

# Sunkulp Ananthanarayan

Last updated 16 December, 2021

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Any [pronouns](#): they/them/theirs

he/him/his

she/her/hers

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## Research Interests

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- Language documentation/description
- Contact linguistics (mixed languages, language shift, multilingual communities)
- Historical linguistics, esp. grammaticalization
- Computational linguistics, esp. software in documentation contexts
- Sociolinguistics, esp. variationist
- Indigenous and minoritized language activism, revitalization

## Education

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- 2021      **B.A., Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)  
Cumulative GPA: 3.7723  
Major GPA: 4.0000  
*Certificate*: Elements of Computing
- 2018      **Semester Exchange in Linguistics**, Australian National University (ANU)  
GPA: 4.0000  
*Coursework*:  
Advanced Sociophonetics  
Qualitative Methods in Linguistics  
Learning an Indigenous Australian Language (Gamilaraay)  
Dictionaries and Dictionary Making  
Field Methods (Motu, Austronesian)

## Research and Work Positions

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### *Research positions*

- 2021-Pres.    **Ontology developer**. Active Interpretation of Disparate Alternatives Research Group (AIDA).  
Supervisor(s): Dr. Katrin Erk  
Organization: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- Annotated and evaluated contradictory texts with disinformation about SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19
  - Developed an ad-hoc ontological mapping through conversation between teams
  - Ran metrics on similarity of graph nodes to determine gold standard for comparison with machine-parsed texts
  - Contributed to building a more thorough model of claims involving belief states and temporal/aspectual dimensions

- 2016-2020    **Research Assistant.** Naduhup Documentation Research Group.  
Supervisor(s): Dr. Patience Epps  
Organization: UT Austin
- Reformatted dictionary, fixing encoding problems and inconsistencies, and incorporated it into a database
  - Conducted analyses about historical contact and evolution of Naduhup languages
- 2018-2019    **Research Assistant.** Bilingual Annotation Task Force.  
Supervisor(s): Drs. Jacqueline Toribio and Barbara Bullock  
Organization: UT Austin
- Validated annotations of code-mixed language texts
  - Vectorized and reduced dimensionality of texts and applied biological and statistical models to propose analyses about code-mixing
- 2018          **Visiting Fellow.** Matukar Panau Phonetic Variation Project.  
Organization: The ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language
- Cleaned minority language data and pruned it for primary investigation to find points of interest
  - Created pronunciation dictionary of annotated dataset
  - Modelled audio to create automated text alignment with audio
  - Ran algorithm for recursive performance of alignment
  - Programmed statistical models to understand the sociolinguistic scene of this language

### *Work positions*

- 2021-Pres.    **Pipeline advisor, farmhand.** Tazo Farms, LLC.
- Observed steps in supply chain for indoor agriculture, providing recommendations based on personal research
  - Performed maintenance on hydroponic systems
  - Planted, harvested, and processed products of the farm
- 2020-2021    **AI Specialist Intern.** Appen Butler-Hill.
- Researched industry standards for user behavior data evaluation
  - Mapped text-based data into abstracted web ontology
  - Compared knowledge graphs of varied texts
- 2016-Pres.    **Spanish Tutor.** Independent.
- Practiced conversational Spanish with students in one-on-one and group settings
  - Generated and executed lesson plans for students just beginning learning Spanish both with and without formal lessons, as well as those with experience
  - Worked with students to reach writing and comprehension goals
- 2016-Pres.    **Hindi Tutor.** Independent.
- Leveraged linguistics experience in comparing Hindi and English patterns to augment learning beyond basics

- Practiced conversational Hindi with students in small scale tutorials
- 2019 **Machine Learning Instructor.** iD Tech.
  - Redesigned faulty curriculum for teenager-oriented machine learning lessons
  - Led classes through tutorials about machine learning algorithms and implementations
  - Guided students in individual projects utilizing what they learnt
- 2018 **Primary Web Developer.** Gamiliaraay (Kamilaroi) Revitalization Project.
  - Consulted with indigenous community representatives to design a site oriented toward cultural preservation
  - Recycled and revamped existing designs to better match the specification
- 2017 **Programming Instructor.** Wize Academy.
  - Created a curriculum of lessons to teach coding aimed towards Minecraft
  - Led ten lessons in programming for a class of 9 children
- 2016 **Theatre Camp Counselor.** New Age Montessori School.
  - Ran a weeklong theatre camp for young children (elementary school)
  - Directed a short play, incorporating the students' ideas consistently
  - Planned curriculum to integrate with teaching blocking and acting for the play

## Workshops and Reading Groups

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### Workshops

- 2022 *Community-Centered Language Documentation.* Host: Sylvia Schreiner, George Mason University. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2019 *Phylogenetics: Computational Historical Linguistics.* Host: Claire Bower, Yale University. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting
- 2019 *Documenting Multilingualism.* Hosts: Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago and Jack Martin, University of William & Mary. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.
- 2018 *Using your own language data for speech recognition.* Host: Daan van Esch, Google. University of Melbourne.
- 2018 *Directionality and Associated Motion Workshop.* Host: Harold Koch, Australian National University. Australian National University.
- 2018 *Working in Tech—It's Not Just for Computational Linguists.* Hosts: Samantha Beaver, Memra Language Services; Sam Cooper, NoRedInk; Christopher Stewart, Google; Frankie Pennington Sensory, Inc.; Brent Woo, Amazon. Webinar by Linguistic Society of America's Linguistics Beyond Academia Special Interest Group
- 2018 *Support Vector Machines as a Sociolinguistic Tool.* Host: Tyler Kendall, University of Oregon. New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 47
- 2017 *Sociophonetics Workshop: Big Data and Social Research.* Host: Malcah Yaeger-Dror, University of Arizona. UT Austin.

## Groups and Seminars

- 2021-Pres. *Linguistic theory reading group* (Monash University)
- 2017-Pres. *Graduate seminar for research in documentary/descriptive linguistics* (UT Austin)
- 2016-Pres. *Undergraduate Linguistics Society* (UT Austin)
- 2020-2021 *Formal approaches to morphology* (ANU)
- 2019-2020 *Grammatical theory reading group* (ANU)
- 2017-2020 *South Americanist seminar* (UT Austin)
- 2018-2019 *Phonetics discussion* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018 *Grammar writing* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018 *Language evolution and change* (ANU, CoEDL)
- 2018 *Programming in R for linguistics* (CoEDL)

## Awards and Grants

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- 2020 **Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship** (Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship).
- 2019 **President's Award for Global Learning** (International Office).
- 2019 **Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship** (Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships).
- 2018 **Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors).
- 2018 **Transdisciplinary Innovation Grant** (The Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language).
- 2018 **Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (School of Undergraduate Studies).
- 2018 **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program** (College of Liberal Arts).
- 2018 **Liberal Arts Honors Research/Conference Award** (Liberal Arts Honors).
- 2017 **Liberal Arts Honors Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors).
- 2017 **Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (Office of the Vice President for Research).
- 2017 **Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Scholarship** (Office of the Vice President for Research).
- 2017 **Liberal Arts Honors Upper Division Scholarship** (Liberal Arts Honors).

2017      **Scholarship for Exchange Programs** (College of Liberal Arts).

## Conference Presentations

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- 2019      Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Eri Kashima, Siva Kalyan, and Naomi Peck. Feb. 2019. **Linguistic Cartography: Mapping Linguistic Theory**. Presented at The Texas Linguistics Symposium, Austin, Texas, United States
- 2019      Epps, Patience and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. Jan. 2019. **Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (SSILA 2019). Stability in grammatical morphology: A Naduhup case-study (Amazonia)**. Presented at The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, New York City, New York, United States
- 2018      Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Feb. 2018. **Documentation of Dâw and Tools for Comparative Analysis**. Presented at Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL) Fest, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2018      Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp, Eri Kashima, Siva Kalyan, and Naomi Peck. July 2018. **Linguistic Cartography: Mapping Linguistic Theory**. Presented at CoEDL ANU Linguistics Seminar, Canberra, ACT, Australia
- 2018      González, Simón, James Grama, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan, Danielle Barth, and Catherine Travis. Oct. 2018. **Opening the door for forced-alignment to minority languages**. Paper presented at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47*, New York City, New York, United States
- 2018      González, Simón, Catherine Travis, James Grama, Danielle Barth, and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. Dec. 2018b. **Recursive forced alignment: A test on a minority language**. Presented at Speech Science and Technology Conference (SST2018), Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 2017      Aguirre, A., S. Ananthanarayan, E. Frazier, N. Grant, K. Hall, R. Law, and L. Wagner. May 2017a. **From Documentation to Community Resources: Developing Pedagogical Materials for Naduhup Languages in Northwestern Brazil**. Paper presented at UT Undergraduate Research Bazaar, Austin, Texas, United States
- 2017      Aguirre, A., S. Ananthanarayan, E. Frazier, N. Grant, K. Hall, R. Law, and L. Wagner. May 2017b. **From Documentation to Community Resources: Developing Pedagogical Materials for Naduhup Languages in Northwestern Brazil**. Paper presented at UT Undergraduate Linguistics Research Symposium, Austin, Texas, United States
- 2017      Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Oct. 2017a. **Documenting Dâw**. Undergraduate Research Showdown Research Communication Competition, Austin, Texas, United States
- 2017      Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. Nov. 2017b. **Invited Lecture: Dâw Field-work**. Presented at Seminar in Language and Culture in Amazonia, Austin, Texas, United States

## Publications and Write-ups

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- 2021 Epps, Patience and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. 2021. **Stability in grammatical morphology: An Amazonian case-study**. *Diversity in Language Change: Historical Linguistics and Endangered Languages*. Ed. by Patience Epps, Daniel Law, and Na'ama Pat-El. Series in Historical Linguistics. Routledge
- 2018 González, Simón, Catherine Travis, James Grama, Danielle Barth, and Sunkulp Ananthanarayan. 2018a. **Recursive forced alignment: A test on a minority language**. *Proceedings of the 17th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*. Ed. by Julien Epps, Joe Wolfe, John Smith, and Caroline Jones, pp. 145–148
- 2017 Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp. 2017c. **Undergraduate Spotlight: Sunny Ananthanarayan**. UT Austin linguistics newsletter. URL: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/linguistics/about/newsletters/fall-2018/ananthanarayan-newsletter-feature-fall-2018.php>
- 2017 Epps, P., K. Obert, L. Storto, C. Assis, and S. Ananthanarayan. 2017. **Histórias de Vida Da Comunidade Waruá**. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. ISBN: 9781976480324. URL: <https://books.google.com/books?id=izHbtAEACAAJ>

## Service

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### Conference work

- Volunteer Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2019)
- Volunteer Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (2018)
- Volunteer Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (2017)
- Moderator Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (2017)

### Event organization

- Organizer Linguistic Society of America Meeting Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2022)
- Organizer Linguistic Society of America Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics Pride Month Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2021)
- Organizer International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019 Wikipedia Edit-a-thon (2019)
- Organizer Indigenous Arts Fest (2018)
- Organizer Indigenous Arts Fest: Pachamamanchikwan Kawsakunchik (2017)

### Departmental Service

- Undergraduate liaison UT Austin Department of Linguistics and Associated Students of Linguistics (graduate student organization) (2018-Pres)

Authorized Rep. UT Latin Americanist Linguists and Anthropologists (2019-2021)

Oligarch UT Austin Undergrad Linguistics Society (2017, 2020-2021)

President UT Austin Undergraduate Linguistics Society (2019)

VP UT Austin Undergraduate Linguistics Society (2018)

### *Other*

Collaborator Creating Inclusive and Representative Wikipedia Articles for Indigenous Languages (2021; preparation for International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 2022-2032)

Editor Wikimedia projects, esp. Wikipedia and Wiktionary; active participant in Edit-a-thons (2014-Pres.)

Producer Foot in the Door Theatre Troupe (2017-2020)

Technician Foot in the Door Theatre Troupe (2016-2020)

Technician Creative Arts+Theatre UT Austin (2016-2020)

Director Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy Stage Adaptation (2019)

## **Other Professional Activities & Skills**

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### *Fieldwork*

2017 Dâw (Naduhup). Waruá/São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas, Brazil; Pedagogical material creation, lexicography, recent and distant history documentation, material culture documentation

Materials created during the project:

- Dicionário Dâw, a Dâw-Portuguese-English Dictionary
- Archived materials at the Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA identifier for full language collection: [ailla:254973](#))

### *Professional Memberships*

2021-Pres. LSA Working Group on Demographic Data

2019-Pres. LSA Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics (COZIL)

2019-Pres. LSA Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL)

2019-Pres. Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics (COGEL; formerly COSWL)

2017-Pres. Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (SSILA)

2018-2019 LSA LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics Special Interest Group

2016-2018 LSA Committee on AP Linguistics

2016-Pres. Linguistic Society of America (LSA)



*Languages*

English, Native  
Latin American Spanish, Fluent  
Brazilian Portuguese, Advanced conversational  
Spoken and Written Hindi (Heritage), Conversational  
Spoken Marathi (Heritage), Intermediate  
Classical Latin, Intermediate  
Intermediate reading and listening capability in various other Italo-Western Romance languages, as well as German.

*Software*

Praat, Proficient  
SIL's Field Language Explorer, Proficient  
SIL's Toolbox, Proficient  
ELAN Audio and Text Annotation, Proficient  
Montreal Forced Aligner, Proficient  
Jupyter Notebooks, Proficient  
Git (GitHub, GitLab), Proficient  
Lawrence Antony's AntConc Concordancing Tool, Adequate

*Programming and Markup Languages*

Python, Proficient  
R, Proficient  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Proficient  
HTML5, Proficient  
JavaScript & JQuery, Intermediate  
CSS & Bootstrap CSS, Intermediate  
Praat scripting, Intermediate  
MediaWiki markup, Intermediate  
Shell scripting, Adequate  
MySQL, Adequate  
PHP3, Adequate

*Other technical skills*

Regular Expressions  
Propositional, Predicate, and Modal logic  
Set theory  
Semantic Web, Knowledge Graphs, and Ontologies  
Machine learning model architectures  
Agile development  
Extreme Programming