

# Kelsey Sasaki

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Faculty of Linguistics, Philology, and Phonetics  
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## Employment

- 2022– **Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow**, *Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford*
- 2021– **Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow**, *Jesus College, University of Oxford*
- 2021–2022 **Postdoctoral Research Assistant**, *Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, University of Oxford*  
PI: Daniel Altshuler

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## Education

- 2015–2021 **Doctor of Philosophy**, *University of California, Santa Cruz*, Linguistics.  
Dissertation: *Components of Coherence* (email for PDF)  
Committee: Pranav Anand, Amanda Rysling (co-chairs), Maziar Toosarvandani
- 2009–2014 **Bachelor of Arts**, *New York University*, Linguistics, Minor in Irish Studies  
*Summa cum laude*

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## Publications

\* = equal contribution

### JOURNAL ARTICLES & MANUSCRIPTS

Roberts, T.\* & Sasaki, K.\*. Under review. **What embeds exclamatives and why.**

Sasaki, K., Foley, S., Pizarro-Guevara, J.S., Silva-Robles, F., Toosarvandani, M., & Wagers, M. Manuscript. **Evidence for a universal parsing principle in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.** (PDF. Data archive: [doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/2WGD8](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/2WGD8))

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. 2022. **Clause-internal coherence: A look at deverbal adjectives.** In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* (Vol. 27). (PDF)

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. 2022. **Clause-internal coherence, deverbal adjectives, and presupposition resolution.** In *Proceedings of 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, 437-443.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Adler, J., Foley, S., Pizarro-Guevara, J.S., Sasaki, K., & Toosarvandani, M. 2018. **The derivation of verb initiality in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.** *A reasonable way to proceed: Essays in honor of Jim McCloskey*, 31-49. (Available online)

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## Presentations

### REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Yao, R., Sasaki, K., Altshuler, D., & Husband, E.M. 2023. **Asymmetric processing effects of**

**intra-sentential explanation coherence.** Poster at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 29. San Sebastián, Spain, September 2. [accepted]

Sasaki, K., Anand, P., & Rysling, A. 2023. **Animacy and event structure modulate long-distance pronominal anaphora in discourse.** Poster at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Pittsburgh, United States, March 10.

Yao, R., **Sasaki, K.**, Altshuler, D., & Husband, E.M. 2023. **Explanation coherence inside sentences, but only offline.** Poster at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Pittsburgh, USA, March 10.

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. 2022. **Clause-internal coherence, deverbal adjectives, and presupposition resolution.** Poster at the Workshop on Compositional Approaches to Projection, 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam, Netherlands, December 19-21.

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. 2022. **Clause-internal coherence: A look at deverbal adjectives.** Talk at the 9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference, Pavia, Italy, September 23.

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. 2022. **Clause-internal coherence: A look at deverbal adjectives.** Poster at Sinn und Bedeutung 27, Prague, Czechia, September 15.

Duff, J., Sloggett, S., Van Handel, N., **Sasaki, K.**, Duff, J., Rich, S., Orth, W., Anand, P., Brasoveanu, A., & Rysling, A. 2021. **A mighty Maze! Revisiting strategic underspecification using the Maze task.** Talk at California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics 4, UC Irvine, May 22-23. [online]

Roberts, T.\* & Sasaki, K.\*. 2021. **Which predicates embed exclamatives and why.** Talk at Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America, January 7-10. [online]

Sloggett, S., Van Handel, N., **Sasaki, K.**, Duff, J., Rich, S., Orth, W., Anand, P., & Rysling, A. 2020. **“Ambiguous” isn’t “underspecified”: Evidence from the Maze task.** Poster at the 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Amherst, USA, March 19.

Eischens, B., Ledesma, P., Kaplan, M., Silva-Robles, F., Sasaki, K., & Toosarvandani, M. 2019. **Nido de Lenguas: Collaborative language education in Monterey Bay’s Oaxacan diaspora.** Symposium on Linguistic Research with Diaspora Communities, UC Davis, June 29-30.

Sasaki, K. 2019. **Grammatical and pragmatic cues guide temporal comprehension in discourse.** Poster at the 32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Boulder, USA, March 29-31.

Foley, S., **Sasaki, K.**, Pizarro-Guevara, J.S., Silva-Robles, F., Toosarvandani, M., & Wagers, M. 2019. **Pronouns over gaps in parsing? The subject relative clause advantage in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.** Talk at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New York, USA, January 3-6.

Sasaki, K. **Temporal interpretation in discourse: forward on backshift.** 2018. Talk at California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics 2, USC, December.

Foley, S., **Sasaki, K.**, Pizarro-Guevara, J.S., Silva-Robles, F., Toosarvandani, M., & Wagers, M. 2018. **Pronouns over gaps in parsing? The subject relative clause advantage in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.** Talk at California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics 2, USC, December.

Adler, J., Foley, S., Pizarro-Guevara, J.S., **Sasaki, K.**, & Toosarvandani, M. 2017. **The derivation of verb-initiality in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec.** Talk at Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, Austin, USA, January 7.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Sasaki, K. & Altshuler, D. **Linking Discourse and Clause-Internal Coherence**. General Linguistics Seminar (colloquium series), University of Oxford, May 1, 2023.

Sasaki, K. **(Processing) Parallels between discourse and clause-internal coherence**. Psycholing Lab, University of Southern California, November 15, 2022.

Sasaki, K. **Linguistic Fieldwork: Studies in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec**. #JESUSINTERNATIONAL Talk Series, Jesus College, Oxford, October 27, 2022.

Sasaki, K. **Temporal and causal coherence in discourse comprehension**. Converging On Causal Ontology Analyses (COCOA), CNRS/Université Paris 8, February 9, 2022.

Roberts, T.\* and Sasaki, K.\*. **What embeds exclamatives and why**. Words with Friends, Stanford University, November 13, 2022.

Sasaki, K. **Predicate initiality in Hawai'i Creole**. Fieldwork Forum, UC Berkeley, November 15, 2016.

## Teaching and Mentorship

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### INSTRUCTOR

Wi 2024      **Topics in Psycholinguistics** (graduate), Oxford (with D. Altshuler)  
Su 2023      **Language & Mind**, Yerevan Academy for Linguistics and Philosophy  
              **Language OnLine** (undergraduate), UC Santa Cruz (online)

### TUTOR, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

2022–present   **Syntax** (undergraduate)  
                    **Morphology** (undergraduate)  
                    **Semantics & Pragmatics** (undergraduate)

### TEACHING ASSISTANT, UC SANTA CRUZ

2020            **Morphology** for Jason Ostrove (online)  
                    **Introduction to Linguistics** for Jenny Bellik (partially online)

2019            **Syntax I** for Pranav Anand  
                    **Syntactic Structures** for Matt Wagers  
                    **Semantics II** for Donka Farkas

2018            **Language and Mind** for Matt Wagers  
                    **Structure of Spanish** for Erik Zyman  
                    **Language, Society, and Culture** for Jim McCloskey

2017            **Semantics I** for Donka Farkas  
                    **Phonology I** for Grant McGuire  
                    **Structure of English** for Jim McCloskey

2016            **Language, Society, and Culture** for Grant McGuire

### MENTORING AND SUPERVISING

2021–present   **College Advisor**, *Jesus College, Oxford*  
                    • Providing pastoral mentorship to first-year Master's students.

2020–21        **Undergraduate Public Fellows**, *The Humanities Institute at UC Santa Cruz*  
                    Mentees: Yatziri Arias Torres, Senderos Assistant Program Coordinator

Mikayla Falk, Nido de Lenguas Language Education Developer

- 2020–21      **The Zapotec Language Project**, *Department of Linguistics, UC Santa Cruz*  
Research Assistants: Delaney Gomez-Jackson and Claire Miller-Willahan
- Trained RAs in annotating and extracting sound files from elicitation recordings in Praat, and creating entries in online Zapotec dictionary.
- Fa 2019      **Honig Undergraduate Research Assistant Program**, *UC Santa Cruz*  
Mentee: Spencer Gilbert  
Project: *Semantic and pragmatic cues in discourse comprehension*

## Fieldwork Experience

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- 2016–21      **Santiago Laxopa Zapotec** (Oto-Manguen). Santa Cruz, California; Los Angeles, California, and Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca.
- 2016–18      **Hawai‘i Creole**. Hawai‘i (multiple locations) and Santa Cruz, California.

## Research Assistantships

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- Su 2020,  
2017–18      **Nido de Lenguas**  
PIs: Maziar Toosarvandani and Pranav Anand, *UC Santa Cruz*
- 2019,  
2017      **Universal processing principles in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec**  
PIs: Maziar Toosarvandani and Matt Wagers, *UC Santa Cruz*
- 2016      **The implicit content of sluicing**  
PI: Pranav Anand, *UC Santa Cruz*
- 2013–2014      **Ethnicity, Substrate Effects, and Sound Change in New York City**  
PIs: Luiza Newlin-Łukowicz and Gregory Guy, *New York University*

## Awards

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### RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022–23      **Major Research Grant**, Jesus College, Oxford. £2,633.40.

### FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022–2025      **Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship**, *University of Oxford*
- 2020–2021      **Year-Long Public Fellow**, *The Humanities Institute at UC Santa Cruz*  
Public Partner Organization: Senderos
- Coordinated scholarship program for first-generation college students.
  - Provided on-the-ground and administrative support for pandemic financial and food support programs.
  - Created online community outreach materials and provided Spanish-English translation and technical support for community Zoom meetings.
  - Trained and mentored undergraduate Public Fellow.
- 2017      **Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Program**, *UC Santa Cruz*
- 2015–2016      **Regents Fellowship**, *UC Santa Cruz*

### AWARDS

- 2020      **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**, *UC Santa Cruz Graduate Division*

2014      **Robert A. Fowkes Award**, *Department of Linguistics, New York University*

## Service

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### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

2022      35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, *UC Santa Cruz*  
2019      California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 3, *UC Santa Cruz*  
2016      Semantics of Under-Represented Languages of the Americas (SULA) 9, *UC Santa Cruz*

### REVIEWING

Journals      *Linguistics and Philosophy, Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, Syntax, Glossa Psycholinguistics*

Conferences      Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP), Oxford Postgraduate Conference in Linguistics (LingO)

### DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2019–2021      Coordinator, Nido de Lenguas: Public education on indigenous languages of Oaxaca, UCSC Department of Linguistics and Senderos (non-profit)  
• Planned, promoted, and coordinated language education events.  
• Collaboratively designed and produced language education materials.  
• Recruited and trained volunteers, mentored undergraduate Public Fellow.  
2017–2019      Member, Organizing Committee, Nido de Lenguas  
2017–2019      Coordinator, S-Circle: UCSC's syntax/semantics speaker series  
2017      Graduate Representative, UCSC Department of Linguistics  
2016–2017      Transportation Chair, Events Committee, UCSC Department of Linguistics

## Technical skills

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R, PCIBex, JS, HTML/CSS, Praat, Audacity, LaTeX, Prolific

## Languages

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English	Native & Research
Hawai'i Creole	Advanced & Research (includes fieldwork)
Spanish	Intermediate
Santiago Laxopa Zapotec	Beginning & Research (includes fieldwork)
Hawaiian	Beginning & Research