

Joshua Lieberstein

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Education

University of California, Santa Cruz (2021–Present)
MA, Linguistics, Expected June 2026
BA, Linguistics *cum laude*, June 2025

Non-Degree Education

Mayan Language Institute, *Advanced K'iche'*, Organized by Tulane University, Summer 2025

Publications

1. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Ambiguity Advantage Effect in Wh-Questions*, Accepted in UGA Working Papers.

Presentations

Talks at conferences

- T1. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Cláusulas sin verbo en el k'iche' chichicasteco: un enfoque (no) copulativo* ["Verbless Clauses in Chichicastenango K'iche': A (Non)-Copular Focus"], Guatemalan Scholars Network (GSN). July 2025.

Invited talks

- T2. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Polarity, Ellipsis and Verb-Initial Order in K'iche' (Mayan)*, American Indian Seminar (AIS), UCLA. Sept. 2025.
- T3. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Specific Subjects and the Ergative Extraction Constraint in K'iche'*, American Indian Seminar (AIS), UCLA. Sept. 2025.

Other talks

- T4. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Polarity, Ellipsis and Verb-Initial Order in K'iche' (Mayan)*, Syntax and Semantics Circle (S-Circle), UC Santa Cruz. Oct. 2025.
- T5. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verbless Clauses in Mayan K'iche': A Copular Investigation*, Syntax and Semantics Circle (S-Circle), UC Santa Cruz. Feb. 2025.

Posters

- P1. **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verbless Clauses in K'iche' (Mayan): A (Non)-Copular Investigation*, Linguistics Undergraduate Research Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz. May 2025.

- P2. **Lieberstein, Joshua** & Wagers, M. *Ambiguity Advantage in Wh-Questions*, Human Sentence Processing (HSP38), University of Maryland. Mar. 2025.
- P3. Green, S., Karasso, S. & **Lieberstein, Joshua**. *Ambiguity Advantage in Wh-Questions*, Linguistics Undergraduate Research Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz. June 2023.

Research Experience

- 2024-Present Fieldwork, Chichicastenango K'iche' (Eastern Mayan)
- 2022-2024 Research Assistant, [IntERPrET Lab](#), UC Santa Cruz, (Advisor: Dr. Liv Hoversten)
- 2022-2023 Research Assistant, Sentence Processing Lab, UC Santa Cruz, (Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Rich)

Awards & Honors

- 2025 FLAS Fellowship (Summer), Vanderbilt University (\$8500)
- 2025 The Humanities Institute Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz (\$1000)
- 2022-2024 Dean's Honors, UC Santa Cruz

Teaching @ UC Santa Cruz

Guest Lecturer

Lieberstein, Joshua. The semantics of questions. Guest lecture for Semantics 1, University of California, Santa Cruz

Teaching Assistant

- Winter 2026 **LING53: Semantics 1**
Instructor: *Pranav Anand*
- Fall 2025 **LING50: Intro to Linguistics**
Instructor: *Matt Wagers*

Tutor

- LING112: Syntax 1**
Fall 2024 Instructor: *Roumyana Pancheva*
- Winter 2024 Instructor: *Maziar Toosarvandani*
- Winter 2023 Instructor: *Ivy Sichel*

- Fall 2022 **Independent Writing Tutor**

Academic Service

- 2024-Present **Member**, Linguistics Events Planning Committee, UC Santa Cruz

2024

Volunteer/Student, INEPAS, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Spanish Language
School/Social Work

Last updated: January 14, 2026