

James Tandy

Curriculum Vitae

Missouri, United States

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EDUCATION

Degrees

2023	Ph.D. in Linguistics University of Texas at Austin Dissertation: “Diachrony of the Perfect Paradigm in Mayan Languages” Advisor: Danny Law
2017	B.A. in Linguistics and Anthropology University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS Honors thesis: “On the Verbal Status of the K’iche’ Mayan Perfect” Advisor: Clifton Pye

Additional coursework

Jul 2017	LSA Linguistic Institute University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (4 weeks)
Jun-Jul 2016	Mayan Language Institute Nahualá, Guatemala (6 weeks)
Jan 2016	Sustainable Development Field School in Partnership with the Ch'orti' Maya Dulce Nombre de María, El Salvador; Jocotán, Guatemala (2 weeks)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mayan languages, historical (socio)linguistics, digital humanities, morphological theory, constructed languages

WORK EXPERIENCE

Aug 2018-May 2023	Teaching Assistant Department of Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin Fall 2018-Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Aug 2021-Dec 2022	Assistant Instructor Department of Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Jan 2022-Apr 2022	Freelance Linguistics Consultant Language construction and linguistics tutoring

Feb 2016-Dec 2017 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Mayan Language Acquisition Laboratory, University of Kansas
Supervisor: Dr. Clifton Pye

Aug 2015-Dec 2016 **Honors Freshman Seminar Assistant**
University Honors Program, University of Kansas
Fall 2015, Fall 2016

LINGUISTIC FIELDWORK

Jul 2019 Uspantán, Guatemala, on **Uspanteko** (1 week)
Jun-Jul 2019 San Pedro Carchá, Guatemala, on **Q'eqchi'**; Tactic, Guatemala, on
Poqomchi' (concurrently, 5 weeks)

DATA COLLECTIONS

2021-present Colonial Poqom Manuscript Project. Ongoing transcription of archived
manuscript materials in Poqomam and Poqomchi'. URL:
<https://jtandyling.github.io/cpoqom.html>.

GRANTS

2023 Summer Fellowship (Dissertation writing). Graduate School, UT Austin.
2023 Travel Award (ICHL conference travel). Graduate Student Assembly, UT
Austin.
2022 Travel Bursary (ICHL conference travel). The Philological Society.
2022 Professional Development Award (ICHL conference travel). Graduate
School, UT Austin.
2019 Carlota S. Smith Memorial Fellowship (Fieldwork in Guatemala).
Department of Linguistics, UT Austin.
2019 Sherzer Research Fellowship (Fieldwork in Guatemala). Center for
Indigenous Languages of Latin America, UT Austin.
2016 Anita Herzfeld Study Abroad Award for Latin America (Mayan Language
Institute). Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, KU.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dec 2017 Departmental Honors in Linguistics, University of Kansas
Dec 2017 University Honors, University of Kansas
May 2017 Distinguished Linguistics Major Award, University of Kansas
Apr 2017 (inducted) Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

2023 “Tracing Eastern Mayan perfect *-max*: Outcomes of direct affix
borrowing in the Sacapulas Corridor.” *Transactions of the
Philological Society*, 121(3), 495-512. (Special issue: *Contact-Induced
Change in Morphosyntax*, ed. by Robin Meyer and Michele Bianconi.)
<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-968X.12273>.

Introduction to edited volume:

- 2021 Crowhurst, Megan J., Nora C. England, Patience L. Epps, Sofia G. Pierson, May Helena Plumb, James B. Tandy, Paige Erin Wheeler, Elizabeth Wood, and Anthony C. Woodbury. “**Translators’ Introduction.**” In Emiliana Cruz Cruz, ed., *Theoretical reflections around the role of fieldwork in linguistics and linguistic anthropology: Contributions of Indigenous researchers from southern Mexico* (Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication 23), 5-9. Honolulu: Language Documentation & Conservation. URL: <http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/sp23/>.

Translation:

- 2021 Pérez González, Jaime (Author), James B. Tandy (Translator), and Paige Erin Wheeler (Translator). “**Ethical principles in linguistic fieldwork methodologies—according to whom?**” In Emiliana Cruz Cruz, ed., *Theoretical reflections around the role of fieldwork in linguistics and linguistic anthropology: Contributions of Indigenous researchers from southern Mexico* (Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication 23), 131-152. (Originally published in Spanish as: Pérez González, Jaime. 2020. “Los principios éticos de las metodologías en el trabajo de campo lingüístico según quién.” In Emiliana Cruz Cruz, ed., *Reflexiones teóricas en torno a la función del trabajo de campo en lingüística-antropológica: Contribuciones de investigadores indígenas del sur de México* (LD&C Special Publication 22), 125-149.) Honolulu: Language Documentation & Conservation. URL: <http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/ldc/sp23/>.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer-reviewed conference presentations:

- Apr 26, 2025 “**Liturgy and language change: Translated ritual speech in colonial Poqom.**” Presented at the 2025 NARNiHS Research Incubator (Online).
- Nov 11, 2023 “**Irrealis to infinitive in Popti’: Paradigmatic motivations for functional change.**” Presented at the Tenth Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA X), University of Texas at Austin.
- Jan 6, 2023 “**Challenges to the study of variation in Colonial Poqom (Mayan).**” Presented at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics (NARNiHS) (Online).
- Aug 2, 2022 “**Direct affix borrowing: Evidence from two Mayan perfect suffixes.**” Presented at The Typology of Contact-Induced Changes in Morphosyntax, workshop at the 25th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL25), University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

Nov 13, 2021	“Evaluating Mayan perfect -b’il as a Lowland diffusion.” Presented at Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 6, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (Online).
Oct 21, 2021	“Poqomam p’ as a “stone soup” phonological borrowing.” Presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NNAV) 49, University of Texas at Austin (Online).
Feb 14, 2020	“Innovation and Contact in the K’iche’an Mayan Perfect: The case of -maj.” Presented at Texas Linguistics Society (TLS) XIX, University of Texas at Austin.

Invited talks:

Mar 15, 2023	“Stone soup and patched fabric: Unexpected outcomes of contact between Mayan languages.” Linguistics colloquium talk, University of Missouri.
Feb 19, 2020	“Innovation and Contact in the K’iche’an Mayan Perfect: The case of -maj.” Presented to the Undergraduate Linguistics Society, UT Austin.
Dec 7, 2017	“On the Verbal Status of the K’iche’ Maya Perfect.” Honors thesis presentation. Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas.

Public outreach / Informal presentations:

Jul 22, 2022	Colin Gorrie, “The Mayan Languages (Q&A feat. James Tandy).” Live interview. URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzbT-oQdoVM .
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TEACHING

University of Texas at Austin

As Assistant Instructor (instructor of record):

Fall 2022	Introduction to the Study of Language
Fall 2021	Introduction to the Study of Language

As Teaching Assistant:

Spring 2023	Language and the Brain (Fernando Llanos Lucas)
Spring 2022	Bias (David Beaver)
Spring 2021	Language Change and Language Variation (Patience Epps)
Spring 2019	Language Change and Language Variation (Danny Law)
Fall 2020	Indigenous Languages of the Americas (Nora England)
Spring 2020	Undergraduate Signature Course, “Mayan Languages in Time/Space” (Nora England and Danny Law)

Fall 2019	Introduction to the Study of Language (Anthony Woodbury)
Fall 2018	Introduction to the Study of Language (Anthony Woodbury)

University of Kansas

As Honors Freshman Seminar Assistant:

Fall 2016	Honors Freshman Seminar, “Foreign Language Hacking: How and Why You Should” (Marc Greenberg)
Fall 2015	Honors Freshman Seminar, “How and Why You Should Learn a Foreign Language” (Marc Greenberg)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

University of Texas

Mar 2022-Dec 2022	14th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT) Graduate student committee member
Sep 2021-Dec 2021	COVID-19 Response Committee Committee member
Spring 2020-present	Prospective Student Open House Committee Committee member
Oct 2019-Apr 2020	Symposium About Language and Society, Austin (SALSA) XXVIII Organizing committee member Note: Conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

University of Kansas

Aug-Dec 2017	Linguistics Undergraduate Club of Kansas President and founding member
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Linguistic Society of America / University of Kentucky

Jul 2017	LSA Linguistic Institute Student volunteer
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics
The Philological Society

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Proficient in:	Microsoft Office
Familiar with:	HTML/CSS, Python, LaTeX, ELAN, FLEX, Praat, Audacity, Transkribus

LANGUAGES

Native: English
Advanced: Spanish
Reading knowledge: French
Intermediate: Poqomchi'
Basic competence: German, K'iche'
Research languages: Mayan languages, particularly K'iche', Poqomchi', Poqomam, Sakapulteko, Q'eqchi', and Uspanteko; Mapudungun; Nepali

Last updated January 12, 2026