Michael Donovan

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Education

2014–2022	Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Delaware
	Advisor: Benjamin Bruening
	Title: Verbless Imperatives
2014–2016	Master of Arts, Linguistics, University of Delaware
2008–2012	Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics/Philosophy, University of Connecticut

Teaching

Swarthmore College (2022-Present)

LING 001: Introduction to Linguistics: Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

LING 005: First Year Seminar *(How Children Learn Language)*: Spring 2023

LING 036: Languages of the World: Spring 2024

LING 040: Semantics I: Spring 2025

LING 050: Syntax I: Spring 2027 (Expected), Fall 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

LING 090: Advanced Research Methods: Spring 2027 (Expected)

LING 093: Directed Reading *(Topics in Morphology)*: Spring 2023

LING 095: Directed Research *(Khalkha Mongolian Converbial Phrases)*: Fall 2025, Spring 2025

LING 100: Thesis Seminar: Fall 2026, Fall 2025

Haverford College (2019)

LING 101: Introduction to Linguistics: Fall 2019

LING 113: Introduction to Syntax: Fall 2019

University of Delaware (2014-2018)
As Primary Instructor

LING 101: Introduction to Linguistics: Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2016

LING 101: Introduction to Linguistics (Honors): Fall 2017

LING 102/CGSC 102: Language, Mind and Society: Spring 2019, Winter 2017

LING 201: Invented Languages: Winter 2018

LING 203: Languages of the World: Winter 2016

As Teaching Assistant

LING 101: Introduction to Linguistics: Spring 2017, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

LING 102: Language, Mind and Society: Spring 2015

CGSC 170: Introduction to Cognitive Science: Spring 2016

LING 444: First Language Development: Spring 2015

Advising

Student: Aaliyah Bullen, Swarthmore College. *Mellon Mays Fellowship*. Topic: Topicalization in Singlish. 2022-2024.

Student: Lilija von Behren, Swarthmore College. *Independent Research*. Topic: Case Marking in Converbial Phrases in Khalkha Mongolian. 2025-2026.

Publications: Refereed Journals

2025 Negation-Licensed Commands: The Imperative Operator Outside Canonical Imperative Clauses. *Language* Volume 101, No. 3.

Publications: Conference Proceedings

2020 Edge deletion in fragment commands. *WCCFL 37 Proceedings*.

2017 General Prohibition: A New Type of English Imperative. *PLC Working Papers 41*.

Papers in Preparation

Donovan, Michael. Goal Commands.

Donovan, Michael. The Question Particle in Uzbek: the case of “-mi” shifting and non-verbal predication.

Donovan, Michael. Formal Values on Pronouns are not Bound by an Operator.

Poster Presentations

Donovan, Michael. Question Imperatives. LSA 2024.

Donovan, Michael. Question Imperatives in Japanese. TEAL 16. May 2023.

Donovan, Michael. Atypical Ellipsis Patterns in Imperative Fragments. WCCFL 38. March 2020.

Donovan, Michael. Pronouncing Command Fragments in a Theory of Clause Types. LSA 2020.

Donovan, Michael and Bilge Palaz. Politeness is a Presupposition on Pronouns, not Operator-Variable Agreement. LSA 2020.

Donovan, Michael. Goal Oriented Location Commands. CLS 55. May 2019.

Donovan, Michael. Goal Oriented Location Commands. MACSIM 9. April 2019.

Donovan, Michael. Goal Oriented Location Commands. PLC 43. March 2019.

Donovan, Michael and Nematova, Shakhlo. The Polarity Particle in Uzbek: ”-mi” shifting; a split aspect account. LSA 2018.

Presentations

Donovan, Michael and Yuki Seo. Differential Object Marking in Burmese Ditransitives: Marking Two Objects at the Same Time. LSA 2027.

Donovan, Michael. Why are Imperative Fragments Limited in their Possible Speech Acts? PLC 50. March 2026.

Donovan, Michael. Why are Imperative Fragments Limited in their Possible Speech Acts? LSA 2026.

Donovan, Michael and Shakhlo Nematova. What counts as second-to-last? The case of the Uzbek question particle. LSA 2019.

Donovan, Michael. No Verbs Allowed! An analysis of General Prohibition in English. NCI Berlin. 2018.

Donovan, Michael. The polarity particle in Uzbek: “-mi” shifting; a split aspect account. Tu+3 2017. November 2017.

Donovan, Michael. The Deletion of Allow-Predicates by an Imperative Modal in English. PLC 41. March 2017.

Donovan, Michael. Interaction of Negation and Singular/Plural Number Morphology in English. Cognitive Science Graduate Student Conference. University of Delaware. March 2017.

Donovan, Michael and Ryan Rhodes. Using transducers to construct recursive minimalist trees from linear word order. Cognitive Science Graduate Student Conference. University of Delaware. March 2016.

Donovan, Michael. General Prohibition. Cognitive Science Graduate Student Conference. University of Delaware. March 2016.

Invited Talks

Sept 2020 On General Prohibition. University of Pennsylvania Syntax Group.

Oct 2020 Verbless Imperatives. Yale University Syntax Group.

Honors, Awards, Grants

2027 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$2,000 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2026 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$1,800 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2025 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$1,800 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2024 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$1,800 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2023 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$1,800 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2022 **Swarthmore College Faculty Grant.**

$1,800 for work on Cross-Linguistic Goal Commands.

2020 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$4000 for work on Verbless Imperatives and Politeness Pronouns.

2019 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$4000 for work on Verbless Imperatives.

2018 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$4000 for work on Non-Canonical Imperatives.

2017 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$4000 for work on Uzbek and General Prohibition in English.

2016 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$2000 for work on General Prohibition in English and Using Transducers to Construct Minimalist Trees.

2016 **University of Delaware Research Funding.**

$4000 for work on General Prohibition in English and constructing a department website.

Service

- Graduate Representative for Syntax Faculty Position. Spring 2019.
- Member. College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate. Graduate Student Representative. 2017-2019.
- Member. Graduate Student Government. Senator for Linguistics and Cognitive Science 2015-2018.
- Proxy. Graduate Student Government. Proxy to the senator for Linguistics and Cognitive Science. 2015.
- Organizer of Syntax Semantics Group. Responsible for organizing the Linguistics Department's Syntax and Semantics Lab meeting for Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter sessions. 2015-2017.
- Member. Linguistics Association of Delaware. Board Member. 2015-2021.

Abstract Review

- Tu +5
- Sinn und Bedeutung 29

Professional Affiliations

2015-present Linguistics Society of America.