RESEARCH STATEMENT
My research activities fall in two distinct but interrelated areas: (1) field work with under- and undocumented languages and (2) phonetic and phonological investigation of typologically rare sounds. I prioritize working with under- and undocumented languages, and at present work mainly with undocumented Kuki-Chin languages spoken by the Burmese refugee community in Indianapolis (30 or more languages, community of appr. 19,000 people). Using instrumental acoustic analysis, 3D/4D ultrasonography, perception tasks deployed in the laboratory, and computational analysis of corpus data, I investigate the complex connections between the physical instantiation, perception/interpretation, and phonotactic distribution of typologically under-represented sounds (esp. phonation type contrasts, breathy voice, and nonmodal sonorants).

RESEARCH INTERESTS
- Perception, production, distribution of typologically rare sounds
  - Phonetics: acoustics, phonation type contrasts, phonetic typology
  - Phonology: gradient phonological knowledge and patterns, phonotactic probabilities of typologically rare sounds, variation and gradient phenomena, variable sound changes/sound change in progress
- Language endangerment and revitalization
- Languages of South Asia (esp. Indic; Kuki-Chin); Indigenous languages of North America

ETHICS STATEMENT
I place high value on primary data collected in collaboration with local communities and engage in the model of fieldwork referred to by Cameron et al. (1992) and Rice (2006) as empowerment fieldwork. Three principles of this model, as stated by Cameron et al. (pp. 22-24), are as follows:

(i) Persons are not objects and should not be treated as objects.
(ii) Subjects have their own agendas and research should try to address them.
(iii) If knowledge is worth having, it is worth sharing.

I adhere to the principles of transparency and reciprocity, and hold sacred my relationships with my native speaker colleagues and collaborators.

POSITIONS
(Copies of student evaluations available upon request.)

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Indiana University Bloomington. (August 2014 - present).
Courses taught include intro and advanced courses for undergraduate and graduates with heavy focus in the areas of phonetics and phonology.
- Executive Committee Member, Southeast Asian and ASEAN Studies
- Voting member, Cognitive Science Program.
- Voting member, Dhar India Studies Program.
- Adjunct Faculty, Native American and Indigenous Studies Program
Visiting Lecturer, Indiana University Bloomington. (August 2013 – May 2014).

Lecturer, The University of Kansas. (Summer 2013).
  o LING 575: The Structure of Hindi (for advanced undergraduate Linguistics students)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Kansas. (Fall 2007 – Summer 2013).
  ▪ Instructor of Record for Introductory Linguistics (UG), Linguistic Typology (UG), Introduction to Linguistic Science (graduate course for School of Education students pursuing certification as instructors of English as a Second Language)
  ▪ Teaching Assistant for Phonetics I, Introduction to Phonology, and Psycholinguistics; Grading Assistant/Tutor for Syntax I

EDUCATION
  ▪ 2013: Ph.D., Department of Linguistics, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
  ▪ 2007: American Indian Language Development Institute, Tucson, AZ.
  ▪ 2000: B.A. in English, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.

PUBLICATIONS

IN PREP/SUBMITTED:


TO APPEAR:

PUBLISHED:


ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

and organizations pass requests for information on to our team. All materials are hosted online at [https://www.chinlanguages.org/](https://www.chinlanguages.org/) and are disseminated via social media.


### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


Davis, S., **K. Berkson**, and A. Strickler. "The eye-raising nature of incipient ay-raising: phonetic /ay/-raising in Fort Wayne, Indiana." Presented at:
- The Twenty-Fifth Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, UK. May 2017.


Berkson, K. “Revisiting Optional Sibilant Harmony in Navajo.” 4th Annual Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK. April 2011.


Berkson, K. “Optional Sibilant Harmony in Navajo.” 2nd Annual Oklahoma Workshop on Native American Languages, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK. April 2009.

**INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**


Berkson, K. and S. Lulich. “3D/4D Ultrasound Research: New Methods, Challenges, and Insights.”
September 2017: Child Language Proseminar, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
November 2017: Speech Pathology Program, Mississippi University for Women.

Davis, S., K. Berkson, and A. Strickler. "The Phonetics and Phonology of /ay/-raising with a Focus on an Incipient Variety." Presented at:
• The University of New Mexico, February 2017
• The University of Oklahoma, March 2017

Berkson, K. and S. Kuebler. Workshop. “What it means to be a professional linguist, and how to be a strategic and intentional graduate students in linguistics.” October 2017.


Berkson, K. “Thoughts on Student Welfare.” Workshop presented to the IU Linguistics Department’s Associate Instructors. December 3, 2014.


**GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**


- **2019:** NSF CAREER: Laryngeal Phonology in Kuki-Chin--Investigating Typologically Rare Phenomena in a Linguistically-Rich Burmese Refugee Community. ($550,003.00) Rejected; invited to resubmit as normal proposal December 2020.

- **2019:** Emerging Areas of Research competition. “Human-in-the-loop Natural Language Processing for Minority Languages Spoken in Indiana and Beyond”. With Sandra Kuebler (PI), Donald Williamson (co-PI), Francis Tyers (co-PI). (requested amount: $2,688,128). Rejected.

- **2019:** Social Science Research Commons Seed Grant. ($8,430)

- **2019:** IU Undergraduate Research Office of Engaged Learning summer research funding. ($4,060)

2018. Ostrom Grant. “Building a Hakha Chin Corpus.” with Sandra Kuebler, co-PI. ($7920)

2018 (June and December). Recipient, Acoustical Society of America Early Career Travel Subsidy. ($1000)


January 2018. President’s International Research Award, “High Performance Computing Technology for Minority Languages.” with Thomas Sterling (PI), Sandra Kuebler (co-PI), Donald Williamson (co-PI), Matthew Anderson (co-PI). (requested amount: $50,000). Rejected.

2017. College Arts and Humanities Institute Conference Grant to support PhonFest. ($6000)

2017 (June and December). Recipient, Acoustical Society of America Early Career Travel Subsidy. ($1000)

2016. Provost's Travel Award for Women in Science. Indiana University, Bloomington. ($800)

2015. Information Literacy Course Improvement Grant. With Catherine Minter, Area Librarian for Linguistics. IUB internal grant. ($2000)

HONORS AND AWARDS


2019 Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. Recipient with Seung Suk Lee, whose UG honors thesis ("Speech rate effects on VOT in a 3-category language: Evidence from Hakha Chin") was written under my direction.

Summer 2017, 2018. Selected mentor, Women in STEM summer program (with student Sam Myers).

Spring 2017. Trustees Teaching Award. Indiana University, Bloomington.

2017 Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. Recipient with Katie Blake, whose UG honors thesis ("Rhoticity in Cajun French") was written under my direction.

Fall 2016-present. Invited mentor, Cox Research Scholar Program (IUB).
  o Student: Samantha Myers
  o Project: 3D Ultrasound Imaging of Speech Sound Production
May 27-28, 2016. Selected participant, "Early-career Acoustician Retreat." One of 30 participants awarded full funding for the workshop by the Acoustical Society of America. Two-day workshop focused on development of leadership and networking skills, intended to foster substantive and long-term participation in ASA leadership.

May 21-22, 2016. Selected to participate in "Acoustics School 2016: Living in the Acoustic Environment." Hosted by the Acoustical Society of America. Open to early career acousticians and graduate students. (Transportation, lodging, and other costs covered by the ASA.)

2016 Provost's Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. Recipient with Max Nelson, whose UG honors thesis ("The Perception of Breathy Voice in Gujarati") was written under my direction.

Spring 2016. Trustees Teaching Award. Indiana University, Bloomington.

Fall 2015. Mentor for undergraduate researcher in the Center of Excellence for Women in Technology (CEWiT) Research Experience for Undergraduate Women (REUW).
  o Project Title: Perception and production of Speech Sounds
  o Student Researcher: Alyssa Strickler

Fall 2014. Mentor for undergraduate researcher in CEWiT REUW program.
  o Project Title: Perception of Breathy Voice in Marathi
  o Student Researcher: Katherine Blake

Fall 2013-Spring 2014. “Fostering Inclusion” Faculty Learning Community. Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University Bloomington.

1st Place – Oral Presentation Award, Sigma Xi Research Competition; University of Kansas Chapter. April 2013.

Honorable Mention; Distinguished Thesis Award, Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. 2012.


Frances Ingemann Linguistics Scholarship; Linguistics Dept., Univ. of KS. 2009-2010.

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award; Office of Research and Graduate Studies, University of KS. 2009.

Summer Graduate Research Fellowship; Office of Research and Graduate Studies, University of KS. 2008.


Provost Scholarship; Center for Indigenous Nations Studies, University of KS. 2006.
• Bowlus Scholarship; Center for Indigenous Nations Studies, University of KS. 2005.

**PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE TOO FUN TO DELETE FROM CV**

Transcribed, proofread, and made editorial comments on novels, screenplays, readings, memoirs, and essays by award-winning writer. Proofed typeset manuscripts; transcribed interviews; generated research on various topics at author’s request. Managed interactions with the press and the public. Responsible for daily office management. Had a great, great time every single day.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Indiana University**

- Linguistics Department Colloquium Organizer. (Fall 2018-present)
- Linguistics Department Space Committee. (Fall 2019)
- Faculty Advisor: Linguistics Club of Indiana University. (Fall 2016-present)
- Academic Program Committee – Dhar India Studies Program. (Spring 2016-Spring 2018)
- Linguistics Department Admissions Committee. (Spring 2016; Spring 2018)
- Linguistics Department Qualifying Exams Committee. (periodically, Fall 2014 – present)
- Linguistics Department Website Committee. (Spring 2014-Fall 2015)
- Faculty Advisor, Indiana University Art of Living Club. (Fall 2013 – present)
- Linguistics Department Colloquy Committee (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015; Fall 2018-present)

**Community Service**

- At the request of the Elaisa Vahnie, Executive Director of the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI), created eight large academic-style posters about various ethnic groups in Myanmar/Burma for use by BACI at educational events. These were created specifically for use at BACI’s booths at Asian Fest 2018—Myanmar was the country of focus for the 2018 Fest. Held at the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis, IN.

**Creator and Editor, Working Papers** (with Steven Lulich)

- *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures (IWPSALC)*
- *Indiana Working Papers in Speech Sound Articulation (IWPSSA)*

**Editorial Board Member**

- *Journal of South Asian Linguistics*
Conferences, workshops, and special sessions organized

- Co-organizer (with Ken de Jong), PhonFest 2018: summer school held at IUB in May-June 2018. Featuring short courses presented by invited scholars (international and national), a refereed conference, and an incubator week for Fest participants to focus intensively on research.
- Co-organizer (with Sameer ud Dowla Khan, Indranil Dutta, Christina Esposito), Special Session on South Asian Languages. Spring 2018 Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America.

Ad hoc grant reviewer

- National Science Foundation

Ad hoc manuscript reviewer

- Language
- Language and Speech
- Journal of the Acoustical Society of America
- Journal of the International Phonetic Association
- Journal of Phonetics
- Second Language Research

Conference Abstract Reviewer

- ConCall: The Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics
- Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages
- Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual conference, held concurrently with LSA
- Annual Conference on African Linguistics
- SigMorphPhon

Service at the University of Kansas

- Treasurer, University of Kansas Chapter of the Art of Living Foundation. 2011-2013.
- Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Linguistics Graduate Student Association, University of Kansas. 2011-2012.
- Graduate Student Representative on the Dean’s Advisory Council. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Kansas. Fall 2009 – Spring 2010.
Graduate Student Representative to the College of Liberal Arts and Science’s College Academic Council, University of Kansas. 2008-2012

Graduate Student Representative to the College of Liberal Arts and Science’s College Assembly, University of Kansas. 2008-2012


Graduate Student Representative, joint English Department/Center for Indigenous Nations Studies Faculty Search Committee, 2005-2006.

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE AND UG STUDENT RESEARCH

a. Dissertation director

- Traci Nagle. Thesis Title: “Perception, Production, and the Implementation of Phonological Opacity in the Bengali Vowel Chain Shift”
  - Expected graduation August 2020
  - Proposal defense: January 2019.
  - Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota at Duluth

b. Graduate Advisor

**PhD Students**

- Patricia McDonough (Linguistics; India Studies minor; works with Thangal, under-documented Tibeto-Burman language spoken near Manipur in northeast India)
  - Expected thesis topic: a descriptive grammar of Thangal
- Sherman Charles (Linguistics and Speech & Hearing Sciences double)
- Stefon Flego (Linguistics and Germanic Studies double)
- Chien-Han Hsiao (Linguistics; Cognitive Science minor)
- Steven Knipp (Linguistics and Anthropology double)
- Derek Legg (Linguistics; Second Language Studies minor)
- Sarah Robinson (Linguistics and Germanic Studies double)
- Dillon Smith (Linguistics; Second Language Studies minor)
- James C. Wamsley (Linguistics; East Asian Languages and Cultures minor)
- Amanda Bohnert (incoming student as of Aug. 2019)

**MA Students**

- Matthew Carter (Linguistics, MA student, graduated May 2019)
- Morgan Smith (Linguistics MA, graduated Spring 2017)
c. Doctoral Advisory Committee and PhD Dissertation Committees

- Musa Alahmari (proposal defense Fall 2016; graduated 2018.)
  - Thesis: An Optimality-Theoretic Approach to Some Aspects of the Phonology and Morphology of Southwestern Saudi Arabian Arabic
- Vitor Leongue (proposal defense Fall 2016; graduated 2018.)
  - Thesis: Structural Evolution of the Tibetan Syllable: A Cross-Dialectal Study
- Sean McKinnon (proposal defense spring 2017)
  - Thesis: The sociophonetics of language contact in Guatemala: An examination of plosives in monolingual/bilingual Spanish and Kaqchikel Maya
- Thierry Veyrie (proposal defense spring 2017)
  - Thesis: Documenting and Revitalizing Northern Paiute (pao) Oral Tradition. (NSF DEL grant recipient to conduct doctoral research with the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe)
- Young Hwang (proposal defense January 2018)
  - Thesis: Generational Tone Changes in North Kyungsang Korean with a Focus on English Loanwords
- Molly Cole (Hispanic Linguistics)
- Colette Feehan (Linguistics major, Speech & Hearing Sciences minor)
- Lan Yu (Linguistics major, Speech & Hearing Sciences minor)
- Mamdouh Alhuwaykim
- Abdullah Alfaifi
- Meaghan Gallegos

d. External Committee Member

  - Dissertation title: “Speaking and Being Chin in America: A linguistic and anthropological look at a refugee community from Burma (Myanmar)”
- Micah Swimmer. 2017. (University of Kansas – Indigenous Studies.)
  - Project title: "ᏗᏍᏗᏣᎨᏍᏗ, ᏤᏍᏗᏣᏲᎱᏎᎸᎹ: Use it, don’t lose it." A culturally appropriate language-learning textbook for use with Eastern Band Cherokee.
  - Micah works at New Kituwah Academy, a Cherokee language immersion school for preschool-5th grade students in Cherokee, NC.

e. Undergraduate thesis director

  - Thesis topic: laryngeal contrasts in Hakha Chin
Thesis topic: phonetic investigation of Hakha Chin coronals

- Alyssa Strickler. 2017. (IU Bloomington – Linguistics.)
  - Honors thesis title: "Canadian Raising in Fort Wayne, Indiana."
  - after IU: PhD student in Linguistics, University of Colorado.

- Katherine Blake. 2016. (Indiana University, Bloomington – Linguistics.)
  - Honors thesis title: "Rhoticity in Cajun French."
  - Recipient, 2017 Provost’s Award for Undergraduate Research.
  - after IU: PhD program in Linguistics, Cornell University.

  - Honors Thesis Title: “The Perception of Breathy Voice in Gujarati”
  - Recipient, 2016 Provost’s Award for Undergraduate Research.
  - after IU: PhD program in Linguistics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

f. Research mentor for McNair Scholars, Cox Research Scholars, etc.

- Samantha Myers (mentor, Cox Research Scholars Program). Research focus: Three-dimensional ultrasound, articulatory imaging techniques.
- Kristina Mihajlovic (mentor, McNair Scholar). Research focus: acoustic analysis of sibilants in the Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian language continuum.

g. Research Funding won by UG students

- Joshua Lee
  - Fall 2018 travel grant from Hutton ($500)
  - Summer 2018 Honors Thesis Research Grant from Hutton ($3000)

- Samantha Myers
  - Summer 2018 Recipient of Hutton Honors College Summer Funding ($1000)
  - Summer 2018 Recipient of Women in STEM Summer Funding ($2500, health insurance)
  - Summer 2017 Recipient of Women in STEM Summer Funding ($2500, room & board, health insurance)

- Martina Trivunovic
  - Summer 2017 Research Grant from Hutton Honors College ($1000)

- Abigail Elston
  - Summer 2017 Student Travel Grant, ASA
  - Spring 2017 Student Travel Grant, MIT
  - Spring 2016 Student Travel Grant, ASA
  - Summer 2016 Honors Thesis Research Grant from Hutton ($2200)
Kristina Mihajlovic
- Summer 2015 Research Grant from Hutton Honors College ($1000)
- December 2016, Travel grant from Hutton Honors College to attend 12th Biennial European Conference on Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL-12) meeting in Berlin, Germany ($600).
- December 2016, Travel grant from McNair Scholars Program to attend 12th Biennial European Conference on Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages (FDSL-12) meeting in Berlin, Germany ($1,740)
- April 2016, Travel grant from McNair Scholars Program (A federally-funded TRiO program) to attend Balkan and South Slavic Conference meeting in Salt Lake City, UT ($1,126.50)
- Summer 2016, Research grant from McNair Scholars Program to do 8-week research project ($3,300)
- Summer 2015, Research grant from Hutton Honors College to do research over summer in Phonetics & Phonology Lab at IU in Bloomington, IN - $1,000

Katherine Blake
- Summer 2017 Student Travel Grant, ASA
- Summer 2016 Honors Thesis Research Grant from Hutton ($3000)
- Spring 2016 Student Travel Grant, ASA
- May 2016, Travel Grant from Hutton Honors College to attend the Acoustical Society of America Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah ($200)
- Summer 2015 Research Grant from Hutton Honors College ($1000)

Sarah Buchanan
- Spring 2016 UG Thesis Award ($1500) from Hutton Honors College
- Summer 2015 Research Grant ($1000)

Max Nelson
- Summer 2017 Student Travel Grant, ASA
- Spring 2016 Student Travel Grant, ASA
- Summer 2015 Research Grant from Hutton Honors College ($1000)

LANGUAGES WORKED WITH (to varying degrees)
- Cherokee, Gengbe, Gujarati, Hindi, Icelandic, Kandze Khams Tibetan, Laiholh, Lautu, Marathi, Navajo, San Juan Quiahihe Chatino, Spanish, Tututni, Wolof, Zyphei

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS
- Acoustical Society of America
- American Dialect Society
- Indiana University Center of Excellence for Women in Technology (Affiliated Faculty)
- Linguistic Society of America
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Association
- Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas