Amalia Horan Skilton

Last updated May 10, 2024

Dugald Stewart Building 6.08
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH8 9AD
UK Phone: +44 7557 676587

Pronouns: she/her
Email: askilton@ed.ac.uk
Web: https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/amaliaskilton/
US Phone: +1 (480) 246 9749

Appointments

University of Edinburgh, Department of Linguistics and English Language
Chancellor's Fellow (= U.S. assistant professor)   2024-

Cornell University, Department of Linguistics
Klarman Fellow (sponsor: Sarah Murray)   2021 - 2024

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Linguistics
Postdoctoral Researcher (sponsor: Patience Epps)   2019 - 2021

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Language Development Department
Guest Researcher (sponsor: Caroline Rowland)   2019 - 2020

Education

University of California Berkeley, Ph.D., linguistics   2019
Dissertation: "Spatial and non-spatial deixis in Cushillococha Ticuna"

University of California Berkeley, M.A., linguistics   2016

Yale University, B.A., linguistics and Greek; Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*   2013

Journal Articles

1. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. Tone, stress and their interactions in Cushillococha Ticuna. *Phonological Data & Analysis* 5(5). https://doi.org/10.3765/pda.v5art5.58

2. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna. *Journal of Child Language* 50(3): 632-661. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000922000101

3. Grambank Consortium [author 85 of 105]. 2023. Grambank reveals the importance of genealogical constraints on linguistic diversity and highlights the impact of language loss. *Science Advances* 9(16): eadg6175. https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adg6175

4. Skilton, Amalia and Karol Obert. 2022. Differential place marking beyond place names: Evidence from two Amazonian languages. *Glossa* 7(1). https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.6371

5. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. Demonstratives and visibility: Data from Ticuna and implications for theories of deixis. *Language* 97(4): 793-824. https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2021.0065

6. Skilton, Amalia and David Peeters. 2021. Cross-linguistic differences in the use of demonstratives: Comparing spatial and non-spatial influences on demonstrative use in Ticuna and Dutch. *Journal of Pragmatics* 180: 248-265. `https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2021.05.001`

7. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. Countability in Ticuna. *LIAMES: Línguas Indígenas Americanas* 21: 1-20. `https://doi.org/10.20396/liames.v21i00.8661367`

8. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. Ticuna (tca) language documentation: A guide to materials in the California Language Archive. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 15: 153-189. `http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24972`

9. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. Assertive questions in Máíhɨ̃ki. *Journal of Pragmatics* 109: 121-136. `https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2016.12.011`

10. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. Three speakers, four dialects: Documenting variation in an endangered Amazonian language. *Language Documentation & Conservation* SP13: 94-115. `http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24750`

Proceedings and Chapters

1. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. Noun classes. In *The Oxford Guide to Australian Languages*, ed. Claire Bowern, 205-216. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. Esoteric morphology: vocable affixes in Máíhɨ̃ki shamanic song. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America VII*. Austin: Archive of Indigenous Languages of Latin America.

Edited Volumes

1. Clem, Emily, Virginia Dawson, Alice Shen, **Amalia Skilton**, Geoff Bacon, Andrew Cheng, and Erik Maier, eds. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley: University of California. `http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/bls/previous_proceedings/bls42.pdf`

Manuscripts Under Consideration

* denotes student coauthors.

1. **Skilton, Amalia**, Sofia Pierson*, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan*, and Claire Bowern. under review (new submission). Flibl: A tool to ease text transfer between ELAN and FLEx.

2. Skilton, Amalia. under review (resubmission). Anaphoric demonstratives occur with fewer and different pointing gestures than deictic demonstratives.

3. Skilton, Amalia. under review (resubmission). The deictic content of demonstratives.

4. **Skilton, Amalia**, Sofia Pierson*, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan*, and Claire Bowern. under review (new submission). Fieldwork digital infrastructure and its consequences for language work.

Selected Awards and Honors

1. Mary R. Haas Book Award (for dissertation), Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, 2020.

2. Michael Krauss Archiving Award (for archival collections documenting Ticuna), Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, 2020.

Grants and Fellowships

1. National Science Foundation (NSF) Dynamic Language Infrastructure (DLI) / National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) fellowship (2024-2026), $60,000
   Title: "Writing an academic reference grammar and educator's reference grammar of Cushillococha Ticuna (tca)" (FN-298611-24)

2. NSF/NEH DLI-DEL conference grant (2024), $10,598
   Title: "Bridging child language research to practice for language revitalization" (BCS-2331639)
   Co-PI status. Other personnel: Ryan Henke (PI), Melvatha Chee (Co-PI).
   Wrote 80% of project description.

3. NSF SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2019-2021), $148,000 + $27,000 extension (extension declined)
   Title: "Language acquisition and joint attention" (SMA-1911762)
   PI status. Co-PI's: Patience Epps, Caroline Rowland.

4. NSF/NEH DEL Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (2017-2020), $17,036
   Title: "The grammar of space and social distance in Cushillococha Ticuna, an endangered language" (BCS-1741571)
   Co-PI status. PI: Lev Michael.

5. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2014-2019), $132,000

6. Survey of California and Other Indigenous Languages, Oswalt Endangered Language Grants, $4,840 (2015), $4,500 (2016), $4,500 (2017); supporting fieldwork with Ticuna speakers

7. Yale University, Parker Huang Travel Fellowship (2013-2014), $17,360; supporting fieldwork with Máíhɨ̃ki speakers

Archival Collections

1. Skilton, Amalia and Angel Bitancourt Serra. 2018-2020. *Ticuna conversations.* Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, SCL 2018-19, `doi:10.7297/X2F769QD`.

   – 795 hours, 23 minutes of audio and video recordings.

   – 19 hours, 48 minutes of transcription.

2. Skilton, Amalia. 2015-2018. *Ticuna elicitation and texts.* Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, SCL 2015-06, `doi:10.7297/X29P2ZPJ`.

   – 614 hours, 17 minutes of audio and video recordings.

  – 13 hours, 24 minutes of transcription.

3. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *Ticuna experiments.* Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, SCL 2018-20, `doi:10.7297/X29G5K03`.

  – 40 hours, 17 minutes of audio and video recordings.

4. Beier, Christine, Stephanie Farmer, Greg Finley, Elizabeth Goodrich, Lev Michael, Kelsey Neely, Grace Neveu, **Amalia Skilton**, and John Sylak (order alphabetical). 2011-2015. *Materials of the Berkeley Máíhĩki Project.* Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, SCL 2013-02, `doi:10.7297/X2DR2SGD`.

Refereed Talks

* denotes student coauthors.

1. Melvatha Chee, Ryan Henke, Sofia Pierson*, **Amalia Skilton**, Tamera Yazzie* (organizers alphabetical). 2024. *Organized Session: Bridging child language research to practice for language revitalization.* Joint special session at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas and Linguistic Society of America meetings, New York, NY.

2. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. *Requests directed to children in Ticuna.* Paper presented at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America X, Austin, TX.

3. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. *Requests directed to children in Ticuna.* Paper presented at Coloquio Internacional Amazónicas IX, Bogotá, Colombia (hybrid).

4. Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sofia Pierson*, and Claire Bowern. 2023. `flibl`*: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx.* Paper presented at International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (virtual).

5. Sofia Pierson*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan* and Claire Bowern. 2023. *Where FLEx falls flat: A reflection on built-in assumptions of documentation software and their consequences for language work.* Poster presented at International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (virtual).

6. Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sofia Pierson*, and Claire Bowern. 2023. `flibl`*: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx.* Paper presented at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas meeting (virtual).

7. Sofia Pierson*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan* and Claire Bowern. 2023. *Where FLEx falls flat: A reflection on built-in assumptions of documentation software and their consequences for language work.* Paper presented at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas meeting (virtual).

8. Skilton, Amalia and Alejandra González*. 2023. *What causes the asymmetry between index and open-hand pointing in L1 acquisition?* Paper presented at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Denver, CO.

9. Skilton, Amalia. 2022. *Do demonstratives crowd out lexical nouns? Relationships between demonstrative and noun use in child Ticuna.* Paper presented at High Desert Linguistics Society, Albuquerque, NM.

10. Skilton, Amalia and Karolin Obert. 2022. *Differential place marking beyond place names: Evidence from two Amazonian languages.* Paper presented at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting (virtual).

11. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. *Documenting child language in an Indigenous Amazonian community.* Paper presented at International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (virtual).

12. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. *Children acquire non-egocentric demonstratives later than egocentric ones.* Paper presented at Linguistic Society of America (virtual).

13. Skilton, Amalia. 2020. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives.* Paper presented at Boston University Conference on Language Development (virtual).

14. Skilton, Amalia. 2020. *Co-speech pointing gestures by Ticuna speakers: a corpus study.* Paper presented at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting (held at Linguistic Society of America), New Orleans, LA.

15. Skilton, Amalia. 2019. *Demonstratives and reaching space in Ticuna.* Paper at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America IX, Austin, TX.

16. Skilton, Amalia and David Peeters. 2019. *Speaker and addressee in spatial deixis: new experimental evidence.* Poster at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, New York, NY.

17. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *'Nominal tense' in Ticuna is not tense.* Paper at Semantics of Underrepresented Languages in the Americas biannual meeting, Toronto, ON.

18. Skilton, Amalia, Mikaela Barad*, and Kiran Girish*. 2018. *Building deixis with the arm, hand, and eyes: a study of pointing by Ticuna speakers.* Paper at Berkeley Linguistics Society annual meeting, Berkeley, CA.

19. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *Coding evidence time in the Ticuna noun phrase.* Paper at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

20. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *Perceptual meanings in Ticuna demonstratives.* Paper at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

21. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Noun class skewing and social deixis in Ticuna.* Paper at Association for Linguistic Typology biannual meeting, Canberra, Australia. Winner of review-based student scholarship to meeting.

22. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Perceptual meanings in Ticuna demonstratives.* Paper at Australian Linguistics Society annual meeting, Sydney, Australia.

23. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Tono y acento en el ticuna de Cushillococha* (Stress and tone in Cushillococha Ticuna). Paper at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America VIII, Austin, TX.

24. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Variation in contrastive voice quality in Cushillococha Ticuna.* Poster at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Austin, TX.

25. Skilton, Amalia. 2016. *Is Máíh̃ɨki the only Tukanoan language without grammaticalized evidentiality?.* Paper at Coloquio Internacional Amazónicas VI, Leticia, Colombia.

26. Skilton, Amalia. 2016. *Uvular-triggered harmony in Aymara as Agreement by Correspondence.* Paper at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Washington, DC.

27. Skilton, Amalia and Stephanie Farmer. 2016. *Getting personal: life-history variables and variation in Northern Máíh̃ki.* Invited presentation in organized session, "Documenting Variation in Endangered Languages," Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Washington, DC.

28. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *Morfología esotérica: afijos no referenciales en los cantos chamánicos del máíjĩki* (Esoteric morphology: vocable affixes in Máíh̃ki shamanic song). Paper at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America VII, Austin, TX.

29. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *Three speakers, four dialects: documenting variation in an endangered Amazonian language.* Paper at 4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu, HI. Winner of Student Abstract Award ($1500).

30. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *The pragmatics of reversed-polarity questions in Máíh̃ki (Western Tukanoan).* Poster at Linguistic Society of America 2015 annual meeting, Portland, OR.

31. Skilton, Amalia and Stephanie Farmer. 2015. *Máíh̃ki serial verb constructions challenge the typology of one-word serial verbs.* Paper at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting, Portland, OR.

32. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *Structural change under language obsolescence in an Amazonian speech community.* Paper at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting, Portland, OR.

33. Skilton, Amalia. 2014. *A new proposal of Proto-Western Tukanoan consonants and internal classification.* Paper at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

34. Bowern, Claire, **Amalia Skilton**, and Hannah Haynie. 2014. *Lexical stability and kinship patterns in Australian languages.* Poster at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Invited Talks

1. 2024. *Learning deixis in Ticuna: acquisition, adult connections, and computational resources.* University of Wisconsin - Madison, Language Sciences Colloquium, January 26.

2. 2023. *Anaphoric demonstratives occur with fewer and different pointing gestures than deictic demonstratives.* Cornell University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, November 30.

3. 2023. *The demonstratives of Ticuna: Meaning, use and acquisition.* Stanford University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, February 7.

4. 2023. *The demonstratives of Ticuna: Meaning, use and acquisition.* The Ohio State University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, January 31.

5. 2022. *Learning deixis: Interactional and multimodal analyses.* Keynote, High Desert Linguistics Society Conference, Albuquerque, NM, November 11 - 13.

6. 2022. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna.* University of New Mexico, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, March 4.

7. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna.* University of Rochester, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, November 19.

8. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna.* Brown University, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences - Language & Linguistics Lunch, October 20.

9. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna.* Cornell University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, April 29.

10. 2020. *Fieldwork on language in social interaction.* University of California Berkeley, Department of Linguistics Fieldwork Forum, October 28.

11. 2018. *Perceptual and attentional features in Ticuna demonstratives.* Leiden University Center for Linguistics, Descriptive & Anthropological Discussion Group, April 23.

12. 2018. *Perceptual and attentional features in Ticuna demonstratives.* Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Colloquium on Diversity in Language, Culture, and Cognition, April 19.

Community Language Materials

1. Skilton, Amalia (compiler). 2014. *Tótòyà dóéàkɨ̀nà máí: Los antepasados de Tótoya.* Illustrated collection of Northern Máíhɨ̃ki mythological and oral history texts, 113pp.

2. Skilton, Amalia (compiler). 2013. *Sucusari dóéàkɨ̀nà máí: Los antepasados del Sucusari.* Collection of Eastern Máíhɨ̃ki mythological, procedural, and oral history texts, 77pp.

3. Michael, Lev, Christine Beier, Stephanie Farmer, **Amalia Skilton**, Kelsey Neely, Greg Finley, John Sylak, and Grace Neveu. 2014. *Diccionario bilingüe máíjɨ̀kì-castellano, castellano-máíjɨ̀kí* (community-oriented dictionary).

Teaching

1. Cornell University, Experimental Methods in Field Linguistics (graduate seminar), fall 2022.

2. UC Berkeley, Introduction to Linguistic Science, spring 2019.
   Graduate student instructor. Instructor of record: Stephanie Farmer.

3. UC Berkeley, Comparative and Historical Linguistics, fall 2016.
   Graduate student instructor. Instructor of record: Andrew Garrett.

Advising

1. Mentor at Cornell for 10 undergraduate research assistants (2024: Agustina García, Martín Pop, Stella Haberer, James-Elliot Irons; 2022-2023: Katherine Ureña; 2021-2023: Alejandra González; Spring 2023: Samantha Huanca, Anaisa Cespedes; Fall 2022: Carley Kukk) and

2 graduate/postbac students at other institutions (April 2022-present: Sofia Pierson [UT Austin], Sunny Ananthanarayan [University of Washington/Yale]).

2. Mentor at UT Austin for 2 undergraduate research assistants (May 2020-April 2021: Victoria Cantú, Marilla Dial).

3. Graduate mentor at UC Berkeley for 12 undergraduate research assistants (Spring 2019: Ray Mason, Kate Lamont; Fall 2018: Sean Tseng, Malachi Hamada; Spring 2018: Brittany Beckman, Anna Kulikov, Katrina Louie, Katrina Olsen; Fall 2017: Mikaela Barad, Kiran Girish; Fall 2016: Zack Ramicone; Spring 2016: Bridget Hanzalik).

Research Experience and Collaborations

1. 17 months of fieldwork with speakers of Ticuna (isolate) in Mariscal Ramón Castilla province, Loreto, Peru; 2015-2023.

2. 12 months of fieldwork with speakers of Máíhɨ̃ki (Tukanoan) in Putumayo and Maynas provinces, Loreto, Peru; 2012-2015.

3. Subcontractor to project "CIRANO: Cross-cultural interaction assistant for negotiators and operators" (PI Tanya Stivers; funded by DARPA Computational Cultural Understanding program), 2022-2024.

4. Research assistant to Lev Michael on project "A comparative database of Tukanoan and other Northwest Amazonian languages" (funded by MPI for History and the Sciences), 2014-2016.

5. Research assistant to Claire Bowern on projects "Pama-Nyungan reconstruction and the prehistory of Australia" (NSF BCS-084550) and "Dynamics of hunter-gatherer language change" (NSF BCS-0902114), 2011-2013.

Selected Media Appearances Related to Research

1. January 4, 2023. I missed my baby's first words, but our communication is better than ever. *The Guardian.*

2. April 7, 2022. After 'mama,' children's first words include 'this' and 'that.' Phys.org.

Professional Service

1. Ad hoc reviewing

   – Journals: *Cadernos de Etnolinguistica, Faits des Langues, Glossa, International Journal of American Linguistics, Interface Focus, Language & Cognition, Language Documentation & Conservation, Language Documentation & Description, Language Dynamics & Change, Journal of Language Ecology, Linguistic Typology, Phonology, Phonological Data & Analysis, Research Ethics, Studies in Language*

   – Conferences: Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (x 5 years), Linguistic Society of America (x 5 years)

- Grants: Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (x 2 years), Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council

2. Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas, nominating committee member, 2022-2024

3. Telluride Association (educational nonprofit)

   - National board member, 2020-present
   - Personnel committee member, 2022-present; chair, 2023-present

4. Service to Berkeley Linguistics

   - Student member, assistant professor search committee (2017-2018)
   - Treasurer, Berkeley Linguistics Society executive committee (2015-2016)
   - Organizer, fieldwork talk series (2015-2016), historical linguistics talk series (2015-2017)