

# Gretchen Kern

Curriculum Vitae  
Summer, 2025

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<https://grekern.github.io/>

## Areas of specialization

Phonology, language revitalization, language documentation, philology, morphology, syntax, Irish, Sahaptin (Ičiškiin)

## Professional experience

2024 – present	<b>Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</b> , Pendleton, OR Training Coordinator, Department of Human Resources I run training & development for a Tribal government staff of about 600 employees.
2023 – 2024	<b>Owens Valley Career Development Center</b> , Visalia, CA Language Manager, Nüümü Yadoha Language Program I oversaw a language program of up to 25 employees that teaches seven indigenous languages (and culture) at multiple urban and rural sites across seven counties in central California.
2019 – 2022	<b>Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</b> , Pendleton, OR Tribal Linguist, Language Program, Department of Education I helped preserve the three languages of the reservation by documenting language with fluent speakers, creating teaching materials, and improving the quality of the archives.
2015 – 2018	<b>IPSoft, Inc.</b> , New York, NY Corpus Linguist, Research & Development I improved the performance of artificial intelligence language understanding and generation by providing training data in eight languages and advising engineers with linguistic insights.

## Education

2010 – 2015	<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> , Cambridge, MA Department of Linguistics and Philosophy PhD in Linguistics (specialization in phonology) Dissertation: <i>Rhyming Grammars and Celtic Phonology</i> Committee: Donca Steriade (chair), Adam Albright, Edward Flemming
2009 – 2010	<b>University of Wisconsin-Madison</b> , Madison, WI Department of Linguistics MA in Linguistics Thesis: <i>On Secondary Stress in Old Irish</i> Advisor: Marlys Macken
2007 – 2009	<b>Aberystwyth University</b> , Aberystwyth, Wales, UK Department of Welsh MA in Irish Thesis: <i>Ogam Inscriptions of Ireland: A relative chronology based on linguistic evidence</i> Advisor: Patrick Sims-Williams
1999 – 2003	<b>University of Southern California</b> , Los Angeles, CA Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures BA in East Asian Languages and Cultures (specialization in Japanese)
2002	<b>Waseda University</b> , Tokyo, Japan Center for International Education Study abroad exchange program, spring semester

### **Publications**

- In preparation Kern, G. The phonetic basis of early Irish rhyme: An analysis of sonority contours in *Saltair na Rann*.  
 2022 Geary, J. & G. Kern. Word order variation in interrogative sentences in Northwest Sahaptin texts. *Proceedings of WAIL 24*. <https://sites.google.com/view/wailconferenceucsb/proceedings>

### **Other manuscripts**

- 2022 Papácu Ímatalam Sínwit  
 A six-chapter textbook for intermediate Umatilla Sahaptin, covering conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, with practice exercises. Written with and for the CTUIR Language Program.  
 2022 Úyit Ímatalam Sínwit  
 A twelve-chapter textbook for beginning Umatilla Sahaptin, covering conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, with practice exercises, glossaries and indices. Written with and for the CTUIR Language Program. Used with UMA101 at Blue Mountain Community College and at Nixyáawi Community High School.  
 2020 Gilbert Minthorn Texts  
 Edited a collection of five historical tales collected by Morris Swadesh from Cayuse/Nez Perce speaker Gilbert Minthorn in 1930. The texts had been translated and glossed by Noel Rude.

### **Conference presentations & posters**

- 2025 Kern, G. *Diminutive sound symbolism in multimorphemic words in Umatilla Ičiškiin/Sahaptin*. Symposium on Northwest American Indigenous Languages. University of Oregon, Eugene.  
 2022 Geary, J. & G. Kern. *Word order variation in interrogative sentences in Northwest Sahaptin texts*. 24<sup>th</sup> Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL24), UC Santa Barbara.  
 2021 Kern, G. & J. Geary. *Developing teaching materials for the Umatilla Sahaptin language: Balancing insights from linguistic theory with learners' communicative needs*. Poster, 39<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL39). University of Arizona (online).  
 2015 Kern, G. *Syntactically unjustified morphs and other strategies for hiatus resolution in Irish prepositions*. 12<sup>th</sup> Old World Conference in Phonology, Universitat de Barcelona.  
 2014 Kern, G. *The (Dis)use of the syllable in the rhymes of Dafydd ap Gwilym*. 34<sup>th</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.  
 2013 Kern, G. *Old Irish Pronouns, Agreement and Disagreement*. 33<sup>rd</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.  
 2012 Kern, G. *Aspects of Old and Middle Irish Rhyme*. 32<sup>nd</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.  
 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. 7<sup>th</sup> Celtic Linguistics Conference, Université Rennes 2, France.  
 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. Poster, 20<sup>th</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. University of Manchester, England.  
 2010 Kern, G. *On Secondary Stress in Old Irish*. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UCLA.

### **Invited talks & workshops**

- 2024 Kern, G. *What can linguistics do for endangered languages?* University of California, Davis  
 2023 Kern, G., with R. Picaso & C. Ruiz. *Sounds and Writing*. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Yokuts, Miwok, and Mono Conference. Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Language Program, Coarsegold, CA.

- 2012 Kern, G. *Rhyme and Meter in Early Irish Verse*. Literary Linguistics Research Group. University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 2012 Kern, G. *The Phonetic Basis of Early Irish Rhyme*. Indo-European Workshop, Harvard University.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. MIT Phonology Circle.

### Grants & awards

- 2022 - 2025 Administration for Native Americans  
Native Languages Preservation & Maintenance Grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This funds the creation of a three-textbook series, with accompanying video lessons and audio recordings, as well as hiring three language apprentices.
- 2022 Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Living Languages Grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This funded the hiring of a preschool Umatilla immersion teacher for one year, the development of immersion curriculum, and a variety of classroom supplies.
- 2021 Administration for Native Americans  
Non-competitive funding  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This grant funded the professional digitization of the CTUIR's physical audio recordings and the collection of information about the content of the recordings to enter into the digital archives.
- 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities  
CARES Act grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This grant funded hiring two oral historians to create professionally-recorded video interviews with tribal elders about prior experience with pandemics and natural disasters.
- 2012 Association Francophone de la Communication Parlée  
Conference travel funding.
- 2010 US Department of Education  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, through the UW-Madison.  
This funded six weeks of intensive Irish study at Oideas Gael in Donegal, Ireland.
- 2009 Diebold Fellowship in Indo-European Studies  
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute funding  
This covered tuition at the LSA Summer Institute at UC Berkeley.

### Teaching experience

#### **Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, OR**

- Fall 2022 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill
- Fall 2021 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill, co-teaching assistant: Jonathan Geary
- Spring 2021 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill, co-teaching assistant: Jonathan Geary

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**

Fall 2013	24.961 (graduate introduction to phonology) (teaching assistant) Instructor: Michael Kenstowicz
Fall 2012	24.900 (undergraduate introduction to linguistics) (teaching assistant) Instructor: David Pesetsky

**TESOL experience**

Fall 2004	Lycée de l'Elorn. Landerneau, France, through the Teaching Assistant Program in France USA English teaching assistant (Assistante d'anglais)
Spring 2003	University of Southern California Language Academy. Los Angeles, CA Classroom assistant

**Courses & workshops**

2022	University of Chicago Language Center Assessment-Driven, Reverse-Designed Language Pedagogy
2021	Center for Applied Linguistics Assessment for Language Instructors: The Basics
2019	Africa Consultants International, Dakar, Senegal 40 hours of French and Wolof courses
2019	Durban Language School, Durban, South Africa CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), 120-hour TEFL course
2011	Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, Ireland Two-week intensive Old and Classical Modern Irish course
2010	Oideas Gael, Gleann Cholm Cille & Gleann Fhinne, Co. Donegal, Ireland Six-week intensive Modern Irish language course
2009	University of California, Berkeley Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute
2009	University of Arizona, Tucson Formal Approaches to Celtic Linguistics Mini-course
2008	Welsh for Adults, Aberystwyth, Wales Week-long intensive Welsh course

**Certifications**

2019	CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
2017	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1

**Service**

2021 – 2023	MIT Alumni Association Educational Council, Oregon & Fresno, CA, chapters. Alumni interviewer for undergraduate admissions
2021	Two Rabbits, Washington, D.C. Finance and administrative support for ASTRADHE, Cameroon
2013	Graduate Women@MIT Co-chair, Graduate Orientation Women's Welcome Lunch

2012 – 2013	MIT Linguistics Department Student representative
2010	UW-Madison Linguistics Department Organizing committee, Workshop in General Linguistics 8

### **Technology**

Python (nltk, sci-kitlearn), RegEx, Linux, praat

### **Languages**

*Native:* English

*Advanced:* Japanese, French

*Intermediate:* Modern Irish, Haitian Creole, Umatilla Sahaptin

*Novice:* Welsh, Wolof, other varieties of Sahaptin, Nez Perce

*Language revitalization community experience:* Wukchumni, Choinumni, and Yowlumni Yokuts, Tübatulabal, Navajo, Western Mono, Owens Valley Paiute, Northern Paiute