

# BrettC Nelson

Ph.D., Linguistics

    
    
 0000-0001-6665-7193

   
 @brettc.bsky.social  
 @brettc@lingo.lol

   
 brettc-ling.net

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

## Teaching positions

2024 – Present	<b>Mount Royal University – Calgary, AB, Canada</b> <b>Sessional Instructor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall 2024: <i>The Nature of Language I</i> (two sections)</li></ul>
2017 – 2023	<b>University of Calgary – Calgary, AB, Canada</b> <b>Sessional Instructor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spring 2022: <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i></li><li>• Fall 2021: <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i></li><li>• Spring 2020: <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i></li></ul>

## Teaching positions (continued)

2017 – *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). *Rowinataworus 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://acl.ca/pdfs/actes-2021/Nelson\\_and\\_Flynn-Chrumps\\_on\\_Chwitter.pdf](https://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://mitwp1.mit.edu/catalog/tuwp04/>

2018 Maxwell, J. M., & **Nelson, B. C.** (2018). *Ixcanul* [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 Amsha, 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 winaq'i' / 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	<b>Redeployment in Mayan Language Acquisition Co-lead Investigator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>with Drs. John Archibald, Antonio González Poot, &amp; Darin Flynn</li></ul>
2020	<b>The Language Conservancy Dictionary 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)

2018	<i>University of Calgary</i> – Calgary, AB, Canada <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> <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 <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>SLLC 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	<p>Graduate Students' Association – University of Calgary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2021 – 2022: <b>Member</b>, Academic Support Committee</li><li>• 2021 – 2022: <b>Member</b>, Governance Standing Committee</li><li>• 2019 – 2020: <b>Member</b>, Gender &amp; Sexuality Alliance Subcommittee</li></ul>
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## 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)		Kaqchikel		Spanish	
Speaking	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
Listening	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
Writing	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
Reading	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
Tunica		French (Heritage)		Danish	
Speaking	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆
Listening	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆
Writing	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆
Reading	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆	★☆☆

## ⌨️ Programming Languages

LaTeX (LaTeX)



R (R)



Python (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

