

Derrick Nguyen (Nguyễn Thiện Derrick)

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EDUCATION

2022	Pomona College , B.A. Linguistics	Claremont, California
2022	University of Wisconsin – Madison , Non-Degree Program Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute, Vietnamese	Madison, Wisconsin
2019	Hue University , Non-Degree Program Pitzer Summer Study Abroad, Modern Vietnam & Vietnamese Language	Hue, Vietnam

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Heritage Language Acquisition, Southeast Asian and Sinitic Linguistics, Lexical Tone and Orthography, Sociolinguistics of Education, Language Revitalization and Documentation, Psycholinguistic Methods, Corpus and Computational Approaches to Language, Language Learning

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-2026	Neuroscience of Education Research on Development (NERD) Lab	Columbia, Missouri
	Lab Manager, PI: Dr. Laura M. Morett	University of Missouri – Columbia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managed 6 Undergraduate Research Assistants and delegated tasks amongst them. Supported with poster creation, professional development, and communicating our research with communities - Updated and maintained lab website to Google Sites, Designed Lab logo by hand, converted sketch to final product. 	

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

X03	Morett, L.M., Nguyen, D. , (in preparation). <i>[Working title: Culturally informed pitch gestures facilitates L2 lexical tone]</i> . Manuscript in preparation.
X02	Morett, L.M., Nguyen, D. , Karlin, R., Getz, L., (in preparation). <i>[Working title: Multimodal non-speech strategies for L2 lexical tone acquisition]</i> . Manuscript in preparation.
X01	Nguyen, D. , Young, S., Earle, S., & Morett, L.M., (in preparation). <i>[Working title: Observing pitch gestures facilitates delayed L2 lexical tone categorization and discrimination in novel words]</i> . Manuscript in preparation.

AWARDS & FUNDING

2025	Fulbright Fellowship , ETA Semi-Finalist
2022	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship , Summer, Vietnamese, \$6,700
2021	Yidan Expendable Fund for Transformative Learning Opportunities for Asian Studies , \$3,000
2018-2022	QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship , Pomona College, \$300,000

PRESENTATIONS/GUEST LECTURES

- P11** Morett, L.M., Karlin, R., Getz, L., **Nguyen, D.**, (2025, November 22). Mtone2 [Talk]. *Psychonomics*. University of Colorado. Denver, Colorado.
- P10** **Nguyen, D.**, Young, S.E., Earle, F.S., & Morett, L.M., (2025, November 22). Observing Pitch Gestures: Effects on L2 Lexical Tone Categorization and Discrimination in Novel Words [Conference Poster Session]. *Psychonomics*. University of Colorado. Denver, Colorado.
- P09** **Nguyen, D.**, Farran, B.M., & Morett, L.M., (2025, September 11). fNIRS Poster [Conference Poster Session]. *The Thompson Conference for Autism Research*. [Venue]. St. Louis, Missouri.
- P08** **Nguyen, D.**, Young, S.E., Earle, F.S., & Morett, L.M., (2025, July 9-11). Observing Pitch Gestures: Effects on L2 Lexical Tone Categorization and Discrimination in Novel Words [Conference Poster Session]. *International Society for Gesture Studies 10*. Radboud University. Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- P07** Deutsch, C., **Nguyen, D.**, Farran, B.M., & Morett, L.M. (2025, April 15). Neural Bases of Gesture and Speech Processing in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: An fNIRS Study [Poster Session]. *Show Me Research Week 2025*. University of Missouri – Columbia, Columbia, MO.
- P06** **Nguyen, D.**, Young, S.E., Earle, F.S., & Morett, L.M., (2025, March 27-29). Observing Pitch Gestures Facilitates Delayed L2 Lexical Tone Categorization and Discrimination in Novel Words [Conference Poster Session]. *Human Sentence Processing 38*. University of Maryland – College Park. College Park, MD.
- P0B** **Nguyen, D.**, (2025, March 3). Lunch and Learn with Derrick [Community Presentation]. *Lunch and Learn Series*, Nathan Hale High School. Tulsa, OK.
- P05** **Nguyen, D.**, (2024, August 27). Who’s Gagged? Drag Performers’ Autonomy and “Dragging” Their Antagonists [Internal Guest Lecture Invited by Professor Cécile Evers]. *ANTH104 Linguistic Anthropology*. Pomona College. Virtual.
- P0A** **Nguyen, D.**, (2024, January 11). Language and History: Bikini and Totem Pole [Community Presentation]. *City Year Tulsa Ignite Talks 2024*, Tulsa Public Library. Tulsa, OK.

- P04** **Nguyen, D.**, (2022, December 12). We Were Here [Senior Art Exhibition Thesis]. *Pomona College Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science Thesis Presentations*, Pomona College. Claremont, CA.
- P03** **Nguyen, D.**, (2022, July 9). Analyzing Collocations for (Vietnamese) Language Learning: Using “TÌNH” as a Model [Talk]. *2022 WISLI Student Conference*. Madison, WI.
- P02** **Nguyen, D.**, Ly, B. & Nguyen, T., (2021, December 8). Vietnamese Calendars [Symposium Presentation]. *STEM Equity Symposium at the Claremont Colleges*. Pomona College. Claremont, CA.
- P01** **Nguyen, D.**, (2021, September 20). Intro to Vietnamese Linguistics: A Teaching Model (In Progress) [Symposium Presentation]. *Intensive Summer Experience Symposium - Cultural & Ethnic Studies Panel*. Pomona College. Claremont, CA.

SKILLS

TOOLS	METHODS/PROGRAMS	LANGUAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Python • Adobe Creative Suite • Google Suite, Notion • Wordpress, Google Sites • Obsidian • Canva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourse Analysis • Psycholinguistic Experiments via PsychoPy & Pavlovia • R-Studio • Praat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (Native) • Vietnamese (Heritage) • Spanish (Intermediate)

SERVICE & OUTREACH

2025	The Posse Foundation , Virtual Resume Coach & Dynamic Assessment Process Volunteer	Virtual
2025	Mizzou Summer Bridge Accelerator Program , Science Communication Presenter	Columbia, MO
2025	Arkansas Governor’s Quiz Bowl Association , Moderator for Sr. High State Tournament	Little Rock, AR
2025	University of Missouri Quiz Bowl Club , Sectional Champion Tournament – Moderator	Columbia, MO
2025	Arkansas Governor’s Quiz Bowl Association , Moderator for Jr. High State Tournament	Bryant, AR
2025	University of Missouri Quiz Bowl Club , Tiger Bowl X – Moderator	Columbia, MO
2024-2025	Oklahoma Secondary Schools Athletics Association , Academic Bowl Moderator Volunteer	Tulsa, OK
2024-2025	QuestBridge , Volunteer Alumni Mentor	Virtual
2024-2025	Students Rising Above , Volunteer Recent Grad Mentor	Virtual
2023-2025	Pomona College First-Generation Low-Income Scholars , Alumni Archivist & Mentor	Virtual
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed the loss of institutional memory by conducting and transcribing interviews with 6+ key alumni and curating multimedia materials to digitally archive Pomona FLI community history; currently developing a podcast featuring alumni stories and reflections. 	

- Migrated archival materials from Wix to [WordPress](#), redesigning and updating the platform to ensure long-term accessibility, continuity, and preservation of the community's institutional legacy.

2024	University of Missouri – Columbia STEM Cubs , Instructor, 4 th & 5 th Grade	Columbia, MO
2023-2024	AmeriCorps – City Year , Student Success Coach & DEI Coordinator @ Hale High School	Tulsa, OK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served 200+ students in a high-need Tulsa public high school English classroom, implemented planned interventions to increase literary comprehension (25% of students increased MAP Scores, 7.9% increase average daily attendance) through data-driven decision making and design. • DBIE (Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity) Coordinator for School Team implementing a variety of cultural competent activities and facilitating critical conversations. • Co-Coordinated College Access Initiative at Nathan Hale High School reading applications, providing guidance to financial aid and the admissions process, and encouraging juniors and seniors to apply to local and national scholarships. 	
2023-2024	Tulsa Public Schools , Authorized Spanish Interpreter & Translator	Tulsa, OK
2021-2022	Pomona College First-Gen Low-Income Scholars , Student Mentor	Claremont, CA
2020-2022	Pomona College Department of Linguistics , Department Liaison	Claremont, CA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated social events online and in-person, building community (study sessions, field days, trivia nights, etc.) through designing flyers & community-oriented programming. • Recruited and directed prospective students into the Linguistics and Cognitive Science major, guided course selection, hosted faculty-student networking events and serving as a connection between faculty and the student body. 	
2020-2022	Claremont Colleges Vietnamese Students Association , Student Mentor	Claremont, CA
2020-2021	Oldenborg Center for Modern Languages , Vietnamese Mentor	Claremont, CA
2020	Pomona College Department of Linguistics , Linguistics Mentor	Claremont, CA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported 5+ peers in mastering core concepts of phonetics, morphology, and syntax through tutoring, collaborative study sessions, and targeted feedback on problem sets in Intro to Linguistics. 	
2020	Pomona College Asian American Resource Center , Student Mentor	Claremont, CA
2020	Splash @ Claremont Colleges , Student Instructor of “Tragedies and their Triumphs”	Claremont, CA
2019	Splash @ UCLA , Student Instructor of “True Crime and Social Justice”	Los Angeles, CA
2019	Splash @ Claremont Colleges , Student Instructor of “True Crime and Social Justice”	Claremont, CA
2019	Hue University , English Mentor	Hue, Vietnam
2019	Hope Center Hue , Assistant English Instructor	Hue, Vietnam
2019	The Draper Center for Community Partnerships , AVID First-Gen Panelist	Claremont, CA

REFERENCES

Dr. Laura M. Morett

Mizzou Forward Assistant Professor, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Principal Investigator, Neuroscience of Education Research on Development (NERD) Lab
University of Missouri – Columbia
lmorett@health.missouri.edu

Dr. Bashar M. Farran

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Neuroscience of Education Research on Development (NERD) Lab
University of Missouri – Columbia
bfarran@health.missouri.edu

Dr. Mary Paster

Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
Pomona College
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MEDIA APPEARANCES & FEATURES

F03	The Lowdown , Background Extra, Filmed March 2025; Airing September 2025. Casted as a background extra for an FX TV Series by Sterlin Harjo Jr.	Tulsa, Oklahoma [Upcoming]
F02	Arkansas PBS , Subject of Feature Segment, Filmed March 2025; April 26th, 2025. Interviewed about former involvement with Quiz Bowl	Little Rock, Arkansas Link
F01	City Year Tulsa - AmeriCorps , Subject of Feature Video, February 12 th , 2024. Interviewed about personal perspective on City Year's mission connected to service	Tulsa, Oklahoma Link