

Michael Becker

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June 2023

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

PUBLICATIONS

to appear	Michael Becker , Andrew Nevins, Filomena Sandalo, and Érick Rizzato. Prosodic generalizations in the Brazilian Portuguese diphthongal plural. <i>Journal of Portuguese Linguistics</i> .
2022	Michael Becker . Cairene Arabic stress is local. <i>Radical: A Journal of Phonology</i> 4, 211–247.
2020	Michael Becker and Peter Jurgec. Positional faithfulness drives laxness alternations in Slovenian. <i>Phonology</i> 37(3), 335–366.

- 2020 Honaida Ahyad and **Michael Becker**. Vowel unpredictability in Hijazi Arabic monosyllabic verbs. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 5(1): 32. 1–18.
- 2018 **Michael Becker**, Andrew Nevins, Filomena Sandalo, and Érick Rizzato. The acquisition path of [w]-final plurals in Brazilian Portuguese. *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics* 17(1),4.
- 2018 Jana Willer Gold, Boban Arsenijević, Mia Batinić, **Michael Becker**, Nermina Čordalija, Marijana Kresić, Nedžad Leko, Franc Lanko Marušič, 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.
- 2018 Anne-Michelle Tessier and **Michael Becker**. Vowel but not consonant identity and the very informal English lexicon. In Gillian Gallagher, Maria Guskova and Sora Yin (eds.), *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2017 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Washington, DC: Linguistic Society of America.
- 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.
- 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
- 2016 **Michael Becker** and Maria Guskova. Source-oriented generalizations as grammar inference in Russian vowel deletion. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47:3, pp. 391–425.
- 2013 Maria Guskova 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.
- 2012 **Michael Becker**. Target selection in Error Selective Learning. *Brill's Annual of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 4, pp. 120–139.
- 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. *Phonology* 27:1, pp. 77–117.
- 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.

MANUSCRIPTS

- in prep **Michael Becker** and Daniel Ben-Levi. Automating the reading tradition of Romantic French poetry.
- submitted to *NLLT* **Michael Becker**, Bruna Franchetto, Arawa Didi Kuikuro, Yanapa Mehinaku Kuikuro, Andrija Petrovic. The incoherent stress of Kuikuro.
- submitted to *Phonology* Blake Allen and **Michael Becker**. Learning alternations from surface forms with sublexical phonology. lingbuzz/002503

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 Acento incoerente em kuikuro. Department of Linguistics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Joint work with Bruna Franchetto (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro & CNPq), Arawa Didi Kuikuro, Yanapa Mehinaku Kuikuro (University of Campinas), and Andrija Petrovic (Stony Brook University).
- 2020 The incoherent stress of Kuikuro. Department of Linguistics, Tel Aviv University. Joint work with Bruna Franchetto (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro & CNPq), Arawa Didi Kuikuro, Yanapa Mehinaku Kuikuro (University of Campinas), and Andrija Petrovic (Stony Brook University).
- 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

- 2021 The prosody of Kadiwéu verbs. Amazonicas VIII, online. With Seoyoung Kim (University of Massachusetts Amherst) and Filomena Sandalo (UNICAMP).
- 2020 The incoherent stress of Kuikuro. Annual Meeting on Phonology, UCSC. With Bruna Franchetto (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro & CNPq), Arawa Didi Kuikuro, Yanapa Mehinaku Kuikuro (University of Campinas), and Andrija Petrovic (Stony Brook University).
- 2019 Binariness and ternariness 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 Binariness and ternariness 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 C epeda (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  rick 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 Colloquium 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.

EDITED VOLUMES

2007 University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 36: Papers in Theoretical and Computational Phonology.

2007 University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics 33: Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on the Semantics of Underrepresented Languages in the Americas. With Andrew McKenzie.

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

COMPUTATION

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

LANGUAGES

native	Hebrew
fluent	English, Brazilian Portuguese
advanced	French, Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, Turkish

fieldwork

Kadiwéu (Guaikurúan), Kuikuro (Cariban)