

George Balabanian

Address: Department of Linguistics
3401-C Walnut Street, Suite 300, C Wing
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228

Website: georgebalabanian.com
E-mail: gbalaban@sas.upenn.edu
Telephone: (267) 403-8217

EDUCATION

- 2024 **Doctor of Philosophy, Linguistics**, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Dissertation: *A Diachronic Analysis of Western Armenian Verbal Morphology*
Committee: Donald Ringe (advisor), Rolf Noyer, Eugene Buckley, Bert Vaux (Cambridge)
- 2019 **Masters of Arts, Linguistics**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Thesis: *A Co-phonological Approach to Persian Loanwords within Armenian Phonology*
Advisor: Andrés Pablo Salanova
- 2012 **Juris Doctor**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
National Program
- 2011 **Licentiate of Laws**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Cum laude, Dean's List
- 2011 **Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics (Hon.)**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Magna cum laude
- 2011 **Bachelors of Social Sciences, International Development and Globalization (Hon.)**, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, *Cum laude*, Dean's List
- 2006 **Diploma of Collegiate Studies, Social Sciences (Hon.)**, Vanier College, Montreal, QC
Dean's List

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As instructor

Spring 2024 LANG 0100 Elementary Armenian Language and Culture, Penn Language Center, University of Pennsylvania

As teaching assistant

Fall 2022 LING 0150 Writing Systems, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Eugene Buckley

Winter 2022 LING 001 Introduction to Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Helen Jeoung

Fall 2021 LING 115 Writing Systems, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Eugene Buckley

Fall 2020 LING 115 Writing Systems, University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Eugene Buckley

Winter 2019 LIN 2720 Introduction à la phonologie, University of Ottawa, Prof. Kathleen Brannen

Fall 2018 LIN 3720 Théorie phonologique, University of Ottawa, Prof. Marc Brunelle

As tutor/mentor

2018 – 2024 Personal tutor for heritage Western Armenian learners

2013 – 2014 Mentor and trainer of new students-at-law at Merchant Law Group LLP

2004 – 2006 Tutor in many subjects at Vanier College, under the auspices of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

PUBLICATIONS

2024 **Balabanian G.** (2024). On Proto-Algonquian **h* and **l* reflexes in Innu-Aimun: A Case Study of Rhinoglottophilia, *Journal of Historical Linguistics*, vol. 14, iss. 1. [under review]

2020 **Balabanian G.,** Case J. & Ott D. (2020). Sluicing in Western Armenian bleeds differential object marking, *Snippets*, vol. 38.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2024 **Balabanian G.** (2024). Translation of Hratchia Adjarian's (1899) "Les explosives de l'ancien arménien étudiées dans les dialectes modernes", in *La parole ou revue internationale de rhinologie, otologie, laryngologie et phonétique expérimentale*, 119–127. In Dolatian Hossep.

Translation and Commentary on Adjarian 1911 ‘Armenian dialectology’, Language Science Press, Freie Universität Berlin.

UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLES (available on website)

- 2022 On the Origins of Emphatic Reduplication in Western Armenian
- 2022 PIE-Derived Reduplication in Western Armenian.
- 2021 Linkage vs. Wave Model: A Case Study in the Historical Reconstruction of the East Cree-Montagnais-Naskapi Dialect Continuum.
- 2021 Diachronic Degrammaticalization Evidence from the Tibetan Case System.
- 2021 On Proto-Algonquian **h* and **l* reflexes in Innu-Aimun: A Case Study of Rhinoglottophilia.
- 2021 Certain Cyclic Domain Effects of Theme Vowels in Western Armenian Verbal Morphology.
- 2021 The Acquisition of Western Armenian Number Features Variable Input and Acquisition of Irregular Case Morphology in Western Armenian.
- 2021 Degrammaticalization: Evidence from the Milyatin and Siya Gospels (Old Church Slavonic).
- 2020 Emphatic Reduplication in Western Armenian.
- 2020 Double-Headed CP Structure in Western Armenian.
- 2020 Assessing French Defective Verbs Reaction Times in Word Production.
- 2020 Exploration of Residual Tocharian Reduplication.
- 2020 Exploring Voicing Contrast in Western Armenian: A Language Contact Case Study.
- 2020 Exploring Child-Directed French Language Acquisition Through Corpus Data: The Case of Suppletive Verbs.
- 2020 On Lists and Morphophonological Knowledge: A Brief Examination of Armenian Lexical Layers.
- 2019 Flap and Trill Merger in Western Armenian Heritage Speakers
- 2019 Comparing the Effects of Phonological and Syntactic Linguistic Factors vis-à-vis Morphological Status in Ottawa English
- 2019 *A Co-phonological Approach to Persian Loanwords within Armenian Phonology*, Masters dissertation, University of Ottawa.
- 2019 Optionality in Western Armenian Differential Object Marking
- 2019 Variation in Modals in Early Modern English: A Brief Corpus Study
- 2018 Complementizer Structure in Western Armenian
- 2018 Western Armenian and its Semantics of Number Features
- 2018 Acoustic Differentiation and Properties of Vowel Epenthesis and Schwa-Lexicalization in Western Armenian
- 2017 *Open-Source Licensing in Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals*, Lambert Academic Publishing
- 2011 Proto-Armenian Phonology: A Reconstruction
- 2011 Analyse linguistique d'un extrait du français maghrébin

2011 Armenian Phonology: A Historical and Comparative Analysis of Vowel Harmony and Consonant-Vowel Interactions

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 submitted “The development of the evidential verbal mood in Western Armenian dialects via Ottoman Turkish contact”, *60th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 26-28.
- 2024 “The Spread and Development of Western Armenian Dialects”, *13th Annual International Graduate Student Workshop*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 8-9.
- 2023 “Exploring voicing contrast in Western Armenian: A language contact case study.” *National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)*, Belmont, MA, May 31-June 2.
- 2023 “Turkish influences on Armenian: The case of emphatic reduplication.” Middle East Center, Philadelphia, PA, March 17.
- 2022 “Why truly knowing historical linguistics is impossible both for literate societies and preliterate societies.” *Hot Takes*, University of Pennsylvania, November 17.
- 2022 “The maintenance of the hammock stress system in Armenian dialects.” Lightning Talks, *Penn Rationality*, Philadelphia, PA, October 18.
- 2021 “A co-phonological approach to Persian loanwords within Armenian phonology.” *Armenian Through the Ages: Linguistic and Philological Perspectives*, Faculty of Oriental Studies & Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, January 21.
- 2019 “Questioning the absence of case matching effects under sluicing: The case of DOM-blocking in Western Armenian.” (with Justin Case as co-author, University of Ottawa) *Carleton Cognitive Science Graduate Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, April 27.
- 2019 “Flap and Trill Merger in Western Armenian Heritage Speakers”, *Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto (MOT) Phonology/Phonetics Workshop*, University of Toronto & York University (Ontario), March 29-31.
- 2019 “An Austrian Critique of Inequality as an Inherent Moral and Economic Problem”, *Austrian Student Scholars Conference*, Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, February 22-23.

- 2018 “Morphosyntactic Properties in Armenian Adpositions”, *MoMOT 3* (Morphology in Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto), University of Toronto, November Nov 16-17.
- 2018 “The Use and Misuse of Metaphorical Language in Economics”, *Austrian Student Scholars Conference*, Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, February 16-17.
- 2017 “How to Legally Live Freely in an Unfree World”, *HIVE Vancouver Conference*, October 14.
- 2016 “The Accusation is the Verdict”, moderator for speakers’ panel and formal debate, *Canadian Association for Equality (CAFE)*, Simon Fraser University, June 17.
- 2012 “Open-Source Licensing in Biotechnology – Possibilities and Challenges”, *MBM LLP*, Ottawa, ON, April 14.
- 2012 “Vowel Epenthesis and Schwa-Lexicalization in Western Armenian”, *TULCON 5*, Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students, University of Toronto, March 2-3.

LANGUAGES

Native:	English, French, Western Armenian, Romanian
Advanced:	Italian, Spanish, German, Classical and Eastern Armenian
Intermediate:	Portuguese, Japanese, Dutch, Scandinavian languages, Latin
Rudimentary:	Standard Arabic, Greek, Tocharian, Old Church Slavonic, Russian, Georgian, Finnish, Hebrew, Innu, East Cree, Turkish, Sanskrit

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023	Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation travel and conference grant
2021 – 2024	University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), Family Grant (x3)
2019 – 2024	University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), Benjamin Franklin Fellowship
2018 – 2019	University of Ottawa (Ottawa, ON), entrance scholarship
2018 – 2019	Grove City College (Grove City, PA) travel scholarship (x2)
2018	Rothbard Graduate Seminar, Mises Institute (Auburn, AL), full scholarship
2008 – 2009	University of Ottawa, (Ottawa, ON), entrance scholarship (x2)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023	Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Certificate (UPenn)
2019 – 2023	Participated in more than two dozen workshops for teaching skills
2019	Teaching Assistant Orientation Program (UPenn)
2018	Teaching Assistant Orientation Program (University of Ottawa)
2018	Completed the Rothbard Graduate Seminar, Mises Institute (Auburn, AL)
2009	Fieldwork in Innu-aimun (Uashat, Quebec)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Historical linguistics
- Armenian dialectology
- Morphology
- Indigenous languages of North America
- Phonology
- Language change
- Computational methods
- Indo-European
- Areal/typological linguistics
- Writing systems

ACADEMIC or ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

2023 – 2024	Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) conductor , Penn Language Center Written exam designer for Western and Eastern Armenian
2022 – 2024	Editor , <i>Penn Working Papers in Linguistics</i> (PWPL), University of Pennsylvania Proceedings of the annual <i>Penn Linguistics Conference</i> (PLC) conference Selected Papers from the <i>New Ways of Analyzing Variation</i> (NWAY) conference
2022 – 2024	Reviewer , <i>Penn Linguistics Conference</i> , University of Pennsylvania PLC47, PLC48
2020 – 2024	Librarian , Department of Linguistics Graduate Library, University of Pennsylvania
2019 – 2024	Conference organizer , <i>PLC</i> , University of Pennsylvania Various roles performed for PLC44, PLC45, PLC46, PLC47, PLC48
2019 – 2024	Copy editor , <i>PWPL</i> , University of Pennsylvania PWPL 26.1, 26.2, 27.1, 28.1, 28.2, 29.1, 29.2, 30.1
2011 – 2024	Native language consultant , various locations, schools, and projects Nikola Datkova's project on computational morphosyntax, University of Cambridge

LIN 4970, Méthodologie du travail avec des consultants linguistiques / Methodology of Linguistic Consultant Work, University of Ottawa, under Prof. Andrés Salanova Tà Thành Tấn's project on Quebec French and Western Armenian voice onset time, University of Ottawa

Robert Mooney on Optimality Theory, University of Western Ontario

Madeline Ladore's papers on verbal semantics, University of Potsdam and Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Hovsep Dolatian's projects on Armenian dialects, Stony Brook University

Alexandros Kalomoiros's project on number semantics, University of Pennsylvania

Ivanna Richardson's papers on nominal plural marking, University of Ottawa

Éric Mathieu & Mariam Dali's papers and book on the semantics of distributed number, University of Ottawa

Bert Vaux's projects on Armenian dialects, University of Cambridge

2023 **Conference organizer**, *Twelfth International Conference on Armenian Linguistics* NAASR, Belmont, MA, May 31 – June 2

2023 **Workshop organizer**, *Armenian Language Workshop*, March 17, 2023, Middle East Center

2023 **Volunteer**, *Infidelities*, University of Pennsylvania, March 24 – 26, 2023

2018 – 2019 **Volunteer**, *ADLINGA* (Association of Graduate Students in Linguistics), University of Ottawa

2011 **Research assistant**, University of Ottawa (Ottawa, ON)

Prof. John J. Jensen, manuscript review and editing

2008 – 2011 **Editor, writer, and contributor**, *Le Flagrant Délit*, University of Ottawa Law School

2002 – 2004 **Editor, writer, and contributor**, student paper, École arménienne Sourp Hagop (Montreal, QC)

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

08/2015 – 11/2019 **Lawyer, founder & owner of law firm**, *Avant-Garde Class Action* (New Westminster, BC)
 Founded Canada's only virtual class action firm, focusing on defending against class proceedings and mass torts; innovated services in specialized subfields in an otherwise ultraconservative industry with a paperless, client-centric approach, and fixed-fee business model; managed all administrative and accounting tasks while also performing substantive and representational legal obligations.

06/2012 – 11/2019 **Legal translator**, various locations for many companies and clients
 Performed legal translation tasks (English-French, French-English, German-English, Spanish-English, Armenian-English, etc.) for documents ranging from one-page contracts to documents and judicial decisions of 100+ pages.

06/2013 – 06/2014 **Associate lawyer**, *Merchant Law Group LLP* (Regina, SK)

Developed clientele in civil and criminal matters, while keeping costs down to an absolute minimum; managed and surpassed client expectations; coordinated complex tasks in class action litigation and monitoring their performance. Acted as plaintiff counsel against many well-known companies – Toyota, Bell, Ford, Sony, Merck, Monsanto, Honda, GM, etc. Followed up any outstanding risks and issues; appeared in Provincial Court, Queen’s Bench, and Court of Appeal (Saskatchewan and Alberta), and drafting documents for the Supreme Court of Canada; advised and upsold to clients on worthwhile matters; worked in Native residential school settlements across all 10 provinces and 3 territories; liaised with professionals and experts in litigation.

06/2012 – 06/2013 **Student-at-law**, *Merchant Law Group LLP* (Regina, SK)

Substantially the same as above, but supervised under my principal Casey R. Churko.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2023 – Present	National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)
2017 – Present	Ludwig von Mises Institute
2015 – Present	Law Society of British Columbia (non-practicing status since Dec. 2019)
2015 – 2019	Vancouver Bar Association
2013 – Present	Law Society of Saskatchewan (non-practicing status since Dec. 2015)
2013 – 2015	Association des juristes d’expression française de la Saskatchewan
2010 – 2013	Ontario Bar Association
2010 – 2019	Canadian Bar Association
2010 – Present	Canadian Linguistic Association

COMPUTER SKILLS

Proficient:	OpenOffice, LibreOffice, WordPerfect, Microsoft Office, PAUP*
Intermediate:	R, LaTeX, Amazon AWS, SPSS, Praat, DensiTree, SplitsTree
Beginner:	TeamViewer, UnrealEngine, NeighborNet