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Researcher in Linguistics
Academy of Finland Fellow
Docent of General Linguistics
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Faculty of Arts, University of Helsinki
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<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/crane/>

EDUCATION

PhD, Linguistics, May 2011

University of California, Berkeley

Dissertation: **Beyond time: temporal and extra-temporal functions of tense and aspect marking in Totela, a Bantu language of Zambia**

Committee: *Larry Hyman & Lynn Nichols (co-chairs); Line Mikkelsen; Alan Timberlake*

POSITIONS

2015– **University of Helsinki**

Title of Docent in General Linguistics, 9 March 2023

Academy of Finland Researcher (PI): *Accommodating Linguistic Diversity in Conversation: Modal Expressions and Multilingualism in South Africa*, 2019–2026

Postdoctoral Researcher, Academy of Finland Project *Stability and Change in*

Language Contact: The Case of Southern Ndebele (South Africa), January 2015–2019

2012– **France-Berkeley Fund**, University of California, Berkeley

2014 Program manager (overseeing bilateral grant program for international collaborative academic research), October 2012–December 2014

2012 **University of California, Berkeley**

Instructor in Linguistics, Summer 2012

2012 **Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium**

Chaire internationale of the Bureau des Relations Internationales et de la Coopération, January 2012

2011 **Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium**

Postdoctoral researcher with the Belgian Federal Science Policy Inter-University Attraction Poles Programme *Grammaticalization and (Inter)Subjectification*, August – December 2011

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2019– **Academy Research Fellow**
 2026 Academy of Finland
 Five years of funding for the project *Accommodating Linguistic Diversity in Conversation: Modal Expressions and Multilingualism in South Africa*
- 2007– **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship**
 2011 United States National Science Foundation
Full funding for three years of PhD study
- 2008– **Harvey Fellow**
 2011 Mustard Seed Foundation
Grant used for research costs
- 2007 **Andrew and Mary Thompson Rocca Research Award**
 University of California, Berkeley, Center for African Studies, Summer 2007
Summer Pre-Dissertation Research Award for fieldwork in Zambia and Namibia

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

- 2011 Crane, Thera M., Larry M. Hyman & Simon Nsielanga Tukumu, *A Grammar of Nzadi [B865]: A Language of Democratic Republic of the Congo*. University of California Publications in Linguistics. Berkeley: University of California Press.

EDITED VOLUMES AND JOURNAL ISSUES

- 2021 **The role of the lexicon in actionality**. *STUF – Language Typology and Universals* 74(2). Guest edited with Johanna Nichols and Bastian Persohn.
- 2021 *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 30(1). Coordinated issue with Eva-Marie Bloom Ström.
- 2019 *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 28(3). Coordinated issue.
- 2018 **Revealing structure: Papers in honor of Larry M. Hyman**, ed. by Eugene Buckley, Thera Crane, & Jeff Good. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- 2013 **Proceedings of the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society**, ed. by Thera Crane, Oana David, Donna Fenton, Hannah Haynie, Shira Katseff, Russell Lee-Goldman, Ruth Rouvier & Dominic Yu. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley Linguistics Society.

CHAPTERS IN PEER-REVIEWED VOLUMES

- Forthcoming. **Non-metrical tense distinctions in isiNdebele (South Africa)**. In *Domains and Regions in Bantu tense and aspect*, ed. by Robert Botne & Axel Fanego. Köppe, 105–127.
- Forthcoming. Crane, Thera, Hilde Gunnink, Ponsiano Kanijo & Tim Roth. **Aspect and evidentiality in four Bantu languages**. In *Beyond aspectual semantics: Explorations in the pragmatic and cognitive realms of aspect*, ed. by Astrid De Wit, Frank Brisard, Carol Madden-Lombardi, Michael Meeuwis, & Adeline Patard. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Forthcoming. **Lexical structures, lexical semantics.** To appear in *The Oxford guide to the Bantu languages*, ed. by Lutz Marten, Nancy Kula, Ellen Hurst & Jochen Zeller. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 Crane, Thera Marie & Axel Fleisch. **Towards a fieldwork methodology for eliciting distinctions in lexical aspect in Bantu.** *Linguistic diversity research among speakers of isiNdebele and Sindebele in South. (Studia Orientalia 120)*, ed. by Lotta Aunio & Axel Fleisch. Helsinki: Studia Orientalia, 129–179.
- 2019 **Totela.** In *The Bantu languages*, 2nd edition (Routledge Language Family Series), ed. by Mark Van de Velde, Koen Bostoen, Derek Nurse & Gérard Philippson. London/New York: Routledge, 645–691.
- 2015 **The roles of dissociative and (non-)completive morphology in structuring Totela narratives.** *Beyond aspect: The expression of discourse functions in African languages. (Typological Studies in Language 109)*, ed. by Doris L. Payne & Shahar Shirtz, 145–176. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Forthcoming. **Looking for evidentiality (and mirativity) in Bantu.** Forthcoming in *Studies in African Linguistics*.
- 2023 Aunio, Lotta, Thera Marie Crane & Richard H.R. Kerbs. **Penultimate lengthening in isiNdebele: A system and its variations.** *Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus* 66:107–156.
- 2021 Crane, Thera Marie & Bastian Persohn. **Actionality and aspect in Southern Ndebele and Xhosa, two Nguni languages of South Africa.** Forthcoming in *Studies in African Linguistics* 50(2).
- 2020 Crane, Thera Marie & Axel Fanego. **Constituency, imbrication, and the interpretation of change-of-state verbs in isiNdebele.** *Studia Orientalia Electronica* 8(3): 48–64.
- 2019 Crane, Thera Marie & Msuswa Petrus Mabena. **Time, space, modality, and (inter)subjectivity: Futures in isiNdebele and other Nguni languages.** *South African Journal of African Languages* 39(3): 291–304.
- 2019 Crane, Thera Marie & Bastian Persohn. **A model-theoretic discussion of Bantu actionality.** *Africana Linguistica* 25: 27–63.
- 2019 Crane, Thera Marie & Bastian Persohn. **What's in a Bantu verb? Actionality in Bantu languages.** *Linguistic Typology* 23(2): 303–345 (plus online appendix).
- 2014 **Melodic tone in Totela TAM.** *Africana Linguistica* 20:63–79.
- 2013 **Resultatives, progressives, statives, and relevance: The temporal pragmatics of the -ite Suffix in Totela.** *Lingua* 133:164–188.
- 2012 **-ile and the pragmatic pathways of the resultative in Bantu Botatwe.** *Africana Linguistica* 18:41–96.

PAPER IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (PEER REVIEWED)

- 2012 **Completion and dissociation in Totela tense and aspect.** In Michael R. Marlo et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, 208–220. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Hurskainen, Arvi, Abdulaziz Lodhi, Axel Fanego Palat, Thera Crane & Jonna Katto. **Celebrating 30 years of the *Nordic Journal of African Studies***. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 32(1): 1–7.
- 2022 Crane, Thera Marie. **Yllätystentäyteinen matkani tohtoriksi ja siitä eteenpäin**. In *Miten minusta tuli tohtori 2: Itämaiden tutkijat kertovat*, ed. by Lotta Aunio & Riikka Länsisalmi. Helsinki: Suomen Itämainen Seura, 31–41.
- 2021 Crane, Thera Marie, Johanna Nichols & Bastian Persohn. **Introduction: The role of the lexicon in actionality**. *STUF – Language Typology and Universals* 74(2).
- 2019 **Introduction to the issue**. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 28(3).
- 2019 Crane, Thera Marie & Nanna Schneidermann. **NJAS celebrates the International Year of Indigenous Languages**. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 28(1).
- 2018 Good, Jeff, Eugene Buckley & Thera Crane. **Revealing structure in languages and grammar**. In *Revealing structure: Papers in honor of Larry M. Hyman*, ed. by Eugene Buckley, Thera Crane, & Jeff Good. Stanford: CSLI Publications, 1–17.
- 2009 **Narrative structuring (and restructuring) in Totela: a group study of tense-aspect in the field**. *Proceedings of Conference on Language Documentation & Linguistic Theory 2*, ed. by Peter K. Austin, Oliver Bond, Monik Charette, David Nathan, & Peter Sells. London: SOAS, 61–71.
- 2009 **Tense, aspect, mood, and tone in Shekgalagari**. *UC Berkeley Phonology Lab Annual Report*. Berkeley: University of California, 224–278.
- 2007 Crane, Thera & Larry M. Hyman. **Review of Halme, Riikka, *A tonal grammar of Oshikwanyama***. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics* 28.1:82–7.
- 2004 Crane, Thera, Karl Lindgren-Streicher & Andy Wingo. ***Hai ti! A beginner's guide to Oshikwanyama***. US Peace Corps: Namibia.
- 2004 Crane, Thera, Karl Lindgren-Streicher & Andy Wingo. ***Te ti! A beginner's guide to Oshindonga***. US Peace Corps: Namibia.

MANUSCRIPTS (UNDER REVISION, SUBMITTED AND IN PREPARATION, SELECTED)

- In prep. Multiple authors. ***Modal expressions in South African Bantu languages*** (working title).
- In prep. Aunio, Lotta, Thera Crane, Axel Fleisch & Stephan Schulz. ***A sketch of isiNdebele grammar***.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**KEYNOTES AND INVITED TALKS**

- 1/2023 **Community-led linguistic analysis: Some thoughts about fieldwork, documentation goals, and PhD-student research on endangered languages**. Keynote address at *Documenter et décrire les langues et littératures minoritaires et en danger à l'ère numérique : épistémologies, pratiques et défis*. Colloque international, INALCO, PLIDAM, Paris.
- 4/2022 **Towards a better understanding of the perfective in Bantu languages**. *Tense/Time, Aspect, Mood/Modality in African Languages* (online workshop). Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

- 11/2021 **Accommodating Linguistic Diversity in Conversation: Modal Expressions and Multilingualism in South Africa (project overview).** *Southern African Linguistics Network (SALN) webinar series.*
- 2/2020 **Modal and evidential functions of Bantu (tense-)aspect morphology.** *Beyond Time 2*, Brussels, Belgium.
- 11/2018 **Lexical aspect in Proto-Bantu.** *Workshop on Reconstructing Proto-Bantu Grammar*, Ghent University / Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium.
- 3/2018 **Evaluating approaches to aspect in Bantu.** *Seminar Series in Linguistic Structures*, Department of Languages and Literatures, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 4/2015 **The subjectification of ‘come’ and ‘go’ futures in Ndebele: a preliminary look.** Tense and Aspect Workshop, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 10/2011 **What can Bantu teach us about tense and aspect? Some lessons from Totela and other languages.** University of Leuven, Belgium.
- 1/2010 **High-tone anticipation in Totela.** Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage, CNRS, Lyon, France.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 4/2023 **Methodological issues in a cross-linguistic study of modal expressions in South African Bantu languages.** Paper presented at *Workshop on Modality in Underdescribed Languages*, Humboldt University, Berlin. **Best abstract award.**
- 4/2023 **Repurposing a corpus to study modal expressions in isiXhosa.** With Stefan Savić and Onelisa Slater. Paper presented at *Workshop on Modality in Underdescribed Languages*, Humboldt University, Berlin.
- 6/2022 **Expressions of modal possibility in South African Nguni and Tsonga Languages** With Remah Lubambo, Msuswa Petrus Mabena, Cordelia Nkwinka & Muhle Sibisi. Paper presented at *Bantu 9*, Malawi University of Science and Technology.
- 10/2021 **Looking for evidentiality in Bantu.** *Mirativity and Evidentiality in Bantu* (online workshop).
- 6/2021 **Modal systems in South African Bantu languages: A comparative survey.** Paper presented at *The 8th International Conference on Bantu Languages*, University of Essex (online conference).
- 6/2021 **Penultimate lengthening in isiNdebele (South Africa)** With Lotta Aunio and Richard Kerbs, poster presented at *The 8th International Conference on Bantu Languages*, University of Essex (online conference).
- 2/2020 **Penultimate lengthening in isiNdebele (South Africa)** With Lotta Aunio (presenter) and Richard Kerbs, poster presented at *Fonologi i Norden (FiNo) 2020*, University of South-Eastern Norway.
- 8/2018 **Coming-to-be in Bantu: towards an ontology and epistemology of inchoative verbs.** (Updated and condensed version of SAMWOP talk) With Bastian Persohn (presenter) at the *9th World Congress of African Linguistics*, Rabat, Morocco.
- 12/2017 **Coming-to-be in Bantu: towards an ontology and epistemology of inchoative verbs.** With Bastian Persohn (presenter) at the *6th Southern African Microlinguistics Workshop (SAMWOP-6)*, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- 6/2017 **Time, space, modality and (inter)subjectivity in isiNdebele’s three futures.** *The Semantics of Verbal Morphology in Under-described Languages*, University of

- Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 3/2017 **The impact of contact on conceptual structure: Bantu change-of-state verbs.** Presented with Axel Fleisch at the *Fourth International Conference on Language Contact in Times of Globalization (LCTG4)*, Greifswald, Germany.
- 8/2016 **Non-metrical distinctions in past and future “tense” marking in isiNdebele.** *Time and Language*, Turku, Finland.
- 6/2016 **Event type lexicalization across language boundaries: verbs in South African Ndebele varieties.** Presented with Axel Fleisch at *the Sixth International Conference on Bantu Languages*, Helsinki, Finland.
- 8/2011 **Pragmatic development of the -ite Suffix in Totela (and beyond!)** *41st Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics*, Leiden, Netherlands.
- 6/2011 **Completion and dissociation in Totela tense and aspect.** *42nd Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, College Park, Maryland, USA
- 1/2011 **A quantitative analysis of narrative-structuring uses of tense and aspect in Totela.** *85th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 9/2010 **Anticipatory tone in Totela: an unexpected system.** *The Fourth European Conference on Tone and Intonation*, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 11/2009 **Narrative structuring (and restructuring) in Totela: a group study of tense-aspect in the field.** *Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory 2*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.
- 1/2009 **Phrase formation and downstep in Shekgalagari.** *83rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, San Francisco, California, USA.
- 10/2008 **When relevance trumps time: the information-structuring role of a Bantu anterior in Totela.** *Chronos 8: International Conference on Tense, Aspect, Mood, and Modality*, Austin, Texas, USA.
- 4/2008 **The state (and progress) of the perfect in Totela.** *39th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, Athens, Georgia, USA.
- 9/2007 **Totela’s diminishing augments: a case study of language change in progress.** *International Conference on Bantu Languages: Analysis, Description, and Theory*, Gothenberg, Sweden.
- 9/2007 **Contact-induced homophony: the case of Totela’s ubiquitous ka.** *International Workshop on Language Contact and Morphosyntactic Variation and Change*, Paris, France.
- 1/2007 **The force of o-: Left periphery interactions in Oshiwambo.** *81st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Anaheim, California, USA.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

TEACHING

University of Helsinki

Fall 2022 **Language ideologies and linguistic practices in South Africa (and beyond)!**

Instructor. Developed new course which included project collaboration between students in South Africa and Helsinki.

Spr. 2020 **African Linguistics with an emphasis on Bantu and Mande languages**, co-taught with Maria Khachatryan.

Fall 2017 Guest Lectures:

“Fieldwork tools”, with Lotta Aunio, in MA course *Linguistics in the digital age*, taught by Jörg Tiedemann (14 November).

“Semantic field investigations: Some principles and a sample workflow”, in MA course *Theory and method in language sciences*, taught by Matti Miestamo (14 November).

“Investigating semantic diversity and variation”, in MA course *Linguistic diversity and variation*, taught by Axel Fleisch (10 October).

Spr. 2017 **Semantic field methods: Investigations in meaning in isiNdebele**, *Instructor*

Developed and taught special field methods course working with isiNdebele speaker to investigate topics in semantics using methodological best practices.

Spr. 2016 Guest Lecture: “Basic Ndebele tense, aspect, and mood”, in *Bantu languages*, taught by Lotta Aunio (29 February).

University of California, Berkeley

Sum. 2012 **Endangered languages: What do we lose when a language dies?** (Ling R1B)

Intensive reading and composition course. Primary instructor.

Fall 2010 **Graduate field methods** (Ling 240)

Investigation of Abo, a Bantu language of Cameroon. Graduate student researcher and teaching assistant with Prof. Larry Hyman (special position created as part of an instructional improvement grant).

Fall 2008– **Introduction to field methods** (Ling 140)

Spr. 2009 Investigation of Nzadi, a Bantu language of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Graduate student researcher and teaching assistant with Prof. Larry Hyman.

Spr. 2007 **Introduction to Syntax and Semantics** (Ling 120)

Graduate student instructor with Prof. Alice Gaby.

Fall 2006 **The American Languages** (Ling 55AC)

Graduate student instructor with Prof. Leanne Hinton.

PHD COMMITTEES

Hilde Gunnink, University of Ghent.

Thesis title: *A grammar of Fwe: A Bantu language of Zambia and Namibia*. Defense date: 9 March 2019. External committee member and member of jury.

Ponsiano Kanijo, University of Gothenburg.

Working thesis title: *Description of tense, aspect and aspectuality in KiNyàmwéézi*.

Expected completion date: 2019. Co-supervisor.

Heidrun Kröger, SIL International & University of Helsinki.

Working thesis title: *Grammar of Mozambican Ngoni*. Expected completion date: TBD.

Committee member.

I have also served as a PhD thesis examiner for the Department of Linguistics, University of South Africa

FIELDWORK IN AFRICA

Northern Transvaal Ndebele (Sindebele), an endangered Bantu language of South Africa

May 2016 (Limpopo Region, part of Helsinki Area & Language Studies field trip)

Southern Ndebele (isiNdebele), a Bantu language of South Africa

March – May 2016 (Pretoria, Moloto, and Mthambothini/Siyabuswa)

February – April 2015 (Pretoria and Moloto)

Totela, an endangered Bantu language of Zambia and Namibia

March – June 2009 (Western Province, Zambia)

June – August 2007 (Western Province, Zambia, and Caprivi, Namibia)

June – July 2006 (Western Province, Zambia, and Caprivi, Namibia)

Kwanyama, a Bantu language of Namibia and Angola

October 2002 – December 2004 (Ohangwena Region, Namibia: informal fieldwork during U.S. Peace Corps service)

Extensive additional work with native speakers of Bantu languages in the USA and Europe

SERVICE (SELECTED)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Co-organizer

- 2021 *Descriptive grammars and typology II: the challenges of writing grammars of underdescribed and endangered languages*, FIAP Paris, 1–3 December 2021.
- 2019 *13th Meeting of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT)*, Pavia, Italy, 4–6 September. Co-organizer of workshop “A cross-linguistic perspective on the role of the lexicon in actionality” with Johanna Nichols and Bastian Persohn.
- 2019 *Descriptive grammars and typology: the challenges of writing grammars of underdescribed and endangered languages*, University of Helsinki, 27–29 March.
- 2016 *Sixth International Conference on Bantu Languages*, University of Helsinki, 20–23 June.
- 2007 *33rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLS)*, University of California, Berkeley, 9–11 February.

Scientific committee member

Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT)
The Semantics of Verbal Morphology in Underdescribed Languages
Sixth International Conference on Bantu Languages
Berkeley Linguistics Society (multiple years)
8th International Conference on Bantu Languages

JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Editing

- 2022– Editor-in-chief, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*
 2018–2022 Editor, Language and linguistics, *Nordic Journal of African Studies*
 present

Ad-hoc reviewing (selected; books italicized)

Africana Linguistica; *The Bantu languages, 2nd edition* (Routledge); *Beyond aspectual semantics: Explorations in the pragmatic and cognitive realms of aspect* (Oxford University Press); Brill; *Current approaches to morphosyntactic variation in Bantu* (Oxford University Press); Facta Universitatis, Series: Linguistics and Literature; *Folia Linguistica Historica*; *Journal of West African Languages*; Language Science Press; *Lingua*; *Nordic Journal of African Studies*; *The Oxford guide to the Bantu languages* (Oxford University Press); *Proceedings of the Annual Conference on African Linguistics* (multiple years); *Semantic Field Methods*; *Studia Orientalia*; *Studia Orientalia Electronica*; *Studies in African Linguistics*; *Studies in Language*; UNAM Press (University of Namibia)

OTHER SERVICE

2022– Organizing committee member, Southern African Linguistics Network (SALN)
 2010– Harvey Fellows application review committee.
 present
 2018 Postdoctoral Research Proposal Reviewer, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).
 2009 *Linguistic Institute*, Linguistic Society of America, June–August.
 Volunteer Staff.
 2006– Library Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of California Berkeley.
 2007

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (CURRENT)

Association of Linguistic Typology
 Association of Contemporary African Linguistics
 Linguistic Association of Finland / Suomen kielitieteellinen yhdistys (SKY)
 Helsinki Area and Language Studies

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Native: English
 Fluent: German
 Some proficiency (possibly quite rusty): Finnish, Kwanyama, Spanish, Totela, Chichewa, French, Italian
 Research: Southern Ndebele (isiNdebele, South Africa), Northern Transvaal Ndebele (Sindebele, South Africa), isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, Xitsonga, Totela, Kgalagari, Kwanyama, Nzadi, Southeastern Pomo, Abo
 Computer: HTML, LaTeX, R, MS Office Suite (including Access), FileMaker Pro, Adobe Suite, C++, Praat, ELAN, FLEx, Dative (OLD)

CAREER BREAKS

Four children, born 6/2013, 7/2015, 6/2018, and 8/2020.

CV updated 9 August 2023