

# Marie Tano

🏠 <https://mariemmanue.github.io>

✉ [mtano@stanford.edu](mailto:mtano@stanford.edu)

## Education

### Stanford University

2021 – Present

PhD in Linguistics

Department of Linguistics

### Pomona College

2017–2021

Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

## Research Interests

Sociolinguistics, natural language processing, machine learning, African American Language

## Papers and Manuscripts

*In prep.* **Tano, M.** (2025). Performing Realness: Challenging Essentialist Models of Black Authenticity. Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

*In prep.* **Tano, M., & Rosenthal, S.** (2025) A Comparison of Biases in Embedding and Generative Models. International Business Corporation (IBM).

*Accepted.* Podesva, R., Hernandez, A., Papineau, B., & **Tano, M.**, Velasquez, T., & Zhang, H. (2024). (DH)ere's more than one way to strengthen a fricative: A social meaning approach to ethnic variation in the phonetic realization of the voiced interdental fricative. *Journal of English Linguistics*.

Okolo, C. T., & **Tano, M.** (2024). Closing the gap: A call for more inclusive language technologies. *Brookings Institution*. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/closing-the-gap-a-call-for-more-inclusive-language-technologies/>.

Okolo, C. T., & **Tano, M.** (2024). Moving toward truly responsible AI development in the global AI market. Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/moving-toward-truly-responsible-ai-development-in-the-global-ai-market/>.

Franz, H., Grue, M., Rowell, A., **Tano, M.**, Johnson, S., & Charity Hudley, A. (2024). Black Linguistic Justice from Theory to Practice. *College Composition and Communication*.

Franz, H., Charity Hudley, A., Rowell, A., Johnson, S., **Tano, M.** & Grue, M. (2022). Black Students' Linguistic Agency: An Evidenced-Based Guide for Instructors and Students. *American Speech*.

Holliday, N. & **Tano, M.** (2021). "It's a Whole Vibe": Testing evaluations of grammatical and ungrammatical AAE on Twitter. *Linguistics Vanguard*, 7(1).

## Conference Presentations

Hoffmann, J.\* , Ahlheim, C., Yu, Z., Walfrand, A., Jin, J., **Tano, M.**, Beirami, A., van Liemt, E., Thain, N., Sidahmed, H., & Dixon, L. (2025). *Improving Neutral Point-of-View Generation with Data- and Parameter-Efficient RL*. The 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP). Suzhou, China.

**Tano, M.** (2025). *Towards an Automatic Dialect Density Measure for African American English* [Poster Presentation]. Linguistics for Justice: Advancing Reforms in the Criminal Legal System. University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

**Tano, M.** (2024). *Multilingual Authenticity: Navigating Ethnic Identity Through Language*. The 55th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

**Tano, M.** (2024). *The Multiplicity of Authenticity: A Case Study on a Diasporic Speaker*. Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). New York City, New York.

**Tano, M.** (2023). *The Multiplicity of Authenticity: A Case Study on a Diasporic Speaker*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV). Queens College, City University of New York, New York City, New York.

Hernández, A.\* , Papineau, B.\* , **Tano, M.\*** , Velásquez, A.\* , Zhang, H.\* , & Podesva, R.\* (2023). *(DH)ere's more than one way to strengthen a fricative: Voiced interdentals in a diverse sample of Californians*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV). Queens College, City University of New York, New York City, New York.

**Tano, M.** (2021). *Does Blackness have a Sound?: Raciolinguistic Expectations of a Bidialectal Speaker*. 15th Arizona Linguistics Circle. University of Arizona, Virtual.

Franz, H.\* , Charity Hudley, A.\* , Johnson, S.\* , & **Tano, M.\*** (2021). *Black Students' Linguistic Agency: A Researched Guide for Instructors and Students*. Fourth HBCU Symposium on Rhetoric and Composition. Virtual.

**Tano, M.** (2020). "Testing Auditory and Internet-Based Evaluations of African-American English." Mellon Mays West Coast Regional Undergraduate Conference, Claremont University Consortium.

**Tano, M.\*** & Holliday, N. (2020). *It's a Whole Vibe: Testing Evaluations Of Grammatical and Ungrammatical AAE on Twitter* [Conference presentation]. Advancing African American Linguist(ic)s Symposium. University of California, Santa Barbara, Virtual.

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\*Presenting author(s)

## Invited Talks

**Tano, M.** (2023). The Construction of a Diasporic Self. Talk at Phonology and Psycholinguistics Forum ("Phorum"), University of Berkeley.

**Tano, Marie.** (2022). Language, Race and Autonomy: African-American English in the Classroom. Talk at Vote Rev Speaker Series, Virtual.

**Tano, Marie.** (2021). African-American English and Social Media. Guest Lecture at Linguistics 338: African-American English, Reed College, Virtual.

## Grants, Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

2025	<b>DARE: Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence Doctoral Fellowship</b> <i>Stanford University</i>	
	<b>API Credit</b> <i>OpenAI API Researcher Access Program</i>	(\$1,000)
	<b>Travel Award</b> <i>Linguistics for Justice: Advancing Reforms in the Criminal Legal System Conference</i>	(\$800)
	<b>Richard Braddock Award</b> <i>2025 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)</i>	
2024	<b>Tech Ethics and Policy Fellowship</b> <i>Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)</i>	(\$10,000)
	<b>Student Travel Award</b> <i>Linguistic Society of America, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL)</i>	(\$1,000)
2023	<b>GRFP: Graduate Research Fellowship</b> <i>National Science Foundation</i>	
	<b>Predoctoral Fellowship Program – Alternate</b> <i>Ford Foundation</i>	
	<b>RAISE: Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement Doctoral Fellowship</b> <i>Stanford University</i>	
	<b>Student Travel Award</b> <i>Queens College, CUNY, New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV)</i>	(\$650)
2021	<b>EDGE: Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Doctoral Fellowship</b>	

## Stanford University

- 2020      **Student Registration Award** (\$100)  
*Linguistic Society of America, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL)*
- Remote Alternative Independent Summer Experience (\$2,500)**  
**(RAISE) Grant**  
*Pomona College*
- 2019      **MMUF: Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship**  
*Pomona College, Mellon Foundation*

## Research Experience

- Multilingual Large-Scale Language Models, Research Scientist Intern** Jun.–Sep. 2025  
*International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), Yorktown Heights, NY*  
– Built large-scale bias evaluation pipelines using IBM Granite embeddings and Hugging Face datasets (NQ, BBQ).  
– Conducted identity-injection, retrieval drift, and cosine-similarity experiments across 100k+ QA pairs.  
– Streamlined analysis workflows on HPC clusters and created reproducible evaluation tools.
- Research Intern, Graduate Fellow** Jun.–Aug. 2024  
*Brookings Institution, Governance Studies – Center for Technology Innovation, Washington, DC*  
– Co-authored articles on responsible AI and inclusive language technologies for Brookings.  
– Supported workshops with policymakers and scholars on generative AI and equity in education.  
– Contributed to research translating AI ethics into actionable policy frameworks.
- Student Researcher** Jun. 2023–Jun. 2024  
*Google Research, Mountain View, CA*  
– Evaluated and refined large-scale language models to improve interpretability and reliability.  
– Analyzed LLM outputs and developed evaluation methods for linguistic consistency.  
– Collaborated across teams to improve human evaluation and data collection processes.
- Data Science Intern** Jan.–Apr. 2023  
*Stanford Law School – Center for Racial Justice, Stanford, CA*  
– Automated data analysis pipelines for Census-based reporting and visualization.  
– Helped develop the Neighborhood Vulnerability Index assessing community disparities.  
– Modeled socioeconomic factors (e.g., income, unemployment) across California tracts.
- Study of Stanford Writing Committee** Jan. 2022–Present  
*Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University*  
– Researched and synthesized writing pedagogies to inform curriculum design and policy.  
– Produced reports on rhetorical instruction and writing assessment with external consultants.  
– Built ML models to evaluate student writing quality and critical engagement.
- Student’s Right to Their Own Language** Sep. 2021–Aug. 2022  
*Black Academic Development Lab, Stanford School of Education*  
– Designed digital materials promoting inclusive and culturally responsive pedagogy.  
– Edited and supported manuscripts and presentations for research dissemination.  
– Led a literature review on Black student writing and linguistic identity.

# Teaching Experience

## Teaching Assistantships

Aut. 24/25	LINGUIST 150: Language and Society (Instructor: Julia Swan) <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
Win. 23/24	LINGUIST 150: Language and Society (Instructor: Katherine Hilton) <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
Win. 22/23	LINGUIST 105A/205A: Phonetics (Instructor: Meghan Sumner) <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
AY 22/23	UAR 56: Building a Successful Academic Career (Instructor: Rosalind Conerly) <i>Black Community Services Center, Stanford University</i>

## Service

### Committee Service

2024–	EDGE Mentor, <i>VPGE, Stanford University</i>
2025–2026	Peer Mentor, <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
2024–2025	Admissions Committee, <i>Pomona College</i>
2023–2024	Colloquium Committee, <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
2021–2022	Social Committee, <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
2021–2022	NWAV 50: Planning Committee, <i>Department of Linguistics, Stanford University</i>
2020–	Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL), <i>Linguistic Society of America</i>

### Panels

2025	Mellon Mays Alumni Panel, <i>Pomona College</i>
2023	CSRMP gStudent Experience Panel, <i>Google Research</i> MMUF Life As A Graduate Student Panel, <i>Pomona College</i>
2022	Smart Start Fellowship Alumni Panel, <i>Pomona College</i> Mellon Mays Alumni Panel, <i>Pomona College</i>

## Professional Memberships

Linguistic Society of America  
Stanford Natural Language Processing Group  
Stanford Black Academic Development (BAD) Lab  
Questbridge Scholars Network  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

## Miscellaneous

LANGUAGES	Native: French Basic: Spanish
SOFTWARE	Praat, Audacity, Elan, Git

PROGRAMMING R, Python, ~~La~~TeX, HTML, CSS, C++, Javascript