

Isolated Languages Workshop (ISLA 2026)

Ghent, 18-19 March 2026

18/03 Day 1 – What constitutes an isolate(d) language?

2.24	9:00–9:30	Opening and welcome.
2.24	9:30	<i>Session 1: Limits of comparison and methodological boundaries</i>
	9:30–10:00	Tyler Paul Utt, Samopriya Basu & Noorin Khan — Towards a phonological (pre-)history of Burushaski.
	10:00–10:30	Marta Kluz — Spatial and typological dimension of language isolates in Eurasia in historical perspective.
	10:30–11:00	Bernat Bardagil & Sara Larios — An anti-Swadesh look at the Jurueña valley: charting the limits of lexical comparison across unrelated languages.
2.24	11:00–11:30	Coffee break.
2.21	11:30	<i>Session 2: Contact, areality, and the production of isolation</i>
	11:30–12:00	Jacob Menschel — From genetic to areal isolation: Andoke and the People of the Center.
	12:00–12:30	Alba Hermida Rodríguez — Understanding isolates through contact and identity: a study of Chiquitano.
2.21	12:30–14:00	Lunch break.
2.21	14:00	<i>Session 3: (Re)classifying isolates</i>
	14:00–14:30	Guillaume Segerer — Bayot: a misclassified isolate.
	14:30–15:00	Stephanie Farmer — Muniche: an isolate no longer?
	15:00–15:30	Aaron Broadwell — Timucua, a language isolate of Florida: new evidence for a connection to Muskogean.
2.21	15:30–16:00	Coffee break.
2.21	16:00–17:00	Matthias Urban — Typologizing sociocultural pathways towards language isolates.

18:00 Conference dinner at Fattoush (Brabantdam 69)

19/03 Day 2 – Structure, contact, and language islands

2.25	9:30	<i>Session 4: Language islands and embedded isolation</i>
	9:30–10:00	Abbie Hantgan-Sonko & Anna-Marie Diagne — Language islands in the Sahel: Sillanka and Bangime in comparative perspective
	10:00–10:30	An Van linden — The Harakmbut–Katukina–Arawan grouping
2.25	10:30–11:00	Coffee break
2.25	11:00	<i>Session 5: Historical sources, perception, and time depth</i>
	11:00–11:30	Carlos Barrientos & Jaime Peña — Language evolution, genealogies, and long-term contact: the Northern Peruvian region and its importance for the study of small families and isolates.
	11:30–12:00	Zachary O'Hagan — What was the language of the Tabalosos, Lamas, and Suchiches of Peru? Evidence from a 17th-century census and sacramental records.
	12:00–12:30	Nina van der Vlugt — Khoisan linguistic traces in Southern Bantu: the case of lateral obstruents.
2.23	12:30–14:00	Lunch break
1.91	14:00	<i>Session 6: Structural profiles of isolates</i>
	14:00–14:30	Jeremy Coburn — Phonotactic organization and prosodic structure in Hadza: word length and click distribution in a language isolate.
	14:30–15:00	Maria Cheremisinova — Yagua, a Peba–Yaguan language of the western Amazon: typology and contact.
1.91	15:00–15:30	Coffee break
1.91	15:30–16:30	<i>Plenary talk</i> Pattie Epps — How isolated are isolates? The case of South America.
1.91	16:30–17:30	Final roundtable.