

# BrettC Nelson

👉 Ph.D., Linguistics 👈

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## 📖 Research interests

Multilingualism; phonology; multilingual language learning; language revitalization & pedagogy; Indigenous languages of North & Central America; laryngeals; Mayan linguistics; English linguistics; Spanish linguistics; linguistic typology; writing systems; calendrics; data visualization & accessibility

## 🏛 Education

- 2017 – **University of Calgary, Calgary AB, Canada**  
2023 **Ph.D.** (Linguistics); Supervised by Dr. Darin Flynn  
Thesis: *Learning the Sounds of Silence: Adult acquisition of Kaqchikel (Mayan) plain and glottalized stop consonants*  
Examiners: Darin Flynn, Angeliki Athanasopoulou, Mary Grantham O'Brien, Stephen Winters, and Magdalena Wrembel
- 2017 – **University of Calgary, Calgary AB, Canada**  
2020 **Graduate Certificate** (University Teaching & Learning); Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning
- 2016 – **Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA**  
2017 **M.A.** (Linguistics); Advised by Dr. Judith M. Maxwell
- 2015 – **Oxlajuj Aj, Mayan Language Institute, Antigua, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala**  
2017 Advanced Kaqchikel Language and Culture  
Intermediate Kaqchikel Language and Culture  
Beginning Kaqchikel Language and Culture
- 2011 – **Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA**  
2016 **B.S.** (Linguistics); Advised by Dr. Judith M. Maxwell

## 👤 Teaching positions

- 2024 – **Mount Royal University – Calgary, AB, Canada**  
Present **Sessional Instructor**
  - Fall 2024: *The Nature of Language I* (two sections)
- 2017 – **University of Calgary – Calgary, AB, Canada**  
2023 **Sessional Instructor**
  - Spring 2022: *Introduction to Linguistics*
  - Fall 2021: *Introduction to Linguistics*
  - Spring 2020: *Introduction to Linguistics*

## Teaching positions (continued)

- 2017 – 2023 | **University of Calgary – Calgary, AB, Canada**  
**Teaching Assistant**
- Winter 2023: *Phonetics I* – Dr. Stephen Winters
  - Fall 2022: *Phonology I* – Corey Telfer
  - Winter 2022: *Beginner's Spanish II* – Dr. Elizabeth Montes Garcés
  - Winter 2022: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Dr. Angeliki Athanasopoulou
  - Fall 2021: *Phonology I* – Dr. Darin Flynn
  - Winter 2021: *Varieties of English* – Drs. Stephen Winters & Dennis Storoshenko
  - Winter 2021: *Historical Linguistics I* – Dr. Amanda Pounder
  - Fall 2020: *The History of English* – Dr. Amanda Pounder
  - Fall 2020: *Introduction to Semantics* – Dr. Dimitrios Skordos
  - Summer 2020: *Language and Advertising* – Dr. Svitlana Winters
  - Winter 2020: *Language and Mind* – Dr. Dimitrios Skordos
  - Fall 2019: *Language Acquisition I* – Dr. Dimitrios Skordos
  - Fall 2018: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Dr. Ashley Burnett
  - Winter 2018: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Dr. Dimitrios Skordos
  - Fall 2017: *Phonology I* – Dr. Darin Flynn

## Non-teaching positions

- 2024 | **Innodata, Inc. – Ridgefield Park, NJ, USA**  
**Generative AI Associate**

## Publications authored

- 2024 | **Nelson, B. C.** (2024). Insertion of [spread glottis] at the right edge of words in Kaqchikel. In J. Y. Kim, V. Miatto, A. Petrovic, & L. Repetti (Eds.), *Epenthesis and Beyond*. Language Science Press. <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/469>
- 2023 | **Kuhpani Yoyani Luhchi Yoroni (Tunica Language Working Group).** (2023). *Rowinataworu Luhchi Yoroni (Tunica Language Textbook)*. Indiana University Press.  
**Nelson, B. C.** (2023). Phonological redeployment for [retracted tongue root] in third language perception of Kaqchikel stops. *Frontiers in Language Sciences: Bilingualism*. <https://frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/flang.2023.1253816>
- 2021 | **Nelson, B. C.** & Flynn, D. (2021). “Chrump’s on Chwitter?” a fresh look at posteriorization in English. In A. Hernández & C. Plyley (Eds.), *2021 CLA conference proceedings*. [https://cla-acl.ca/pdfs/actes-2021/Nelson\\_and\\_Flynn-Chrumps\\_on\\_Chwitter.pdf](https://cla-acl.ca/pdfs/actes-2021/Nelson_and_Flynn-Chrumps_on_Chwitter.pdf)
- 2020 | **Nelson, B. C.** (2020). Right-edge phonological phenomena in Kaqchikel. *Calgary Working Papers in Linguistics*, 31, 72–88. <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/112765>
- 2019 | **Nelson, B. C.** (2019). Regular language change in action: Questioning the Romanization of the linguistic landscape of the Mediterranean. *Fleur-de-Ling: Tulane Working Papers in Linguistics*, 4. <http://mitwpl.mit.edu/catalog/tuwp04/>
- 2018 | Maxwell, J. M., & **Nelson, B. C.** (2018). *Ixcnul* [sic]: A commentary from Oxlajuj Aj. <https://larc.ucalgary.ca/publications/film-review-ixcanul-sic-commentary-oxlajuj-aj>



## Publications edited

- 2022 **Nelson, B. C.**, Abdalla, S., Boyede, C., Goddard Q., & Xu, K. (Eds.). (2022). *Calgary Working Papers in Linguistics*, 32. <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/114419>
- 2020 Nikolić, D., Daniel, A. D., **Nelson, B. C.**, Oguz, M., & Xu, K. (Eds.). (2020). *Calgary Working Papers in Linguistics*, 31. <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/112801>
- 2018 Abdollahnejad, E., Abu Amsa, D., Burkinshaw, K., Daniel, A. D., & **Nelson, B. C.** (Eds.). (2018). *Calgary Working Papers in Linguistics*, 30. <http://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/108948>



## Books reviewed

- June 2024 Garraffa, M., Sorace A. & Vender, M.; (2023). *Bilingualism Matters* (J. W. Schwieter, Trans.). Cambridge University Press. Review appears in LINGUIST List: <https://linguistlist.org/issues/35.1764/>

## Invited talks

- Oct 2022 “The sounds of Kaqchikel”  
Linguistics Division, University of Calgary – Calgary, AB, Canada
- Jul 2020 “Teaching linguistics remotely and online”  
Linguistics Division, University of Calgary – Calgary, AB, Canada

## Conference talks

- May 2024 “The L2/L3 acquisition of Mayan ejectives: The redeployment of dimensions and learning of gestures” (with Antonio González Poot, John Archibald, and Darin Flynn), *Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition 17* – Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA
- Nov 2023 “Redeploying phonological dimensions in the third language acquisition of Kaqchikel stop consonants”, *2023 Alberta Conference on Linguistics* – Lethbridge, AB, Canada
- Apr 2022 “Perception of L3 Kaqchikel (Mayan) stop consonants by Spanish/English multilingual learners”, *International Symposium on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech* – Lafayette, LA, USA
- Nov 2021 “Does that sound round to you? Generalized posteriorization of English alveolars before approximants”, *2021 Alberta Conference on Linguistics* – online
- Sep 2021 “Insertion of [spread glottis] at the right edge of words in Kaqchikel”, *Epenthesis and Beyond Workshop* – Stony Brook, NY, USA
- Jun 2021 “‘Chrump’s on Chwitter’?: A first look at expanding affrication of English /t/” (with Darin Flynn), *Congrès de l’Association canadienne de linguistique 2021 / 2021 Canadian Linguistic Association Conference* – online
- Apr 2021 “Don’t stop me now: preliminary data in the perception of stop consonants among Kaqchikel, Spanish, and English multilinguals”, *University of Calgary: School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures: 2021 Graduate Forum* – Calgary, AB, Canada
- Jan 2020 “[SG] in Southern Guatemala: Examining consonant allophony in Kaqchikel (Mayan)”, *Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2020 Winter Meeting* – New Orleans, LA, USA

## Conference talks (continued)

Jan 2020	“Incorporating Oxlajuj Aj’s teaching methodology in community language revitalization programs” (with Maura Sullivan and Rebecca J. Moore), <i>Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2020 Winter Meeting</i> – New Orleans, LA, USA
Sep 2019	“Right-edge phonological phenomena in Kaqchikel”, <i>2019 Northwest Phonetics &amp; Phonology Conference</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada
Jul 2019	“Rub’eyal kichinan Qach’ab’äl nima’q taq winaqi’ / La adquisición adulta del idioma Kaqchikel / Adult acquisition of Kaqchikel” (given in Kaqchikel), <i>Guatemala Scholars Network 2019 Conference</i> – Antigua, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala
May 2019	“Examining ‘No Question Particles’ in WALS”, <i>Southeastern Conference on Linguistics 86</i> – Boca Raton, FL, USA
Oct 2018	“Questions about questions in Tunica: A question particle =n?”, <i>2018 Alberta Conference on Linguistics</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada
Jan 2018	“Tunica vowel coalescence: Constraints for quality”, <i>Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2018 Winter Meeting</i> – Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Mar 2017	“Applications of verbal typology with specific reference to Kaqchikel”, <i>Southeastern Conference on Linguistics 84</i> – Charleston, SC, USA
Feb 2017	“The changing linguistic landscape of the Roman Empire”, <i>LSU-Shreveport Student Scholars Forum 2017</i> – Shreveport, LA, USA
Mar 2016	“Vocalic (dis)harmony in two Kaqchikel suffixes”, <i>Southeastern Conference on Linguistics 83</i> – New Orleans, LA, USA

## Conference submissions reviewed

Sep 2022	<i>2022 Alberta Conference on Linguistics (ACOL)</i> Calgary, AB, Canada
Mar 2021	<i>2021 Conference on Teaching Additional Languages Online</i> Calgary, AB, Canada
Sep 2019	<i>2019 Northwest Phonetics &amp; Phonology Conference (NoWPhon)</i> Calgary, AB, Canada
Apr 2017	<i>2017 Tulane Conference on Linguistics (T-CoL)</i> New Orleans, LA, USA

## Research projects

2023 – Present	<i>Redeployment in Mayan Language Acquisition</i> <b>Co-lead Investigator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• with Drs. John Archibald, Antonio González Poot, &amp; Darin Flynn</li></ul>
2020	<i>The Language Conservancy Dictionary Project</i> <b>Project Scribe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisted Nakoda group in discussing dictionary entries</li><li>• Recorded speaker intuitions on English translations</li><li>• Recorded audio of Nakoda spoken language</li></ul>

## Research projects (continued)

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|----------------|--|
| 2018           | <i>University of Calgary</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada<br><b>Research Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annotated Défàkà corpus for tone</li> </ul>   |
| 2017 – Present | <i>Kaqchikel Online Dictionary Project</i><br><b>Project Lexicographer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collected Kaqchikel dictionary data</li> <li>• Translated entries into Spanish and English</li> <li>• Developed Kaqchikel alphabetic sorting algorithm</li> </ul>  |
| 2014 – Present | <i>Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana</i> – Marksville, LA, USA<br><b>Volunteer Linguistic Consultant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researched original Tunica language sources</li> <li>• Wrote language textbook grammar explanations</li> <li>• Wrote language textbook exercises</li> <li>• Planned language lessons</li> <li>• Advised on linguistic issues in revitalization</li> </ul> |

## Related volunteer positions

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2020 – 2023 | <i>Graduate Students' Association</i> – University of Calgary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 – 2023: <b>Speaker</b>, Graduate Representative Council</li> <li>• 2020 – 2021: <b>Member</b>, Judicial Review Board</li> </ul>   |
| 2017 – 2023 | <i>A Higher Clause</i> (University of Calgary Linguistics Graduate Students' Association) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022 – 2023: <b>President</b></li> <li>• 2020 – 2022: <b>Vice President - Academic</b></li> <li>• 2020 – 2021: <b>Representative</b>, Graduate Representative Council</li> <li>• 2020 – 2021: <b>Representative</b>, School and Division meetings</li> </ul> |
| Oct 2022    | <i>Alberta Conference on Linguistics (ACOL)</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Program committee member;</b></li> <li>• <b>Abstract reviewer</b></li> </ul>  |
| Apr 2022    | <i>SLLLC Graduate Forum</i> – University of Calgary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizing committee member;</b></li> <li>• <b>Abstract reviewer</b></li> </ul>   |
| Feb 2022    | <i>Peer Beyond Graduate Research Symposium</i> – University of Calgary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Session chair</b></li> </ul>   |
| 2017 – 2022 | <i>Calgary Working Papers in Linguistics (CWPL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 – 2022: <b>Editor-in-chief</b></li> <li>• 2017 – 2020: <b>Co-editor</b></li> </ul>  |
| April 2017  | <i>Tulane Conference on Linguistics (T-CoL)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizing committee member;</b></li> <li>• <b>Session chair</b></li> </ul>   |

## Committees

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2017 – 2023 | <i>University of Calgary</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 – 2021: <b>Member</b>, Language Research Centre Steering Committee</li> </ul> |
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## Committees (continued)

- 2017 – 2023 | *Graduate Students' Association* – University of Calgary
- 2021 – 2022: **Member**, Academic Support Committee
  - 2021 – 2022: **Member**, Governance Standing Committee
  - 2019 – 2020: **Member**, Gender & Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee

## Honours and awards

- 2023 | Graduate Students' Association Graduate Representative Council Distinguished Service Award
- 2021 – 2022 | Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship  
CA\$15,000
- 2020 – 2021 | Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship  
CA\$15,000
- 2020 – 2021 | University of Calgary Faculty of Graduate Studies Doctoral Scholarship  
CA\$10,000 – superseded
- 2018 – 2019 | University of Calgary Dean's Doctoral Scholarship  
CA\$15,000
- 2018 – 2019 | University of Calgary Eyes High International Doctoral Scholarship  
CA\$11,000
- Summer 2017 | Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship  
Advanced Kaqchikel Language & Culture – US\$8,500
- Summer 2016 | Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship  
Intermediate Kaqchikel Language & Culture – US\$7,500
- Summer 2015 | Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship  
Beginning Kaqchikel Language & Culture – US\$8,163
- 2016 | Newcomb-Tulane College Outstanding Scholar in Linguistics Award

## Languages

### English (Home)

Speaking | ★ ★ ★

Listening | ★ ★ ★

Writing | ★ ★ ★

Reading | ★ ★ ★

### Kaqchikel

Speaking | ★ ★ ☆

Listening | ★ ★ ☆

Writing | ★ ★ ☆

Reading | ★ ★ ☆

### Spanish

Speaking | ★ ★ ☆

Listening | ★ ★ ☆

Writing | ★ ★ ★

Reading | ★ ★ ★

### Tunica

Speaking | ★ ☆ ☆

Listening | ★ ☆ ☆

Writing | ★ ☆ ☆

Reading | ★ ☆ ☆

### French (Heritage)

Speaking | ★ ☆ ☆

Listening | ★ ☆ ☆

Writing | ★ ☆ ☆

Reading | ★ ☆ ☆

### Danish

Speaking | ★ ☆ ☆

Listening | ★ ☆ ☆

Writing | ★ ☆ ☆

Reading | ★ ☆ ☆

## Programming Languages

 (LaTeX)



 (R)








 (Python)








## References

### Dr. Darin Flynn – Ph.D. Supervisor

 Associate Professor  
 University of Calgary  
 School of Languages, Linguistics,  
Literatures & Cultures:  
Division of Linguistics  
 Craigie Hall C 116  
 2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4  
CANADA



### Dr. Dimitrios Skordos

 Associate Professor  
 University of Calgary  
 School of Languages, Linguistics,  
Literatures & Cultures:  
Division of Linguistics  
 Craigie Hall D 413  
 2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4  
CANADA



### Dr. Judith M. Maxwell – M.A. Adviser

 Louise Rebecca Schawe and Williedell  
Schawe Memorial Professor  
 Tulane University  
 Department of Anthropology  
 413 Dinwiddie Hall  
 6826 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
USA

