

# Luisa Seguin, Dr.

Bases, Corpus, Langage  
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## Employment

- January 2026 - **Postdoctoral associate**, *Université Côte d'Azur, Nice (France)*, UMR 7320  
- Bases, Corpus, Langage
- July 2025 - **Research associate**, *Centre d'Études Francoprovençales René Willien, Saint-Nicolas, Aosta Valley (Italy)*
- July-December 2025 **Research associate**, *University of Toronto*

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## Education

- 2020-2025 **PhD in Linguistics**, *University of Maryland, College Park, MD*  
- THESIS: Overt-covert movement and chain realization in Valdôtain Patois  
- COMMITTEE: Prof. Maria Polinsky, Prof. Aron Hirsch, Prof. Gary Thoms (NYU), and Prof. Howard Lasnik
- 2014 - 2017 **Research Master in Linguistics**, *University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*  
- THESIS: Language Contact in the Balkan Sprachbund: a study of Transparency in Bulgarian, Greek, Italian, Romanian, and Russian  
- ADVISORS: Prof. Kees Hengeveld and Prof. Roland Pfau
- 2010 - 2014 **Bachelor of Arts in Languages and Linguistics**, *Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy*  
- THESIS: Quirky Case: a diachronic and synchronic study of subject case in Icelandic  
- ADVISOR: Prof. Alessandra Giorgi

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## Research interests

- Broad:** syntax, information structure, semantics, comparative Romance linguistics, fieldwork,
- Narrow:** wh-movement, chain realization, copy deletion, the vP/VP structure, reflexivity, exceptive and exclusive constructions, Valdôtain Patois

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## Publications

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- in prep* **Seguin, L.** Sometimes exceptive, sometimes exclusive: A case study of Italian *a parte*.
- in prep* **Seguin, L.** Mapping syntax to PF: a feature-based account of the realization of wh-chains.
- submitted* **Seguin, L.** Patterns of cliticization in a Francoprovençal variety of Aosta Valley: a person-based split and enclisis on past participles.
- submitted* **Seguin, L.** When pronouncing a lower copy saves the day: how 'early' chain realization voids island effects in a variety of Francoprovençal.
- in press* **Seguin, L.** Les interrogatives wh comme anaphoriques à la Question en Discussion : une analyse du patois de Morgex dans une perspective interromane. *Nouvelles du Centre d'Études Francoprovençales René Willien* 83(1).
- in press* Dunoyer, C. & **L. Seguin**. Teaching Francoprovençal in the Alps: language representations and glottopolitical Issues. *Langues MoDiMEs*, special edition of *La Revue internationale des Langues Etrangères Appliquées*.
- in press* **Seguin, L.** The (in)compatibility of wh and focus in root and embedded questions in Romance and beyond. In *The Oxford Handbook of Syntactic Cartography*, Sam Wolfe (Ed.), Oxford University Press.
- in press* Bešlin, M., Howitt, K., Krauska, A., **Seguin, L.**, and J. Uriagereka. Introduction. In Bešlin, M., Howitt, K., Krauska, A., **Seguin, L.**, and J. Uriagereka (Eds.) *Syntax Redux: On Structured Sentences*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2026 **Seguin, L.** The syntax and pragmatics of clause-internal wh-phrases in Valdôtain Patois, *Linguistic Variation: Theoretical and empirical issues in Italo-Romance varieties* 26(1), 203 - 220.
- 2025 **Seguin, L.** and G. Thoms. Unifying parasitic gaps and ATB extraction: mismatches in Italian and beyond, In Clemens L., Gribanova, V. & G. Scontras (Eds.) *Syntax in Uncharted Territories: Essays in Honor of Maria Polinsky*, 505-523.
- 2025 **Seguin, L.** Choose me! Optionality in wh-movement and copy deletion: evidence for overt-covert movement in Valdôtain Patois. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 10(1), 1-44.
- 2020 **Seguin, L.** Language Contact in the Balkan Sprachbund: A study of transparency in Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian, Italian, and Greek, *Language Ecology* 4(2), 151–174. Appeared: 2023
- 2020 **Seguin, L.** Transparency and language contact: The case of Haitian Creole, Fongbe and French, *The Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 35(2), 218-252.
- 2020 **Seguin, L.** Transparency and language contact: The case of Haitian Creole, Fongbe and French, *Linguistics in Amsterdam* 11(2), 211-242.

#### PROCEEDINGS

- 2025 **Seguin, L.** Deletion of higher copies voids island effects: Evidence from Valdôtain Patois. In Akolkar S., A. Galvano, I. Akil, F. Liu and L. Mikkelsen (eds.). *Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics 42(WCCFL 42)*, Cascadilla Press.

#### EDITED VOLUMES

- in press* Bešlin, M., Howitt, K., Krauska, A., **Seguin, L.**, and J. Uriagereka. *Syntax Redux: On Structured Sentences*. Cambridge University Press.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **Seguin, L.** The syntax and semantics of exceptive-exclusive constructions: a case study of Italian *eccetto*. *Lingbuzz*. University of Maryland, Minor area Paper.
- 2023 **Seguin, L.** Italian Exceptives Questionnaire. In *Variation in Exceptive Structures*. Zenodo. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.8014593.
- 2023 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal wh-phrases are actually fronted: evidence from Valdôtain Patois, *Lingbuzz*. University of Maryland, Qualifying Paper.

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## Presentations

#### CONFERENCES

- 2026 Nagy N., J. Kasstan, **L. Seguin** & M. Polinsky. Regional subject clitic variation in Francoprovençal: Connecting research and revitalization. *Methods in Dialectology and Language Diversity XIX (MethodsXIX)*, Vancouver (Canada). August.
- 2026 **Seguin, L.** Realizing a chain early might save the day: copy pronunciation, linearization, and island effects. *Rencontres Autour de la Linguistique Formelle 9(RALFE9)*, Paris (France). June.
- 2026 **Seguin, L.** A comparative analysis of object clitic placement and clitic climbing in Francoprovençal. *Gallo-Romance Advances in Morphology & Syntax (GRAMS)*, Dublin (Ireland). May.
- 2026 Kasstan, J., **L. Seguin**, N. Nagy, & M. Polinsky. A comparative analysis of object clitic placement and clitic climbing in Francoprovençal. *Gallo-Romance Advances in Morphology & Syntax (GRAMS)*, Dublin (Ireland). May.
- 2026 **Seguin, L.** Patterns of cliticization and clitic movement in Francoprovençal (Poster). *51° Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG51)*, Udine (Italy). February.

- 2025 Nagy N., C. Dunoyer, J. Kasstan & **L. Seguin**. Inter-dependent revitalization and field research: Linking Homeland and Heritage Francoprovençal (Poster). *New Issues in Language Contact Studies (NILCS 2025)*, L'Aquila (Italy). May.
- 2024 **Seguin, L.** Reflexes of successive cyclic movement at the vP edge: copy pronunciation and NPA assignment in Valdôtain Patois. *Going Romance 2024 (GoRo24)*, Braga (Portugal). December.
- 2024 **Seguin, L.** & M. Polinsky. Discourse-level analysis of exclusive *eccetto* (Poster). *Going Romance 2024 (GoRo24)*, Braga (Portugal). December.
- 2024 **Seguin, L.** The syntax and semantics of Italian exceptive-exclusive constructions. *54th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL 54)*, Provo (USA). May.
- 2024 **Seguin, L.** Overt-covert movement in Romance. *42nd West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 42)*, Berkeley (USA). April.
- 2024 **Seguin, L.** and G. Thoms. Unifying parasitic gaps and ATB extraction: mismatches in Italian and beyond. *42nd West Coast Conference of Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 42)*, Berkeley (USA). April.
- 2023 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal or fronted? The syntax and pragmatics of wh-phrases in Valdôtain Patois. *53rd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL 53)*, Paris. June.
- 2023 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal wh-phrases are actually fronted. *Rencontres Autour de la Linguistique Formelle (RALFE)*, Nice (France). May.
- 2022 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal wh-phrases and the Low Left Periphery: the case of Valdôtain Patois. *Mapping Syntax – Universals, Variation, Acquisition, and Change*, Oxford (UK). November.
- 2022 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal wh-phrases and the Low Left Periphery of Valdôtain Patois. *16th Comparative Italian Dialect Syntax-Morphology Meeting (CIDSM 16)*, Naples (Italy). September.
- 2022 **Seguin, L.** Clause internal wh-phrases in Valdôtain Patois. *ECO-5*, Boston (USA). April.
- 2016 **Seguin, L.** Transparency in Haitian Creole, Fongbe, and French (Poster). *Juniorendag*, Amsterdam (The Netherlands). April.

#### INVITED TALKS

- 2024 **Seguin, L.** Excluding exclusives (Poster). *The Science of Linguistic Diversity*, University of Maryland. May.
- 2023 **Seguin, L.** Italian exceptive-exclusive constructions: phrasal or causal? A case study of *eccetto* (Poster). *SynNYU*. New York University. November.
- 2022 **Seguin, L.** Decomposing A'-movement: on clause internal wh-phrases and focus in Valdôtain Patois, *NYU Syntax Brown Bag*. New York University. October.

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## Research Assistanship

2022-2024 **Variation in Exceptive Structures, NSF-funded project (BCS-2116343 and BCS-2116344)**

PIs: Prof. Maria Polinsky (UMD) & Prof. Eric Potsdam (UF)

DUTIES:

- Investigating the semantic and morphosyntactic properties of exceptive constructions in Italian
- The syntax and semantics of exclusive constructions
- Creating a questionnaire to investigate exclusive constructions crosslinguistically

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## Teaching experience

### INSTRUCTION

Fall 2023 **LING419D Topics in Syntax: Perspectives on wh-movement, UMD**

DUTIES: designing the course, choosing the readings, preparing materials, teaching, evaluating

### ASSISTANSHIP

Fall 2022 **LING311 Synax I, UMD**

DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tonia Bleam

Spring 2022 **LING 200 Introductory Linguistics, UMD**

DUTIES: leading weekly discussion sessions, preparing materials, grading, office hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tonia Bleam

Fall 2021 **LING240 Language and Mind, UMD**

DUTIES: preparing materials, grading, office hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tonia Bleam

### GUEST LECTURING

Fall 2023 **LING 819 Graduate Seminar in Syntactic Theory, UMD & University of Florida**

TOPIC: The syntax of peripheries

INSTRUCTORS: Prof. Maria Polinsky & Prof. Eric Potsdam

### SUMMER SCHOOLS

July 2026 **Des communautés alpines face aux défis contemporains : Culture, langue et territoire, Centre d'Études Francoprovençales, Saint-Nicolas (Italy)**

TOPIC: Islands: looking at an endangered and minoritized language in a universal perspective

July 2026 **Yerevan Academy for Linguistics and Philosophy, Yerevan (Armenia)**

TOPIC: The syntax and semantics of exceptive and exclusive constructions

- July 2025 **Culture alpine et langue francoprovençale : transmission et enseignement**, *Centre d'Études Francoprovençales, Saint-Nicolas (Italy)*  
TOPIC: Research in theoretical syntax on understudied languages: fieldwork, questions, and challenges

#### TUTORING

- 2022-2024 **Language tutor of Italian language and culture, UMD**  
DUTIES: weekly one-on-one meetings, group discussions, preparation of materials for discussion, progress assessments

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### Research grants

- 2026-2031 Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant **435-2026-1318**  
*Subject Clitic Analysis across Language Ecologies (SCALE)* (Co-Applicant with Naomi Nagy, Jonathan Kasstan, and Maria Polinsky)

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### Other grants, fellowships, and awards

- 2025 Research Fellowship, Centre d'Études Francoprovençales René Willien  
2020-2025 Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland  
2024 College of Arts and Humanities ARHU Travel Grant, University of Maryland  
2024 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, University of Maryland  
2024 College of Arts and Humanities ARHU Travel Grant, University of Maryland  
2024 Jakob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland  
2023 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, University of Maryland  
2023 International Conference Student Support Award  
2023 College of Arts and Humanities ARHU Travel Grant, University of Maryland  
2022 Jakob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland  
2022 College of Arts and Humanities Summer Fellowship, University of Maryland  
2010-2014 Government Scholarship for University Students, Aosta Valley  
2013 Erasmus scholarship for a semester abroad at the University of Iceland, Ca' Foscari University  
2008 Scholarship for a year abroad in the Russian Federation, AFS Intercultural Programs

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### Service and outreach

#### REVIEWING

- 2022- Proofreader for Language Science Press  
2026 Glossa  
2026 International Journal of Bilingualism

- 2025 26th Diachronic Generative Syntax conference
- 2025 Isogloss
- 2024 Journal of Language Contact, Brill
- 2024 Oxford Handbook of Syntactic Cartography, OUP
- 2023 Linguistic Variation, John Benjamins
- 2022 Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Syntax, CUP

#### EVENT ORGANIZATION

- 2026 Co-organiser of the CIDSM 20 at Université Côte d'Azur, Nice. September 23-25.
- 2024 Co-organiser of Mayfest 2024 The Science of Linguistic Diversity, a two-day workshop dedicated to Maria Polinsky, May 3-4 2024
- 2023 Co-organiser of Mayfest 2023 Howard's beginning, a two-day workshop dedicated to Howard Lasnik, May 5-6 2023
- 2021-2023 Co-organiser of the Open House for prospective students
- 2021-2023 Organiser of the S-lab at the University of Maryland, a weekly syntax meeting, with invited speakers

#### OUTREACH

- 09-10/2025 Training school teachers on how to teach Francoprovençal in elementary schools through interactive fiction tools and games *Journées de la formation* (Aosta Valley)
- 04/08/2024 Panel on linguistic research on Francoprovençal languages at the yearly *Rencontre valdôtaine des émigrés* (Champdepraz, Aosta Valley)
- 08/02/2024 *Why choose linguistics as a career path?* Outreach activity for high school students with *Fondation Émile Chanoux* (Aosta Valley)
- 24/10/2022 Volunteer at *Maryland Day*, an open day for families at the University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)
- 24/10/2021 Talk about wh-questions in Romance languages at the interdisciplinary Language Science Day 2021, *Planet Word Museum* (Washington DC)

## Languages

- Fluent** Italian (native), Francoprovençal Valdôtain, English, French
- Intermediate** German, Dutch, Russian
- Beginner** Mandarin, Spanish
- Research** Bulgarian, Fongbe, Greek, Haitian Creole, Icelandic, Romanian

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## Tech Skills

MS Office, Latex  
Praat (intermediate)  
R, Python, MATLAB (beginner)

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## Affiliations

**2022 - 2025** Linguistic Society of America (LSA)