

# Dr. Alexander `Alec' D. Sugar

LINGUIST · POLYGLOT

New York, NY

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## Research Interests

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- Verb syntax and morphology
- Multi-verb constructions and secondary predication
- Aspect and event structure
- Code switching and language contact
- Syntax-prosody interface
- Fieldwork (Uyghur, Chinese)
- Translation and language pedagogy (Spanish, Chinese, Uyghur)

## Education

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### University of Washington

Seattle, WA

PHD IN LINGUISTICS

2019

- Dissertation: *Verb-linking and Events in Syntax: The Case of Uyghur -(i)p Constructions*
- Committee: Edith Aldridge (chair), Emily Bender, Ana Fernández Dobao (Graduate School Representative), Toshiyuki Ogihara, Karen Zagona

### University of Washington

Seattle, WA

MA IN LINGUISTICS

2017

- 1st Generals Paper: *Qal and Qoy as Verbal Heads in Uyghur*
- 2nd Generals Paper: *Classifying Uyghur Auxiliaries by Situation Aspect Type for Use in a Machine-Readable Grammar*
- Committee: Edith Aldridge (chair), Emily Bender, Karen Zagona, Ana Fernández Dobao (Graduate School Representative)

### Fudan University

Shanghai, China

CONFUCIUS CHINA STUDIES PROGRAM

2016

- Visiting Scholar in Department of Chinese Language & Literature
- Supervisor: Shen Xiaolong

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, WI

CENTRAL EURASIAN INSTITUTE OF SUMMER STUDIES

2013

- Intensive Uyghur language training

### Tsinghua University & University of California, Berkeley

Beijing, China

INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDIES (NOW IUP CHINESE CENTER AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY)

2010-2011

- Advanced Chinese language studies

### Whitman College

Walla Walla, WA

BA CUM LAUDE IN SPANISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (HONORS)

2008

- Honors Thesis: [Spanish] *La traducción de la poesía revolucionaria de Ernesto Cardenal de español a inglés* [The Translation of Ernesto Cardenal's Revolutionary Poetry from Spanish to English].
- Thesis Advisor: Alberto Galindo

### Universidad autónoma de Yucatán, School of Anthropology

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

IFSA-BUTLER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

2007

- School of Anthropology

### Centro de educación media #38

San Antonio Oeste, R.N., Argentina

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

2003-2004

## Skills

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**Languages** English (native), Standard Mandarin Chinese (academic fluency), Spanish (academic fluency), Uyghur (professionally competent), French (intermediate), Chaghatay (reading), Turkish (basic), Russian (basic)

**Software** Praat,  $\LaTeX$ ,  $\text{\TeX}$ , Microsoft Office (Excel, Power Point, Word)

**Programming Knowledge** Java (coursework), Python (basic)

## Publications

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- Submitted “Le as a Prosodic Filler in Uyghur-Chinese Mixed Verbs” with Zaoreguli Abulimiti.
- Submitted “Monoclausal Double Negation in Uyghur”. In Birsel Karakoç, Lars Johanson and Eva Á. Csató Johanson (eds.), *Ambiguous verb sequences in Transeurasian languages and beyond*. Turcologica. Wiesbaden, Germany: Harrassowitz.
- To appear “Truncation and Headedness in Chinese Compounding: A Dictionary-Based Study” with Michael Opper. *Proceedings of the 25th Annual North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics*. Ann Arbor: MI: University of Michigan.
- 2019 “The Double Life of Negation in Uyghur” with Chughluk Abdilim. In Öner Özçelik and Amber Kennedy Kent (eds.), *Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, CeLCAR.
- 2019 “Negation for Every Verb in Uyghur”. *Proceedings of the 14th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics*. MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.
- 2019 “Severing Idiosyncratic Case from the Lexical Verb in Uyghur-Chinese Code Switching” with Zaoreguli Abulimiti. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, [S.l.], v. 4, p. 15:1-15. ISSN 2473-8689.
- 2018 “A Restructuring Analysis of Uyghur Bleached V2 Constructions”. In Betül Erbaşı, Sozen Ozkan, İara Mantenido (eds.), *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Turkish, Turkic and the Languages of Turkey*. UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics, 19.
- 2018 “Resultative Constructions in Uyghur as Verbal Adjunction” with Ahmatjan Tash. *Acta Linguistica Academica* 65(1): 169-195.
- 2017 “Uyghur -ip as a verb linker in multiple constructions”. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 2, 16: 1-14. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v2i0.4060>
- 2017 “Mandarin Chinese Verbs as Verbal Items in Uyghur Mixed Verbs”. *Languages* 2, 1.
- 2014 “Implementing a Machine-Readable Grammar of Uyghur”. *Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, CeLCAR.
- 2011 “IUP and the Challenge of Absorbing Input”. *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language Forum* (Cross-Strait Edition). Taipei Language Institute Press. pp. 277-281.
- 2011 [Mandarin] “Láizi měiguó de wǔdāngpài yīnyuèduì” [America’s Wu-Tang Clan] in Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies (Ed.). *IUPeople*, 2011 (Second Semester), pp.7-8.

## Conference and Workshop Presentations

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- 2019 “Switching between Functional Heads?: Causativity in Uyghur-Chinese Code Switching”. Poster presented with Zaoreguli Abulimiti at the 4th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic, New York University and Rutgers University, 2/16/2019.
- 2019 “Idiosyncratic case is not lexical: evidence from Uyghur-Chinese code switching”. Paper to be presented with Zaoreguli Abulimiti at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New York, New York, 1/5/2019.
- 2018 “Causativity Preservation in Uyghur-Chinese Light Verb Constructions”. Paper presented with Zaoreguli Abulimiti at the Beijing Argument Structure and Event Structure Workshop, Beijing, China, 10/27/2018.
- 2018 “Negation for Every Verb in Uyghur”. Paper presented at the 14th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 10/21/2018.
- 2018 “Monoclausal Double Negation in Uyghur”. Paper presented during the Workshop on Ambiguous [V+V] sequences in Turkic and other Transeurasian languages at the 19th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics, Astana, Kazakhstan, 8/2018.
- 2018 “Argument Structure Adaptation In Uyghur-Chinese Mixed Verbs”. Paper presented with Zaoreguli Abulimiti at the 3rd Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics, Indiana University, 3/2018.
- 2018 “The Double Life of Negation in Uyghur”. Paper presented with Chughluk Abdilim at the 3rd Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics, Indiana University, 3/2018.
- 2018 “Event and Aspect as Syntactic Heads: Evidence from Uyghur -ip Constructions”. Poster presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1/5/2018.
- 2017 “Uyghur Auxiliary Constructions as Evidence for Event and Aspect in Syntax”. Paper presented at the 3rd Workshop on Turkish, Turkic and the Languages of Turkey, University of California, Los Angeles and University of Southern California, 11/18/2017.
- 2017 “A Phonetic Survey of Uyghur” with Richard Wright and Mutallip Anwar. Symposium on Turkic Languages and Linguistics, University of Washington, 10/5/2017.
- 2017 “Situation Aspect in Uyghur Auxiliary Verbs”. Paper presented at the Joint ESCAS-CESS Meeting, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 6/30/2017.
- 2017 “Uyghur -ip as a Verb Linker in Multiple Constructions”. Poster presented at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Austin, TX, 1/7/2017.
- 2016 “The Pairing of Uyghur Light Verbs with Chinese Verbal Loans”. Paper presented at Language Contact in Asia and the Pacific, University of Macau, 9/19/2016.
- 2014 “Implementing a Machine-Readable Grammar of Uyghur”. Paper presented at the Conference on Central Asian Languages & Linguistics, Indiana University, 5/17/2014.
- 2013 “Truncation and Headedness in Chinese Compounding: A Dictionary-Based Study”. Paper presented with Michael Opper at the 25th Annual North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics, University of Michigan, 07/2013.

## Invited Talks

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- 2018 “Language and Identity in Uyghur-Chinese Code Switching”. Guest Lecture in Dr. Lorna Rozelle’s Language and Diversity course, Department of Linguistics, University of Washington. 7/21/2017, 7/20/2018.
- 2018 “Le as a Prosodic Filler in Uyghur-Chinese Code Switching”. Research Roundtable, Swarthmore College. 4/18/2018.
- 2018 “Verb-Linking Patterns in Uyghur”. Syntax Brown Bag, New York University. 3/23/2018.
- 2017 “Introducing Resultative Constructions in Uyghur”. Presentation at Syntax-Semantics Roundtable, Department of Linguistics, University of Washington. 3/3/2017.
- 2016 [In Uyghur] “Shexs körsetmisining almishi toghruluq” (About Indexical Shifting in Uyghur). Invited lecture in Dr. Litip Tohti’s Uyghur Linguistics MA Seminar, Department of Uyghur Language and Literature, Minzu University of China. 11/24/2016.
- 2016 [In Mandarin] “Pütōnghuà duì xiàndài wéiwǔ’ěryǔ de yǔfǎ yǐngxiǎng” (The Grammatical Influence of Standard Chinese on Modern Uyghur). Invited lecture at the Linguistics Salon, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Fudan University. 5/18/2016.
- 2015 [In Mandarin] “First Day of Language Class: Demonstration in Chinese”. Sample introductory Chinese lesson using only the target language, given as part of the University of Washington, Department of Spanish & Portuguese Studies TA Orientation. 9/24/2015.
- 2012 Panelist, “China’s Transformation: Three Decades Through the Lens of the Whitman in China Program”. 9/29/2012. Whitman College.
- 2011 [In Mandarin] “IUP and the Challenge of Absorbing Input”. Invited presentation at the *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language Forum (Cross-Strait Edition)* Book Release Celebration. 08/2011. Tsinghua University.

## Translations

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- 2018 Dawut, Ömer. 2011. “Hazirqi Zaman Uyghur Tilidiki *Bolmaq Pé’ili* heqqide Yéngi Izdinish” [New Study on the Modern Uyghur Verb *Bolmaq*]. In *Uyghur Tili Medeniyiti Tetqiqati* [Research on Uyghur Language and Uyghur Culture]. Urumchi, Xinjiang, China: Xinjiang University Press. Uyghur-English Trans: Alexander Sugar.
- 2014 Lema-Hincapie, Andrés. 2014. “Almost Seven Key Symbols to Joyfully Lose Oneself in the Laberinth of Borges”. Spanish-English Trans: Alexander Sugar. Prague, Czech Republic: Ibero-Americana Praguensia.
- 2012 Díaz, Jorge Aurelio. 2012. “About Life Is a Dream”. Spanish-English Trans: Alexander Sugar. In *Pedro Calderón de la Barca’s La vida es sueño: Philosophical Interventions*. Ed: Andrés Lema-Hincapié and Conxita Domènech. Newark, DE: Juan de la Cuesta.
- 2011 “Jīngjì Cānkāobǎo, huánjìng fǎlǜ kuàngjià fúchū shuǐshuǐmiànmiàn huò kòuyā cháfēng wéifǎ qǐyè zīchǎn” [The Framework of Environmental Law Floats to the Surface: Closing or Seizing Assets of Violating Companies.]. Chinese-English Trans: Alexander Sugar. In *China Green News*, October, 2011.
- 2011 Oubiña, David. 2011. *Families, Landowners, Servants and Siblings*. Spanish-English Trans: Alexander Sugar. New York University.
- 2008 Johnson, Carroll. 2008. “On Readers and Reading”. In *Don Quixote: The Quest for Modern Fiction*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2000. pp. 89-103. English-Spanish Trans: Alexander Sugar.

## Other Projects

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### Syntactic Summary of Ovambaland !Xun

2018

‘THE KHOISAN LANGUAGES’ WEBSITE

- Contributed a page summarizing basic syntactic structure of W cluster of !Xun languages.
- Published as part of website built in Dr. Chris Collins’ NYU course on The Khoisan Languages.

## Uyghur Illustration of the IPA

2017

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

- Used Praat to annotate field recordings targeting Uyghur phonemic inventory.
- Used Praat scripts to calculate average vowel lengths and plot vowel distribution.

## Precision Grammar of Uyghur

2014-15

LINGO GRAMMAR MATRIX

- Used Type Description Language to write a machine-readable grammar of Uyghur in the head-drive phrase structure grammar formalism.
- Used [incr tsdb()] in LKB to check accuracy of grammar over testsuite corpus (achieved 75% accuracy).

## Teaching (at the University of Washington)

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Course Title	Role	Quarter(s)
Linguistics 234 - Language and Diversity	Stand-alone Instructor	Spring 2017
Linguistics 461 - Syntax I	Stand-alone Instructor	Summer 2015
Chinese 342 - The Chinese Language	Grader	Fall 2014
Spanish 201 - Intermediate Spanish	Stand-alone Instructor	Fall 2014
Spanish 103 - Elementary Spanish	Stand-alone Instructor	Fall 2013, Winter, Spring 2014
Spanish 102 - Elementary Spanish	Stand-alone Instructor	Summer 2014, Fall 2015

## Other Work Experience

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### LexCheck, Inc.

New York, NY

JUNIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

2019-Present

### HERE Technologies

New York, NY

CHINESE LANGUAGE RESEARCHER

2019

- Performed web-based research in Chinese and using mapping software to confirm existence and location of geographic points of interest.
- Evaluated quality of map search responses to Chinese user queries in terms of accuracy, distance, and helpfulness to likely user intent.

### University of Washington, Department of Linguistics

Seattle, WA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2017, 2013, 2012

- Transcribed and analyzed Paiwan recordings for Dr. Edith Aldridge.
- Edited a manuscript written by Dr. Toshiyuki Ogihara titled *Aspect and Thematic Roles*.
- Made field recordings, used Praat to measure vowel space and duration as part of an acoustic analysis of Uyghur's phonetic inventory with Dr. Richard Wright.
- Assisted Dr. Edith Aldridge in organizing the 24th meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association.
- Assisted Dr. Julia Herschensohn and Dr. Ana Fernandez-Dobao on a study of the acquisition of Spanish as a 2nd language by child learners.
- Digitized recordings and reviewed notebooks as part of Dr. Sharon Hargus' Sahaptin language project.
- Created and manipulated Excel spreadsheet of phonetic inventories as part of the PHOIBLE language knowledge base project directed by Dr. Richard Wright and Dr. Steven Moran.
- Edited Dr. Toshiyuki Ogihara and Takenobu Fukushima's article "Semantic properties of the so-called past tense morpheme in Late Late Middle Japanese," published in the *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.
- Edited *Phase Theory: An Introduction* by Dr. Barbara Citko, published by Cambridge University Press.

### Xibei Gongye University

Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

WHITMAN IN CHINA TEACHING FELLOW

2008-2010

- Taught English as foreign language classes for undergraduate freshmen and sophomores, MA candidates and PhD candidates.
- Responsible for all curriculum development and assessment.
- Delivered campus-wide lectures about the English language and U.S. culture.

### Xibei Gongye University

Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTOR

2008-2010

- Prepared College Freshmen to Participate Successfully in the International Model United Nations Conference, CCTV English Speaking Contests, and 21st Century Cup English Speaking Contests.

### Whitman College

Walla Walla, WA

LANGUAGE LAB TECHNICIAN

2007-2008

- Assisted language professors and students with use of language learning equipment and software.
- Prepared video and audio recordings for the use of language instructors.

## Grants and Fellowships

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- 2018 Graduate School Conference Travel Award, University of Washington.
- 2018 Student Travel Stipend Award, Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region, Indiana University.
- 2017 Ilse D. Cirtautas Fellowship, The Ellison Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, University of Washington.
- 2016 Confucius China Studies Program Joint Research Ph.D. Fellowship, Fudan University, Department of Chinese Language & Literature, Shanghai, China.
- 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Uyghur), The Ellison Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, University of Washington, 01-06/2015.
- 2013 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Uyghur), The Ellison Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, University of Washington, Summer 2013.
- 2010 Whitman in China Teaching Fellowship, Xibei Gongye University & Whitman College, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China, August 2008 - July 2010.

## Honors & Awards

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- 2017 Graduate Research Excellence Award, UW Department of Linguistics.
- 2012 Top Scholar Award, UW Department of Linguistics.
- 2011 Outstanding Student Award, Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.
- 2011 Outstanding Speaker Award, Academic Year Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.
- 2011 3rd Place, Beijing-Tianjin American Summer Program Speech Contest, August 2011.
- 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award, 2nd Prize, Xibei Gongye University, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.
- 2007 Order of Omega, Whitman College.
- 2008 Stephen B.L. Penrose Scholarship, Whitman College, 2004-2008.
- 2007 Campbell Music Scholarship, Whitman College, 2004-2007.
- 2003 Outstanding Student Award, Spanish 4. Ashland High School, 2003.
- 2002 Outstanding Student Award, Spanish 3. Ashland High School, 2002.

## Service

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- 2018 **Article Reviewer**, *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*
- 2018 **Abstract Reviewer**, 4th workshop on Turkic and languages in contact with Turkic
- 2018 **Abstract Reviewer**, 19th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics
- 2017 **Organizing Committee**, Symposium on Turkic Languages and Linguistics, University of Washington, 10/5/2017.
- 2017 **Chair**, Panel on Linguistic Change, Joint ESCAS-CESS Meeting, 6/30/2017.
- 2017 **Organizing Assistant**, 24th Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association, University of Washington 4/7-9/2017.

## Professional Organizations

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- 2012-present **Member**, Linguistic Society of America
- 2017-present **Member**, Central Eurasian Studies Society
- 2014-2015 **Senator, Department of Linguistics**, UW Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- 2013-2014 **Vice President**, Linguistics Society at the University of Washington

## Community Outreach

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### Paws on Science

PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER

- Represented the UW Department of Linguistics in encouraging childrens' interest in linguistics

Seattle, WA

2015

**Translator**

FORT WALLA WALLA MUSEUM

*Walla Walla, WA*

2008

- Translated publicity materials and registration documents from English to Spanish.

**Translator**

WHITMAN DIRECT ACTION

*Walla Walla, WA*

2007

- Translated a biodiesel manual from English to Spanish for distribution to farmers in Honduras and Nicaragua as part of the Central American Biodiesel Project.

**Student Selection Committee**

SPANISH DEPARTMENT, WHITMAN COLLEGE

*Walla Walla, WA*

2006

- Interviewed candidates for a tenure track position as professor of Spanish language and literature.
- Submitted recommendations to deans and department chairs.

**Whitman in Juarez**

WHITMAN COLLEGE

*Juarez, Mexico & Walla Walla, WA*

2006

- Traveled to Juarez, Mexico to interview people affected by femicide and help build a women's shelter.
- Worked with a team of students to create a documentary about violence in Juarez.
- Translated all subtitles from Spanish to English for said documentary.