

COMPARATIVE NIGER-CONGO



VILLEJUIF, MAY 22-23, 2025

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

13:20-13:30

Welcome

13:30-14:00

KOEN BOSTOEN, PETER COUTROS
(GHENT UNIVERSITY)
& CARINA SCHLEBUSCH
(UPPSALA UNIVERSITY)

A transdisciplinary review of linguistic, archaeological and genetic evidence for the origins and expansion of Niger-Congo

14:00-14:40

JOHN MERRILL
(PRINCETON UNIVERSITY)

Comparative reconstruction of Proto-Niger-Congo class markers

14:40-15:00

Coffee break

15:00-15:30

CHRISNAH RENAUDOT MFOUHO &
SARA PACCHIAROTTI
(GHENT UNIVERSITY)

The noun class system of Ndunga ("Ubangi", Mbaic) from a Niger-Congo perspective

15:30-16:00

ULRICH KLEINWILLINGHÖFER
(BUA GROUP)

The noun form classes *-te/i* and *-(n)te/i* of Kulaal and their (probable) cognates across Benue-Volta

16:00-16:30

RONALD P. SCHAEFER (SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, EDWARDSVILLE)
& FRANCIS O. EGBOKHARE
(UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN)

Tones, aspects, and tense in Edoid

16:30-16:50

Coffee break

16:50-17:20

KONSTANTIN POZDNIAKOV &
VALENTIN VYDRIN
(LLACAN: CNRS - INALCO /EPHE)

Mande and Bantu comparison in the Niger-Congolese perspective

17:20-17:50

NATALIA KUZNETSOVA
(UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO
CUORE, MILAN)

Historical relations between clefts, focus markers, and relative clauses in Guro and other South Mande languages

18:00

Drinks at LLACAN

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

9:30-10:00	ELISABETH J. KERR (GHENT UNIVERSITY)	Reconstructing intermediate stages of change in verbal synthesis in Niger-Congo
10:00-10:40	MARK VAN DE VELDE & DMITRY IDIATOV (LLACAN: CNRS - INALCO/EPHE)	Genitive constructions in Niger-Congo
10:40-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:40	LARRY HYMAN (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY)	Limba verb extensions in Niger-Congo perspective
11:40-12:10	GUILLAUME SEGERER (LLACAN: CNRS - INALCO/EPHE)	La reconstruction du proto-Joola
12:10-12:50	REBECCA D. PATERSON (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY)	Reconstructing Proto-NW Kainji
12:50-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:30	JAKOB LESAGE (HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITÄT, BERLIN)	Kam as an isolate within Niger-Congo?
14:30-15:00	ABBIE HANTGAN, VADIM DIACHKOV, PROMISE DODZI KPOGLU, LORA LITVINOVA, AURORE MONTÉBRAN & FABIAN ZUK (BANG PROJECT: ERC / LLACAN, CNRS)	Dogon: Evidence of Niger-Congo affiliation
15:00-15:30	FABIAN ZUK (BANG PROJECT: ERC / LLACAN, CNRS)	Early Dogon <i>i</i> -metathesis: (on how <i>i</i> moved out and what it means for the family)
15:30-15:50	Coffee break	
15:50-16:30	JENS FLEISCHHAUER (HEINRICH-HEINE-UNIVERSITY, DÜSSELDORF)	Suppletive kinship terms in the Bantu language family: A typological and historical analysis
16:30-17:10	JEFFREY WILLS (UKRANIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, LVIV)	Grassfields innovations: birds and other words
19.30	Workshop dinner	