

**Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine**  
Curriculum Vitae: April 2012

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Email: mitcho@mitcho.com  
Address: MIT Linguistics and Philosophy  
77 Massachusetts Ave., 32-D808  
Cambridge, MA 02139 [USA](#)  
Birth: June 8th, 1985; Japan  
Citizenship: US, Japan  
Website: <http://mitcho.com>  
Languages: English (native), Japanese (native), Mandarin Chinese, French  
Fieldwork on Squliq Atayal (Austronesian, Taiwan), Patzún Kaqchikel (Mayan, Guatemala)

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### **Areas of interest**

Broad interests: formal syntax-semantics, particularly in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese  
computational tools and approaches for theoretical linguistics

Narrow interests: focus alternative computation, disjunction and alternative questions, hypertext  
corpora, morphosyntax of Mayan Agent Focus, Mandarin comparatives

Areas of further research: semantics of less-studied languages, focus intervention effects, mul-  
tidominance and linearization

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### **Education**

09/2009– PhD student in Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

06/2007 M.A. in Linguistics, University of Chicago  
Thesis: *A New Syntax-Semantics for the Mandarin bǐ Comparative*  
Advisors: Christopher Kennedy, Jason Merchant

06/2007 B.A. with Honors in Linguistics and Mathematics, University of Chicago  
Dean's list 2003–2007. GPA: 3.8/4.0. Phi Beta Kappa.

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### **Grants, fellowships, and honors**

2012 NSF East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute grant to conduct fieldwork on Atayal in Taiwan

2011 MIT Ken Hale Fund fieldwork grant for continued research on Kaqchikel Mayan

2010 Microsoft Research iCampus Technology Innovation Student Prize at MIT

- 2009– Kenan Sahin Presidential Fellowship for doctoral study at MIT
- 2007–2008 U.S. Department of State Fulbright Fellowship for English language teaching in Taiwan
- 2008 Best Paper Award, Linguistic Society of Taiwan National Conference on Linguistics (全國語言學研討會) 2008 for “The Verbal Nature of Mandarin Comparative *bǐ*”
- 2007 Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa
- 2006 Inducted as Associate Member, Sigma Xi, the scientific research honor society
- 2006 Research Assistantship under “Scalar Representations in Natural Language Semantics,” NSF CAREER BCS-0094263 (PI: Christopher Kennedy)

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## Publications

### Papers in proceedings

- to appear* “The Effect of ‘Only’ on Quantifier Scope: the *Dake* Blocking Effect.” In *Proceedings of the GLOW in Asia Workshop for Young Scholars*.
- to appear* “Share to Compare: the Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative.” In *Proceedings of the 29th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 29)*, Cascadilla Press.
- to appear* “Sentence-Final *Only* and the Interpretation of Focus in Mandarin Chinese.” In Louis Liu, Lauren Eby (eds.), *Proceedings of the 18th Meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics and 22nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (IACL-18 & NACCL-22)*.
- 2009 “Ubiquity: Designing a Multilingual Natural Language Interface.” In Frederic Gey, Noriko Kando, Jussi Karlgren (eds.), *ACM SIGIR 2009 Workshop on Information Access in a Multilingual World*, pp. 45–48.
- 2009 “Three C’s for a Supportive Educational Environment: Co-teaching, Cohort, and Community,” with Dale Albanese, Timothy Collins, Laura Burr, Julie Goshe, Joanne Tseng, and Michelle Louie. In Christopher Ward (ed.), *Language Teaching in a Multilingual World: Challenges and Opportunities*, pp. 54–64. RELC Anthology Series #50. Singapore: SEAMEO Regional Language Centre.
- 2008 “The Verbal Nature of Mandarin Comparative *bǐ*.” In *The Proceedings of the National Conference on Linguistics 2008*, Linguistic Society of Taiwan, Taipei, Taiwan.

### Volumes edited

- in preparation* *Proceedings of the MIT Workshop on Comparatives*, edited with Yasutada Sudo. MIT Working Papers in Linguistics.

## Manuscripts

- 2007 *A New Syntax-Semantics for the Mandarin bǐ Comparative*. University of Chicago Master's thesis, May 2007.

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## Presentations

### Refereed conference presentations

- 2012 "Mandarin alternative questions question focus alternatives." Chicago Linguistic Society 48, Chicago, April 19–21, 2012.
- 2012 "Association with traces and the copy theory of movement." GLOW 35 Workshop on Association with Focus, Potsdam, April 1, 2012.
- 2012 "The Constituency of Hyperlinks in a Hypertext Corpus." Linguistic Evidence 2012, University of Tübingen, February 9–11, 2012.
- 2011 "Mandarin *háishi* and the Analysis of Alternative Question Disjunction." 7th conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL 7), University of Venice (Ca' Foscari), September 13–15, 2011.
- 2011 "Focus Interpretation and Covert Movement: the *Dake* Blocking Effect." GLOW in Asia Workshop for Young Scholars, Mie University, Japan, September 7–8, 2011.
- 2011 "The Constituency of Hyperlinks in a Hypertext Corpus." The Second Triennial Conference of the International Society for the Linguistics of English Conference (IsLE 2), Boston University, June 17–21, 2011.
- 2011 "Share to Compare: the Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative." West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 29), University of Arizona, April 22–24, 2011.
- 2010 "On the Scope and Position of Mandarin Sentence-Final *éryǐ*." Rencontres d'Automne de Linguistique Formelle (RALFe 1) [1st Fall Meeting on Formal Linguistics], University of Paris 8, October 14–16, 2010.
- 2010 "Two *Only*s in Mandarin Chinese." 18th Meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics and 22nd North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (IACL18 & NACCL22), Harvard University, May 20–22, 2010.
- 2009 "Ubiquity: Designing a Multilingual Natural Language Interface." SIGIR Workshop on Information Access In a Multilingual World (SIGIR-CLIR), Northeastern University, Boston, July 23, 2009.
- 2008 "The Verbal Nature of Mandarin Comparative *bǐ*." The Linguistic Society of Taiwan National Conference on Linguistics (全國語言學研討會), National Chiayi University, Chiayi, Taiwan, May 2–3, 2008.
- 2008 "Three C's for a Supportive Educational Environment: Co-teaching, Cohort, and Community," with Timothy Collins, Joanne Tseng, and Michelle Louie. The 43rd Regional Language Centre International Seminar (RELC 2008), Singapore, April 21–23, 2008.

## Invited presentations

- 2012 “The Constituency of Hyperlinks in a Hypertext Corpus.” Harvard Language and Cognition Group, April 10, 2012.
- 2012 “The Constituency of Hyperlinks in a Hypertext Corpus.” Ted Gibson Language Lab, MIT Brain and Cognitive Sciences, March 21, 2012.

## Non-refereed workshop presentations

- 2011 “*Dake Shika*: The Semantics of Stacked *Only* in Japanese.” Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS), University of Connecticut, April 16, 2011.
- 2010 “Independent Dependency in the Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative.” MIT Workshop on Comparatives, November 13–14, 2010.
- 2010 “Two *Only*s in Mandarin Chinese.” Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS), Harvard University, February 27, 2010.

## Poster presentations

- 2011 “Focus association with traces.” 50th Anniversary of the MIT Graduate Program in Linguistics (Ling 50), December 9–11, 2011.

## Departmental presentations

- upcoming* “Kaqchikel Agent Focus.” Syntax Square, MIT, May 1, 2012.
- 2012 “Existentials and Agent Focus in Kaqchikel” with Lauren Eby. Mayan Reading Group, Harvard, April 24, 2012.
- 2012 “The Constituency of Hyperlinks in a Hypertext Corpus.” Ling Lunch, MIT, March 15, 2012.
- 2011 “Association with traces.” LF Reading Group, MIT, November 18, 2011.
- 2011 “The *dake* blocking effect.” Japanese/Korean syntax mini-conference, MIT, May 18, 2011.
- 2010 “Independent Dependency and the Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative.” Syntax Square, MIT, May 11, 2010.
- 2010 “Two *Only*s in Mandarin Chinese.” LF Reading Group, MIT, May 3, 2010.
- 2010 “The Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative: past, present, and (maybe) future.” MIT First-years’ Mini-conference, MIT, February 6, 2010.
- 2007 “A New Syntax-Semantics for the Mandarin *bǐ* Comparative: The Talk.” University of Chicago Ling Lunch, Chicago, June 6, 2007.

- 2007 “The Structure of the Mandarin Comparative.” The Third University of Chicago Graduate Student Mini-conference, Chicago, March 2007.
- 2004 “Bézout’s Theorem: Intersection Connection.” Directed Reading Program Presentations, University of Chicago Department of Mathematics, Chicago, October 2004.

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## Teaching and education experience

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology: theoretical linguistics

- 2010– Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)  
Advised and collaborated with undergraduate students on the use of hypertext corpora to investigate syntactic constituency:
- Camille DeJarnett (Spring 2012)
  - Daniel Martelly (Spring 2012)
  - Alyssa Mensch (January 2012)
  - Patrick Hulin (January 2011, spring 2011, summer 2011)
  - Patrick Hurst (spring 2011)
  - Anthony Nguyen (summer 2010)
- Fall 2011 Teaching Assistant  
24.902 Undergraduate Syntax with Sabine Iatridou  
Led recitations, held office hours, guest-lectured, and graded assignments, papers, and exams.
- Spring 2011 Teaching Assistant  
24.900 Introduction to Linguistics with David Pesetsky  
Led recitations, held office hours, and graded assignments, papers, and exams.

### WordPress Foundation/Google Summer of Code: open source web application development

- Summer 2011 Lead mentor for Ben Balter, Document Revisions project  
Mentor for Mihai Chereji, HTML5 localStorage Drafts project

### Fulbright Taiwan: elementary EFL

- A.Y. 2007–2008 Fulbright Fellow. Yilan County Department of Education, Taiwan  
Cotaught English to students in rural Taiwanese elementary schools.

### Concordia Language Villages: Japanese language immersion education

- Summer 2007 Credit Teacher  
Taught one year’s worth (180 hours) of high school Japanese in an immersion setting.

- Summers 2005–6 Assistant Dean  
Assisted the Dean in both academic and business operations of a Japanese language immersion summer camp serving 200 children per summer. Led training and management of bilingual staff.
- Summers 2003–4 Two Week Curriculum Facilitator  
Lead and supported two week program staff in the counseling and teaching of 100 students in an immersive language camp setting.
- Summers 2001–2 Junior Counselor  
Lived with and taught Japanese to students, ages 7–18, in an immersive language camp setting.

**University of Chicago:** peer mentorship and mathematics

- A.Y. 2003–2007 Counselor, Department of Mathematics Young Scholars Program  
09/2006 Student Director, New Student Orientation.
- A.Y. 2005–2006 Assistant Resident Head (RA), Undergraduate Student Housing
- A.Y. 2004–2005 VIGRE Course Assistant (TA)  
Calculus I, II (151, 152) with Sameer D’Costa  
Led problem sessions, held office hours, and graded assignments.

**U. of Minnesota Talented Youth Math Program:** math for advanced high school students

- A.Y. 2002–2003 Teaching Assistant  
Honors Calculus II with Thomas Schwartzbauer  
Led problem sessions, held office hours, and graded exams.

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**Affiliations**

Phi Beta Kappa, 2007–; Sigma Xi, Associate Member, 2006–; Linguistic Society of America, 2006–; International Association of Chinese Linguistics, 2010–; European Association of Chinese Linguistics, 2011–

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**Community leadership**

- Department rep. MIT Graduate Student Council, 2011–
- Trustee Awesome Foundation, Boston chapter, 2011–
- Student rep. MIT Department of Linguistics, 2010–2011
- Co-founder Boston WordCamp 2010 & 2011, technical community conference
- Captain University of Chicago Linguistics Bowling Team (*The [+gutterroll]s*), 2006–2007
- Board of Directors Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, 2000–2003

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## Professional service

Reviewer	Formal Approaches to Mayan Linguistics 2 (FAMLi 2; 2012), <i>Lingua</i> (2012), <i>MIT Occasional Papers in Linguistics</i> (2010), Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages 2 (FASAL 2; 2012)
Conference volunteer	50th Anniversary of the MIT Graduate Program in Linguistics (2011), Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association 18 at Harvard (AFLA 18; 2011), Formal Approaches to Mayan Linguistics at MIT (FAMLi 1; 2010), Conference of the North East Linguistic Society at MIT (NELS 40; 2009), Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, (CLS 41–44; 2004–2007)
Co-organizer	MIT Workshop on Comparatives (2010)
Webmaster	Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL) 2 at MIT (2012), Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 20 at MIT (2011), 50th Anniversary of the MIT Graduate Program in Linguistics (2010–2011), MIT Working Papers in Linguistics (2009–)
Co-founder	<i>The English Neighborhood</i> website, Taiwan (2007–2008)
Copy editor	<i>The Journal of English for Specific and Academic Purposes</i> , Taiwan (2007)

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## Technology experience

### Selected clients and employers

Automattic (WordPress.com), Mozilla (Firefox), Gameloft, MIT, the University of Chicago, Vlingo, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

### Notable open source projects

Benevolent dictator Yet Another Related Posts Plugin (YARPP) for WordPress

Architect ShrimpTest A/B testing solution for WordPress, Automattic, Inc.

Contributor WordPress

Programmer Firefox 4 Tab Groups project, Mozilla Corporation

Research linguist Ubiquity, Mozilla Labs