

Amalia Horan Skilton

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Appointments

University of Edinburgh, Department of Linguistics and English Language Chancellor's Fellow (= US 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 Dissertation: "Spatial and non-spatial deixis in Cushillococha Ticuna"	2019
University of California Berkeley, M.A., linguistics	2016
Yale University, B.A., linguistics and Greek; Phi Beta Kappa, <i>magna cum laude</i>	2013

Journal Articles

* denotes student coauthors.

1. **Skilton, Amalia**, Sofia Pierson*, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan*, and Claire Bower. accepted with revisions. Digital infrastructure and its consequences for language work: A case study of FieldWorks Language Explorer. *Language*.
2. **Skilton, Amalia**, Sofia Pierson*, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan*, and Claire Bower. accepted. Flibl: A tool to ease text transfer between ELAN and FLEx. *Language Documentation & Conservation*.
3. Skilton, Amalia. 2024. Anaphoric demonstratives occur with fewer and different pointing gestures than deictic demonstratives. *Glossa* 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.11190>
4. Skilton, Amalia. 2024. The deictic content of demonstratives. *Language & Linguistics Compass* 18(4): e12519. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12519>

5. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. Tone, stress and their interactions in Cushillococha Ticuna. *Phonological Data & Analysis* 5(5): 1-44. <https://doi.org/10.3765/pda.v5art5.58>
6. 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>
7. 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>
8. 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>
9. 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>
10. 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>
11. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. Countability in Ticuna. *LIAMES: Línguas Indígenas Americanas* 21: 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.20396/liames.v21i00.8661367>
12. 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>
13. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. Assertive questions in Máihiki. *Journal of Pragmatics* 109: 121-136. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2016.12.011>
14. 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 Bower, 205-216. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. Esoteric morphology: vocable affixes in Máihiki 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. 2016. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley: University of California. http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/bls/previous_proceedings/bls42.pdf

Work Under Consideration

1. **Skilton, Amalia**, Ryan Henke, and Melvatha Chee, eds. *Bridging Child Language Research to Practice for Indigenous Language Revitalization*. In-progress special issue of *Language Documentation & Conservation*.

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) standard grant (2024-2027), \$494,659
Title: “The effect of interlocutor distance in the grammars of bilingual communities” (BCS-2415153)
Senior collaborator status. Other personnel: Naomi Shin (PI), Rosa Vallejos-Yopán (Co-PI).
Wrote 35% of project description.
2. 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)
Sole PI.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2014-2019), \$132,000
7. Survey of California and Other Indigenous Languages, Oswald Endangered Language Grants, \$4,840 (2015), \$4,500 (2016), \$4,500 (2017); supporting fieldwork with Ticuna speakers
8. Yale University, Parker Huang Travel Fellowship (2013-2014), \$17,360; supporting fieldwork with Máihiki 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 Má'ihãki Project*. Survey of California and Other Indian Languages, UC Berkeley, SCL 2013-02, doi:10.7297/X2DR2SGD.

Refereed Talks

* denotes student coauthors.

1. Skilton, Amalia. 2025. *Suppletive and other verbal plurals in Ticuna*. Paper to be presented at Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas meeting, January 24-26, virtual.
2. Skilton, Amalia. 2024. *Learning the phonology of Cushillococha Ticuna*. Paper to be presented at Sound Systems of Latin America conference, November 9, Seattle, WA.
3. Shin, Naomi, Rosa Vallejos-Yopán, and **Amalia Skilton**. 2024. *Demonstrative systems across three bilingual communities*. Panel at High Desert Linguistic Society, Albuquerque, NM (hybrid).
4. Chee, Melvatha, 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.
5. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. *Requests directed to children in Ticuna*. Paper presented at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America X, Austin, TX.
6. Skilton, Amalia. 2023. *Requests directed to children in Ticuna*. Paper presented at Coloquio Internacional Amazónicas IX, Bogotá, Colombia (hybrid).

7. Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sofia Pierson*, and Claire Bower. 2023. *f1ib1: A tool to bolster text transfer between ELAN and FLEx*. Paper presented at International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (virtual).
8. Pierson, Sofia*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan* and Claire Bower. 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).
9. Ananthanarayan, Sunkulp*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sofia Pierson*, and Claire Bower. 2023. *f1ib1: 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).
10. Sofia Pierson*, **Amalia Skilton**, Sunkulp Ananthanarayan* and Claire Bower. 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).
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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).
14. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. *Documenting child language in an Indigenous Amazonian community*. Paper presented at International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation (virtual).
15. Skilton, Amalia. 2021. *Children acquire non-egocentric demonstratives later than egocentric ones*. Paper presented at Linguistic Society of America (virtual).
16. Skilton, Amalia. 2020. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives*. Paper presented at Boston University Conference on Language Development (virtual).
17. 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.
18. Skilton, Amalia. 2019. *Demonstratives and reaching space in Ticuna*. Paper at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America IX, Austin, TX.
19. 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.
20. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *'Nominal tense' in Ticuna is not tense*. Paper at Semantics of Underrepresented Languages in the Americas biannual meeting, Toronto, ON.

21. 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.
22. Skilton, Amalia. 2018. *Coding evidence time in the Ticuna noun phrase*. Paper at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Perceptual meanings in Ticuna demonstratives*. Paper at Australian Linguistics Society annual meeting, Sydney, Australia.
26. 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.
27. Skilton, Amalia. 2017. *Variation in contrastive voice quality in Cushillococha Ticuna*. Poster at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Austin, TX.
28. Skilton, Amalia. 2016. *Is Máíhiki the only Tukanoan language without grammaticalized evidentiality?*. Paper at Coloquio Internacional Amazónicas VI, Leticia, Colombia.
29. Skilton, Amalia. 2016. *Uvular-triggered harmony in Aymara as Agreement by Correspondence*. Paper at Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Washington, DC.
30. Skilton, Amalia and Stephanie Farmer. 2016. *Getting personal: life-history variables and variation in Northern Máíhiki*. Invited presentation in organized session, “Documenting Variation in Endangered Languages,” Linguistic Society of America annual meeting, Washington, DC.
31. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *Morfología esotérica: afijos no referenciales en los cantos chamánicos del máíhiki* (Esoteric morphology: vocable affixes in Máíhiki shamanic song). Paper at Conference on the Indigenous Languages of Latin America VII, Austin, TX.
32. 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).
33. Skilton, Amalia. 2015. *The pragmatics of reversed-polarity questions in Máíhiki (Western Tukanoan)*. Poster at Linguistic Society of America 2015 annual meeting, Portland, OR.
34. Skilton, Amalia and Stephanie Farmer. 2015. *Máíhiki 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.
35. 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.

36. 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.
37. Bower, 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. *Documenting child language*. Training workshop, Language Documentation & Archiving Conference, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, Berlin and virtual, September 2.
2. 2024. *Learning deixis in Ticuna: acquisition, adult connections, and computational resources*. University of Wisconsin - Madison, Language Sciences Colloquium, January 26.
3. 2023. *Anaphoric demonstratives occur with fewer and different pointing gestures than deictic demonstratives*. Cornell University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, November 30.
4. 2023. *The demonstratives of Ticuna: Meaning, use and acquisition*. Stanford University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, February 7.
5. 2023. *The demonstratives of Ticuna: Meaning, use and acquisition*. The Ohio State University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, January 31.
6. 2022. *Learning deixis: Interactional and multimodal analyses*. Keynote, High Desert Linguistics Society Conference, Albuquerque, NM, November 11 - 13.
7. 2022. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna*. University of New Mexico, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, March 4.
8. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna*. University of Rochester, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, November 19.
9. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna*. Brown University, Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences - Language & Linguistics Lunch, October 20.
10. 2021. *Learning speaker- and addressee-centered demonstratives in Ticuna*. Cornell University, Department of Linguistics Colloquium, April 29.
11. 2020. *Fieldwork on language in social interaction*. University of California Berkeley, Department of Linguistics Fieldwork Forum, October 28.
12. 2018. *Perceptual and attentional features in Ticuna demonstratives*. Leiden University Center for Linguistics, Descriptive & Anthropological Discussion Group, April 23.
13. 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. in prep. *Introducción a la lingüística ticuna para el maestro bilingüe* [Introduction to Ticuna linguistics for bilingual teachers]. Pedagogical grammar of Ticuna. Chapters released incrementally to audience; first release June 2024.
2. 2014. *Tótòyà dóéàkànà máí: Los antepasados de Tótoya* [Ancestors of the Clay River]. Illustrated collection of Northern Máíhiki mythological and oral history texts, 113pp.
3. 2013. *Sucusari dóéàkànà máí: Los antepasados del Sucusari* [Ancestors of the Sucusari River]. Collection of Eastern Máíhiki mythological, procedural, and oral history texts, 77pp.
4. Michael, Lev, Christine Beier, Stephanie Farmer, **Amalia Skilton**, Kelsey Neely, Greg Finley, John Sylak, and Grace Neveu. 2014. *Diccionario bilingüe máíhiki-castellano, castellano-máíhiki* (community-oriented dictionary).

Teaching

1. University of Edinburgh, Field Methods, fall 2024.
2. Cornell University, Experimental Methods in Field Linguistics (graduate seminar), fall 2022.

Advising

1. Graduate student advising and research mentorships
 - (a) PhD student: Federico Falletti, 2024-, University of Edinburgh (secondary supervisor)
 - (b) Graduate and postbac researchers at external institutions: Marín Aleman, 2024, University of New Mexico; Sofia Pierson, 2022-2024, University of Texas at Austin; Sunny Ananthanarayan, 2022-2024, University of Washington/Yale
2. Undergraduate student research mentorships
 - (a) At Edinburgh: Erin Pilley, Jessica Williams, Francesca Ramage-Mangles (all 2024)
 - (b) At Cornell: Agustina García, 2024; Stella Haberer, 2024; James-Elliot Irons, 2024; Martín Pop, 2024; Katherine Ureña, 2022-2023; Alejandra González, 2021-2023; Samantha Huanca, 2023; Anaisa Cespedes, 2023; Carley Kukk, 2022.
 - (c) At UT Austin: Victoria Cantú, 2021-2022; Marilla Dial, 2021-2022.
 - (d) At Berkeley, as graduate student: Kate Lamont, 2019; Ray Mason, 2019; Sean Tseng, 2018; Malachi Hamada, 2018; Brittany Beckman, 2018; Anna Kulikov, 2018; Katrina Louie, 2018; Katrina Olsen, 2018; Mikaela Barad, 2017; Kiran Girish, 2017; Zack Ramicone, 2016; Bridget Hanzalik, 2016

Research Experience and Collaborations

1. 17 months of fieldwork with speakers of Ticuna (isolate) in Mariscal Ramón Castilla province, Loreto, Peru; 2015-2024.

2. 12 months of fieldwork with speakers of Máihiki (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 Bower on projects “Pama-Nyungan reconstruction and the pre-history 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 Etnolinguística*, *Journal of Child Language*, *Faits des Langues*, *Glossa*, *International Journal of American Linguistics*, *International Journal of Bilingualism*, *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 6 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, 2023-2025
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)