Hamza Sellami

Doctoral Researcher in Linguistics | Amazigh Morphology and Phonology

+212 651-855307 | hamza-sellami@um5r.ac.ma | ORCID: 0009-0008-8919-7087 | Rabat, Morocco

Google Scholar | ResearchGate | LinkedIn

PROFILE

Cotutelle PhD candidate in linguistics at Mohammed V University in Rabat and Université Paris 8. Doctoral research develops a constraint-based account of plural formation in Tashlhiyt Berber, analyzing the internal plural exponent as a single floating mora and testing the analysis against a corpus of 1,185 noun paradigms. Research interests include Amazigh morphology and phonology, non-concatenative morphology, prosodic structure and multiple exponence, Optimality Theory, and computational and quantitative approaches to morphologically complex languages. Also teaches English as a foreign language at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University.

EDUCATION

Cotutelle PhD Candidate in Linguistics 2024 – Present
Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco / Université Paris 8, France Rabat / Paris

- Thesis: *Plural Formation in Tashlhiyt: A Constraint-Based Analysis*. Expected defense: June 2028.
- Thesis directors (cotutelle): Prof. Karim Bensoukas (FLSH, Mohammed V University) and Prof. Mohamed Lahrouchi (Université Paris 8 / CNRS UMR 7023 SFL). Co-supervision: Prof. Fatima El Hamdi (FLSH).
- CEDoc *L'Homme et l'Espace dans le Monde Méditerranéen*; doctoral programme *Language, Culture and Society*; research team CLEMS (Culture, Language, Education, Migration and Society). Paris 8: ED 224 *Cognition, Langage, Interaction*.

Master's Degree in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics 2022 – 2024
Mohammed V University, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Rabat Rabat, Morocco

- Graduated with distinction: *Mention Bien*.
- Thesis: *Broken Plural Formation in Tiznit Tashlhit Berber: A Constraint-Based Analysis*.

Bachelor's Degree in English Linguistics 2019 – 2022
Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences Agadir, Morocco

- Graduated with distinction: *Mention Bien*.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles and proceedings

- Zaaraoui, Abdessamed, and Hamza Sellami. 2026. Bridging gaps in English learning: Moroccan EFL learners' acceptance and use of Rosetta Stone. *The Moroccan Journal of Communication Studies*, 6(10). doi:10.34874/PRSM.mjcs-vol6iss10.9981
- Alderete, John, and Hamza Sellami. 2026. Structured partial predictability in non-concatenative morphology: The case of Tashlhiyt Berber. In Erhard Hinrichs, Joakim Nivre, Petya Osenova, James Pustejovsky, and Claus Zinn (eds.), *Proceedings of the Workshop on Structured Linguistic Data and Evaluation (SLiDE)*, 124–135. ELRA Language Resources Association. doi:10.63317/32kvdo5hchjo
- Sellami, Hamza. 2024. Attitudes towards Amazigh education policies and their impact on Moroccan cultural and linguistic identity. *International Journal of Language and Education Research*, 6(3), 109–128. doi:10.5281/zenodo.23677691

Book chapters (revised after peer review)

- Sellami, Hamza, and John Alderete. Tashlhiyt Berber internal plurals: One morpheme, two patterns. In Karim Bensoukas (ed.), *Handbook of Tashlhit Linguistics*. Springer. Peer-reviewed; revised version submitted 26 October 2026.
- Sellami, Hamza, and Abdessamed Zaaraoui. Multiple exponence in plural morphology of Tashlhit and Moroccan Arabic. In Karim Bensoukas (ed.), *Handbook of Tashlhit Linguistics*. Springer. Peer-reviewed; revised version submitted 31 October 2026.

In preparation

- Seeing double? One exponent or two in Tashlhit Berber mixed plurals. For the special issue of *Langues et Littératures* (vol. 34) on Amazigh phonology, following the Amazigh phonology workshop at the 22nd Réseau Français de Phonologie conference (Agadir, 2025); submission December 2026.
- Blocked here, doubled there: How class governs plural exponence in Tashlhit. For the themed issue arising from the Ibn Tofail conference (Kénitra, December 2025); manuscript due December 2026.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

International

Introduction to Amazigh (lecture with Mohamed Najari) 22 Sep. 2026
Language Documentation Summer School (LDSS 2026), Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

- Contribution: *The Linguistic System of Tashlhiyt: Segments, Syllables and Word Structure*.

Floating /A/ and OCP-driven Vowel Alternation in Tashlhiyt Berber A-plurals 1 – 3 Jul. 2026
23es Rencontres du Réseau Français de Phonologie (RFP 2026) Paris, France

- Accepted oral paper (ED CLI mobility funding granted); presented in absentia owing to visa delays.

Structured Partial Predictability in Non-Concatenative Morphology May 2026
SLiDE Workshop, LREC 2026 Palma de Mallorca, Spain

- Poster, with Prof. John Alderete (Simon Fraser University).

Multiple Exponence in the Morphology of Tashlhiyt and Moroccan Arabic 29 Oct. 2025
Phonology Workshop-Seminar, CNRS UMR 7023 Structures Formelles du Langage Paris, France

- Oral presentation, jointly with Abdessamed Zaaraoui.

The Puzzle of Plurality in Tashlhit: A Case of Multiple Exponence 30 Jun. – 4 Jul. 2025
22nd Conference of the Réseau Français de Phonologie Agadir, Morocco

- Oral presentation.

Plural Formation in the Morphology of Tashlhiyt: Data Collection and Morphological Patterns 16 Apr. 2025
Dipartimento di Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

- Seminar delivered as part of the Doctoral Program of the Erasmus+ KA171 Project.

National

Mixed Plurals as Multiple Exponence in Tashlhit: A Realizational OT Account 18 Dec. 2025
Laboratoire Langue et Société, Ibn Tofail University Kénitra, Morocco

- Oral presentation at the international conference *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Phonology and Its Interfaces*.

Determinants of EFL Learners' Behavioral Intentions to Use Rosetta Stone: A Case Study from Moroccan Higher Education 29 – 30 May 2025
International Conference "The Power of Communication" Oujda, Morocco

- Oral presentation, jointly with Abdessamed Zaaraoui.

Bridging Gaps in English Learning 21 – 22 May 2025
Fifth National Doctoral Symposium, Chouaïb Doukkali University El Jadida, Morocco

- Oral presentation.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING

Adjunct Instructor in English as a Foreign Language Feb. 2026 – Present
Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Contract-based teaching of *English (Language and Communication)* to undergraduate students (spring semester 2026, 84 hours), including course delivery, examination invigilation, and assessment.

Guest Lecturer 2026 – 2027
Master's Programme "Morocco and the World through History" Rabat, Morocco

- Invited session in the master's programme coordinated by Prof. Abdelhay El Khili.

Language Consultant for Amazigh (Tashlhiyt) 21 – 25 Sep. 2026
LDSS 2026, Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

- Led the laboratory sessions on Amazigh and served as language consultant in the fieldwork and group-work sessions.

Doctorant-Moniteur, PASS Program 2024 – Present
Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Teaching, tutoring, student support, examination invigilation, and assessment as part of the PASS doctoral scholarship program.

Examination Organisation, Spring 2026 Session 4 Jun. – 6 Jul. 2026
Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Organisation of the faculty's spring examination session (150 hours).

English Instructor and Rosetta Stone Tutor Feb. 2025 – Mar. 2025
Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Taught English and supported Rosetta Stone-based language-learning activities for university students (45 hours), until the Erasmus+ mobility to Naples.

RESEARCH STAYS AND ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Doctoral Research Stay Oct. 2025 – Jan. 2026
CNRS UMR 7023 Structures Formelles du Langage / Université Paris 8 Paris, France

- Cotutelle research stay under the co-supervision of Prof. Mohamed Lahrouchi, funded by the *Programme de mobilités doctorales 2025* of the Embassy of France in Morocco.
- Developed the constraint-based analysis of Tashlhiyt internal plurals in regular on-site working sessions.

Erasmus+ KA171 Doctoral Mobility Mar. 2025 – Jul. 2025
Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

- Doctoral mobility in Amazigh linguistics, with access to the Amazigh and Afroasiatic collections of the DAAM and the Centre of Amazigh Studies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant 2025 – 2026
Research project of Prof. John Alderete, Simon Fraser University Remote / Canada

- Contributed literature review, linguistic analysis, data curation, and algorithm development to a project on Tashlhiyt Berber plural morphology.
- Applied computational and machine-learning methods to analyze patterns in Tashlhiyt plural formation, and contributed to the handbook chapter on internal plurals.

Research Project: Rosetta Stone Acceptance in Moroccan Higher Education 2025
Collaborative research with Abdessamed Zaaraoui Morocco

- Quantitative study of EFL learners' behavioral intentions to use Rosetta Stone in Moroccan higher education.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

CNRST Doctoral Scholarship (PASS / Doctorants-Moniteurs) 2024 – Present
Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Morocco

Doctoral Mobility Grant, *Programme de mobilités doctorales 2025* 2025 – 2026
Embassy of France in Morocco (SCAC) / Institut français du Maroc Rabat / Paris

- Competitive grant funding a four-month research stay in a French laboratory: CNRS UMR 7023 Structures Formelles du Langage, Université Paris 8 (Oct. 2025 – Jan. 2026).

Research Assistantship Funding, SSHRC Grant 435-2020-0193 2025 – 2026
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; PI Prof. John Alderete, Simon Fraser University Canada

Erasmus+ KA171 Doctoral Mobility Grant 2025
Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

Doctoral Training Modules 2024 – Present
CEDoc, FLSH Mohammed V / ED 224 CLI, Université Paris 8 Rabat / Paris

- FUN-MOOC modules towards the Paris 8 doctoral training credits, including research ethics and scientific integrity.
- Workshops: *Web of Science* (Clarivate, Mohammed V University, 19 May 2026, 3.5 hours); *Research With Impact: Your Guide to T&F SSH Journals* (Taylor & Francis with CNRST, online, 24 Feb. 2026).

CEDoc Transversal Training Programme Mar. – Jun. 2026
CEDoc, FLSH, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Nine sessions, including philosophy and history of science, heritage valorisation, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurial culture, interdisciplinarity in the humanities and social sciences, and inclusive pedagogy.

Italian as a Second Language Course, Level A1 Mar. – Jun. 2025
CLAOR / Università di Napoli L'Orientale Naples, Italy

- Completed 60 hours of Italian language instruction; final test score 28/30.

SKILLS

Research areas: Amazigh morphology and phonology, Tashlhiyt plural formation, non-concatenative morphology, prosodic structure, multiple exponence, Optimality Theory
Languages: Amazigh (native), Arabic (C1), English (C1), French (B2), Italian (A1, certified)
Technical tools: LaTeX/Overleaf, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, SPSS, linguistic data curation, basic quantitative analysis
Academic skills: Research writing, oral presentation, teaching, tutoring, translation, conference participation

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

Event Organisation Dec. 2024 – Feb. 2025
CEDoc and FLSH, Mohammed V University Rabat, Morocco

- Seminar by Prof. John Alderete (SFU) for *Langues et Littératures*, Jan. – Feb. 2025 (10 hours); lecture *La famille au Maroc*, 7 Jan. 2025.
- Doctoral training sessions *Intelligence artificielle* and *Histoire des sciences humaines*, Dec. 2024.

Student Volunteering 2023 – 2024
Moulay Ismail University Campus Rabat, Morocco

- Member, Languages and Scientific Research Club; English teacher (A1) in the Communication in English Program (Nov. 2023 – May 2024).