Felicia Bisnath

Høgskulen på Vestlandet
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Academic Positions

Høgskulen på Vestlandet   Nov 2024 – present
Postdoctoral Researcher (DEPICT, Research Council of Norway 315864)   *Bergen, Norway*

Education

University of Michigan   2019 – 2024
PhD, Linguistics   *Ann Arbor, MI, USA*

University of Amsterdam   2016 – 2018
rMA, Linguistics   *Amsterdam, Netherlands*

University of the West Indies   2013 – 2016
BA, Linguistics   *St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago*

Publications

Damián Blasi, **Felicia Bisnath** & Szeto Pui. 2025. *Creoles.* In Limor Raviv & Cedric Boeckx (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Approaches to Language Evolution.* 195–208

Danielle Burgess, Joy Peltier, Sophia Eakins, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Alicia Stevers, Ariana Bancu, **Felicia Bisnath**, Moira Saltzman & Marlyse Baptista. 2024. *The MULTI Project: Resources for enhancing multi-faceted Creole representation in the linguistics classroom.* Teaching American Speech.

Felicia Bisnath. 2024. *Mouthing in 37 signed languages: typology, ecology and ideology*. Journal of Language Contact 16.4. https://doi.org/10.1163/19552629-01604004.

Ariana Bancu, Joy Peltier, **Felicia Bisnath**, Danielle Burgess, Sophia Eakins, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Moira Saltzman, Yourdanis Sedarous, Alicia Stevers & Marlyse Baptista. 2024. *On 'revitalizing' attitudes towards Creole languages*. In Anne Charity Hudley, Christine Mallinson and Mary Bucholtz (eds), *Decolonizing Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.

Savithry Namboodiripad, Nicole Cuneo, Mathew A. Kramer, Yourdanis Sedarous, Yushi Sugimoto, **Felicia Bisnath** & Adele E. Goldberg. 2022. *Backgroundness predicts island status of non-finite adjuncts in English*. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 44. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/236280w2.

Felicia Bisnath. 2022. *Wh-questions in the Trinidad and Tobago Signing Community*. Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistics Society 56 (CLS56). http://chicagolinguisticsociety.org/public/cls56-toc.pdf.

Felicia Bisnath & Silvia De Grandis. 2018. *A Diachronic Study of Transparency in Sranan*. Linguistics in Amsterdam 11(2). 179-210. https://dspace.uba.uva.nl/bitstreams/0bf14fda-95de-4c12-94c8-482056baf779/download.

Publications Under Review

Felicia Bisnath, Hannah Lutzenberger, Marah Jaraisy, Rehana Omardeen & Adam Schembri. To appear. *Deconstructing notions of morphological "complexity"*. https://psyarxiv.com/gbeqj.

Felicia Bisnath & Savithry Namboodiripad. Under Review. *Language Contact*. In Alice Gaby, Howard Manns & Anna Margetts (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Linguistics*. https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jcrwb

Presentations

2025

Felicia Bisnath. *Language contact & attitudes to mouthing among deaf and hard-of-hearing users of ASL in the United States*. April 29th 2025 (Talk) at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Silc Seminars

2024

Felicia Bisnath. *Effects of perceiver subjectivity on evaluation of mouthing in American Sign Language (ASL)*. June 25th 2024 (Talk) at University of Bergen, Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies.

Felicia Bisnath & Molly Flaherty. *The study of sign languages and gesture at Evolang conferences*. May 18th-21st 2024 (Talk) at International Conference on the Evolution of Language (Evolang) 2024, Madison, Wisconsin.

Felicia Bisnath. *Effects of perceiver subjectivity on evaluation of mouthing in American Sign Language (ASL)*. Apr 2nd 2024 (Talk) at Making Hands Lab, University of California, Santa Barbara, Linguistics Department.

Felicia Bisnath. *Types of ASL users in the United States: a bottom-up approach*. Mar 20th 2024 (Talk) at Sign Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, Linguistics Department.

Felicia Bisnath. *Implicit beliefs about spoken language contact in American Sign Language (ASL)*. Jan 4th-7th 2024 (Talk) at Centennial Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2024), New York City, New York.

Danielle Burgess, Joy Peltier, Sophia Eakins, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Alicia Stevers, Ariana Bancu, **Felicia Bisnath**, Moira Saltzman & Marlyse Baptista. *The MULTI Project: Resources for enhancing multi-faceted Creole representation in the linguistics classroom*. Jan 4th-7th 2024 (Talk) at Centennial Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2024), New York City, New York.

2023

Yourdanis Sedarous, **Felicia Bisnath** & Savithry Namboodiripad. 2023. *Naturalistic prosody leads to acceptable resumptive pronouns in English: Evidence from audio stimuli*. Aug 31st-Sep 2nd 2023 (Poster) at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP 2023), San Sébastian, Basque Country, Spain.

Felicia Bisnath, Marah Jaraisy, Rehana Omardeen, Hannah Lutzenberger & Adam Schembri. *Deconstructing notions of morphological 'complexity': lessons from signed and spoken languages*. April 20th 2024 (Talk) at Directions in Language Evolution workshop (DILE), Toruń, Poland.

Felicia Bisnath. *Forms of multimodal language contact: mouthing constructions across signed languages*. Mar 9th 2023 (Poster) at Coexistence, competition, and change: Perspectives on structural borrowing and the dynamics of asymmetric language contact workshop at 45th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, DGfS), Cologne, Germany.

Felicia Bisnath. *Forms of multimodal language contact: mouthing constructions across signed languages*. Jan 5th 2023 (Talk) at 97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2023), Denver, Colorado.

Ariana Bancu, Joy Peltier, **Felicia Bisnath**, Danielle Burgess, Sophia Eakins, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Moira Saltzman, Yourdanis Sedarous, Alicia Stevers & Marlyse Baptista. *On 'revitalizing' attitudes towards Creole languages*. Jan 5–8th 2023 (Talk) at 97th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2023), Denver, Colorado.

2022

Felicia Bisnath, Marah Jaraisy, Rehana Omardeen, Hannah Lutzenberger & Adam Schembri. *Deconstructing notions of morphological 'complexity': lessons from signed and spoken languages*. Dec 16th 2022 (Talk) at Linguistics Typology and Diversity: Theory, methods and ethics in sign language typology workshop at Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT14), Austin, Texas.

Felicia Bisnath. *Ideologies about mouthing and language background in American Sign Language (ASL)*. October 13th 2022 (Talk) at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 50 (NWAV50), Stanford, California, USA.

Felicia Bisnath, Marah Jaraisy, Rehana Omardeen, Hannah Lutzenberger & Adam Schembri. *Deconstructing notions of morphological 'complexity': lessons from signed and spoken languages*. Sep 12th 2022 (Poster) at Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Language Evolution (EDILE) workshop at Joint Conference on Language Evolution (JCoLE), Kanazawa, Japan and Online.

Felicia Bisnath. *The that-trace effect in Trinidadian English Creole*. Aug 2nd 2022 (Talk) at 25th Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics (SCL2022), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago and Online.

Ariana Bancu, Joy Peltier, **Felicia Bisnath**, Danielle Burgess, Sophia Eakins, Wilkinson Daniel Wong Gonzales, Moira Saltzman, Yourdanis Sedarous, Alicia Stevers & Marlyse Baptista. *On 'revitalizing' attitudes towards Creole languages*. April 7th–9th 2022 (Talk) at Society for Linguistic Anthropology 2022 (SLA 22), Boulder, Colorado.

2021

Felicia Bisnath. *Language ideology and language documentation in sign language typology/Implications of ideology and unequal distribution of resources on sign language typology*. December 16th–18th 2021 (Talk) at the Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory conference, London/Online.

Felicia Bisnath. *Mouthing as a feature of sign language use: the ubiquity of a multimodal multilingual phenomenon* at LingCologne2021[online]. 10–11th June 2021 (Poster)

Savithry Namboodiripad, **Felicia Bisnath**, Alex Kramer, Noah Luntzlara & Adele Goldberg. *Backgroundedness measures predict island status of non-finite clauses in English* at 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing [online]. 4–6th March 2021 (Poster) https://www.cuny2021.io/2021/02/24/317/

2020

Felicia Bisnath. *Mouthings as Semiotic Resources in Signed Language Emergence* at High Desert Linguistics Society 14 (HDLS14) at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, United States of America. 20th–22nd November 2020 (Poster) https://osf.io/btzfa/

Carl Börstell & **Felicia Bisnath**. *On Islands in the Sea: Swedish Preposition Usage with Island Nations* at High Desert Linguistics Society 14 (HDLS14) at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, United States of America. 20th–22nd November 2020 (Talk) https://osf.io/d9a7f/

Felicia Bisnath. *Wh-questions in the Trinidad and Tobago Signing* Community at Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS56) at the University of Chicago. April 30th–May 2nd, 2020 (Talk) (Cancelled: COVID-19)

Felicia Bisnath. *Wh-questions in the Trinidad and Tobago Signing Community* at Linguistics in Göttingen 3 (LinG3) at Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany. February 5–6th, 2020 (Talk)

2019

Felicia Bisnath. *Wh-questions in the Trinidad and Tobago Signing Community* at Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research 13 (TISLR13) at the University of Hamburg, Germany. September 26–28th, 2019 (Poster)

2018

Felicia Bisnath. *Verb Types in Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language (TTSL)* at the International Conference for Graduate Students on Diverse Approaches to Linguistics 6 (IGDAL6) at the University of Haifa, Israel. 23 April, 2018 (Talk)

2017

Felicia Bisnath. *Quantifiers in NGT: A Corpus Study* at the T.W.I.S.T. Student Conference at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. 21–22 April, 2017 (Poster)

Felicia Bisnath & Silvia De Grandis. *A Diachronic Study of Transparency in Sranan* at the 38th TABU Dag Conference at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. 22–23 June, 2017 (Poster)

2016

Felicia Bisnath *Higgins' Taxonomy of Copular Clauses in Trinidadian French Creole* at the 21st Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics (SCL) at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. August 1–6, 2016 (Talk)

Teaching

Graduate Student Instructor, Talking Minds (LING347/PSYCH 349)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Linguistics Department   *Jan–Apr 2022*

Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Cognitive Science (CogSci 200)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science   *Sep–Dec 2021*

Guest Lecturer, Language Acquisition (LING106): "Sign Language Acquisition"
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Linguistics Department   *Nov 18th 2021*

Instructor of Record, Writing and Academic Inquiry (ENG125)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | English Department   *Jan–Apr 2021*

Graduate Student Instructor, Epic Grammer Failz [sic] (LING137)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor | Linguistics Department   *Sep−Dec 2020*

Lecturer, Structure and Usage of Caribbean Sign Language II (LING2820)

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago | Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics   *Sep−Dec 2018*

Guest Lecturer, Language Acquisition (LING2101): "Sign Language Acquisition"

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago | Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics   *Oct 30th 2018*

Substitute tutor, Introduction to Language (LING1005)

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago | Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics   *2018*

Awards & Honors

Sarah Thomason Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Research

Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor   *2024*

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor   *Sep 2023−Aug 2024*

Institute for Social Research (ISR) − Rackham Summer Training Award

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor   *June-July 2023*

Humanities Research Fellowship

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor   *Jan−Aug 2023*

Student Travel Award ($815.00)

New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV50)   *2022*

"(A)Symmetries in spoken and signed languages" (€500,00)

German Science Foundation   *2020*

John Reinecke Memorial Prize for Linguistics

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago   *2015−2016*

Douglas Taylor Prize for Caribbean Linguistics

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago   *2015−2016*

Departmental Prize for Linguistics Research

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago   *2015−2016*

Development and Endowment Fund Star Scholarship ($2300.00)

University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago   *2015−2016*

Additional Training

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods   *Jun-July 2023*

Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Workshop on Quantitative Linguistics Methods   *2 May 2020*

Northern Arizona University

Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap (LOT) Winter School 2018   *8-19 Jan 2018*

Vrije University, Amsterdam

SIGN-HUB LABEX Summer School in Sign Language Linguistics   *8-12 May 2017*

Gargnano, Italy

Research internship   *Jul 2016*

Jamaican Language Unit, University of the West Indies

Service

GENERAL

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Language Evolution workshop at JCoLE 2022   *2022–present*
Organising Committee

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

Graduate Student Mentor   *2023–2024*

PhD Admissions Committee   *2022–2023*
Committee member
Sociolinguistics, Language Contact, Discourse Analysis Research Group (SoConDi)   *2022–2023*
Co-convener
Language Matters   *2022–2023*
Steering committee member
Colloquium Committee   *2021–2022*
Committee member
Graduate Linguists at Michigan (GLaM)   *2021–2022*
Co-president
Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS)   *June 2021*
Graduate Student Mentor
Graduate Linguists at Michigan (GLaM)   *2020–2021*
President
Inclusion and Diversity Committee   *2019–2020*
Committee member

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

University of the West Indies Linguistics Society   *2016*
President

Skills

Languages: English (first), Trinidadian English Creole (first), Norwegian (A1), American Sign Language (practical)

Software: R, LaTeX, ELAN