

2019 Alex Yeung
Vowel hiatus resolutions enhance weak segments: the case of contextual glide epenthesis

2017 Chikako Takahashi
No metathesis in Harmonic Serialism

2016 Anna Melnikova
Palatalization targets and triggers in Russian nonce loanwords

- 2015 Honaidah Ahyad
The predictability of vowel alternations in Urban Hijazi Arabic imperfective nonce forms
- 2015 Ammar Alammar
Acoustic Correlates of Emphasis in Najdi Arabic
- 2015 Paola Cépeda
Phonotactic Constraints on the Distribution of Root-Internal Laryngealized Consonants in Southern Aymara

Member

- 2018 Alex Yeung
Lexical category effects in Cantonese loanword phonology
- 2018 Hossep Dolatian
Phonological constituents in Armenian: when cyclicity misaligns
- 2017 Hyunah Baek
Perceptual adaptation of ambiguous vowels in L1 versus L2
- 2017 Yaobin Liu
Cues to English stress by native speakers of Chinese
- 2014 Honaidah Ahyad
The site and quality of epenthetic vowels in Makkan loanwords
- 2014 Ammar Alammar
Non-metrical vowel optimization and iambic unevenness in Arabic
- 2014 Brigitta Fodor
A non-native segment in vowel harmony: the adaptation and suffixation of loanwords with a syllabic [l] in Hungarian
- 2013 Amanda Yazdani
L2 Usage Effects on L1 Perception
- 2012 Lena Fainleib (UMass Amherst)
Weight effects in Russian and Hebrew stress
- 2012 Presley Pizzo (UMass Amherst)
An Online Model of Constraint Induction for Learning Phonological Alternations
- 2011 Andreea Nicolae (Harvard University)
The laryngeal specification of fricatives in Turkish

2010 Peter Jenks (Harvard University)
Syllable weight and high tone in Moro

MASTERS THESES

2017 Jamilläh Rodrigues
Size Restrictions on Reduplication in Brazilian Portuguese: A Corpus Study

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROJECTS, SENIOR THESES, AND RASHIPS

2019 Gabriella Lalli Martins
2019 Victoria Page
2017 Patrick Gaston
2017 Julia Martinez
2016 Jiahui Chen
2015 Jennifer Gabriele
2015 Lauren Haddock
2011 Blake Allen (Harvard University)
2011 Sarah Bakst (Harvard University)
2010 Mira Lippold (Harvard University)
2009 Wesley Hilton (Reed College)
2009 William Pickett (Reed College)
2009 Gregory Sides (Reed College)
2009 Charles Zuckerman (Reed College)

COMPUTATION

programming JavaScript, R, Praat, Perl, Python, Java, SQL
web design HTML, CSS, JavaScript
other \LaTeX , *nix

LANGUAGES

native	Hebrew
fluent	English, Brazilian Portuguese, French
extensive	Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, Turkish
elementary	Other Romance languages (Spanish, Italian), other dialects of Arabic (Palestinian, Lebanese, Moroccan), Russian, Farsi, Aramaic
fieldwork	Kadiwéu (Guaikurúan), Kuikuro (Cariban)