

# Seaira Lett

PhD candidate, Department of Linguistics  
University of Georgia  
seaira.lett@uga.edu

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## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

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| <b>Doctorate in Linguistics</b> , University of Georgia<br>Presidential Graduate Fellow<br>Advisor: Pilar Chamorro, UGA Department of Linguistics<br>GPA: 4.0   | 2022-Present |
| <b>Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Linguistics</b> , Emory University<br><i>Summa cum laude</i><br>Phi Beta Kappa, Global Languages and Cultures Cohort<br>Advisor: José Luis Boigues, Emory College Department of Spanish and Portuguese<br>Major GPA: 4.0, Overall GPA: 3.9 | 2017-2020    |
| <b>Master of Education in Elementary Education</b> , University of Missouri-St. Louis<br>GPA: 3.9   | 2020-2022    |
| State of Missouri Early Childhood Education Initial Teaching Certificate  | 2022         |

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## SCHOLARSHIP

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| <b>Dissertation</b><br>The semantics of tense, aspect, and modality in Chuj   | 2025-2027 |
| <b>Qualifying Papers</b><br>Tense and aspect in San Sebastián Coatán Chuj (Mayan)   | 2023-2024 |
| The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax   | 2022-2023 |
| <b>Honors Thesis</b><br>Syntax and Morphology of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj, a Mayan Language of Guatemala<br><i>Highest honors</i> , representing a quality suitable for publication<br>Advisor: Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics | 2019-2020 |

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### ***In preparation & submitted***

Lett, Seaira. Submitted. Insights from the structure of plural addressee marking and imperatives in Chuj.

Lett, Seaira. In preparation. Establishing tenselessness in Chuj.

### ***Peer-reviewed***

Lett, Seaira. 2023. The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj. *UGA Working Papers in Linguistics*, 6, 206-220.

### ***Proceedings***

Lett, Seaira. To appear. A reanalysis of tense in Chuj (Mayan). *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America*, 10.

### ***Journal***

Lett, Seaira. 2021. Syntax and Morphology of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj, a Mayan Language of Guatemala. *Emory Undergraduate Research Journal*, 17, 56-71.

### ***Magazine***

Lett, Seaira. 2020. Languages of the World: Chuj. *Babel: The language magazine*. 42.

### ***Literary magazines***

Lett, Seaira. 2024. ciclo de vida. *El Cid Revista*.

Lett, Seaira. 2024. otoño. *El Cid Revista*.

Lett, Seaira. 2021. Shh. *Bellerive: Interlude*.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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### **Invited guest lectures**

- 2024 Linguistic Field Methods and Language Documentation. Linguistics Club, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 2023 Third Language Acquisition. Second Language Acquisition and Cognition Lab, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  
Documenting Chuj (Mayan) in the US. Emory University Program in Linguistics, Atlanta, GA.

### **Conferences**

- 2025 Decomposing event beginnings and ends: The case of Wari' *wra* and *pin* (with Quesler Fagundes Camargos & Pilar Chamorro) (Talk). AMAZONICAS X, Universidade Federal do Pará, Belém, Brazil.  
Analyzing event boundaries: Unveiling markers *wra* and *pin* in Wari' (with Quesler Fagundes Camargos & Pilar Chamorro) (Talk). Workshop on American Indigenous Languages 27, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA.  
Initial evidence towards tenselessness in Chuj (Talk). Linguistics Society of America 2025 Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.  
Towards automatic speech recognition in Chuj (Mayan): Wav2Vec2 model results (Talk). Linguistics Conference at UGA 2025, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  
Visualizing linguistics: Scientific illustrations for teaching the IPA and beyond (with Gaby Pérez and Jean Costa-Silva) (Poster). Linguistics Conference at UGA 2025, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  
Exploring L2 Spanish Experience in the Acquisition of Pro-Drop in L3 Japanese: A Study on Linguistic Transfer across Acquired Languages (with Grant Shubin) (Talk). Quebec Conference on Language Learning and Teaching 2025. Université TÉLUQ, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.  
Exploring L2 Spanish Experience in the Acquisition of Pro-Drop in L3 Japanese: A Study on Linguistic Transfer across Acquired Languages (with Grant Shubin) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at UGA 2025, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 2024 Initial evidence towards a tenseless analysis of Chuj (Mayan) (Talk). Semantics of Underrepresented Languages of the Americas 13. Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Brazil.  
Searching for tense in Chuj (Mayan) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  
The effect of nativeness on L2 Spanish speakers' grammaticality judgements (with Caroline Schneider) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 2023 Imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax (Talk). Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America X. University of Texas, Austin, TX.  
The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax (Talk). Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 16: The morphosyntax of speaker and hearer. Center for Research in Syntax, Semantics, and Phonology, Brussels, Belgium.  
On the documentation of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj in the US. (Talk). Kaleidoscope Conference 17. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.  
The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj. (Talk). University of Miami Graduate Student Conference. Miami, FL.  
Imperatives in Chuj (Talk). Conference on the Americas 26. Athens, GA.
- 2021 Negation in Chuj (Talk). Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics 6. San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico.  
Variation in Negation in Chuj (Talk). Purdue Linguistics Symposium. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.  
Negation in Chuj (Talk). Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2019 Negation Formation in Lulogooli: Four Ways to Say No (with Julie Weschler) (Poster Presentation). National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA.

### **Colloquia**

- Analyzing event boundaries: Unveiling markers *wra* and *pin* in Wari' (with Quesler Fagundes Camargos & Pilar Chamorro). Linguistics Colloquium 2025. University of Georgia.  
Searching for tense in Chuj (Mayan). Linguistics Colloquium 2023. University of Georgia.

Imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax. Linguistics Colloquium 2022.  
University of Georgia.

| <b>RESEARCH GRANTS</b>   |              |
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| Summer Research Grant  | 2024         |
| Willson Center Graduate Research Award   | 2023         |
| Emory College Language Center Student Research Grant   | 2019         |
| Emory University Program in Linguistics Research Grants  | 2019-2020    |
| <b>OTHER PROJECTS</b>  |              |
| Coordinator, SeMantis (Semantics and its interfaces) Research Group  | 2023-Present |
| Member, SLAC (Second Language Acquisition and Cognition) Research Group  | 2022-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acquisition of pro-drop in L3 Japanese (with Grant Shubin)</li> </ul>   |              |
| Ethnologue Contributor   | 2022-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two approved contributions on Chuj</li> </ul>   |              |
| <b>AWARDS</b>  |              |
| Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award   | 2025         |
| Best Graduate Paper, Conference on the Americas  | 2023         |
| Spotlight on Inclusive Excellence, UGA Department of Linguistics   | 2023         |
| Award for Excellence in Spanish and Linguistics, Emory University  | 2020         |
| <b>RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE</b>  |              |
| <b>Research assistant</b> , University of Georgia Department of Linguistics, Athens  | 2024         |
| <b>Teaching assistant</b> , University of Georgia Department of Linguistics, Athens  | 2022-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LING2100 The Study of Language (Instructor of record)</li> <li>LING2100E The Study of Language (online)</li> <li>LING3150W Generative Syntax</li> </ul>   |              |
| <b>Spanish-English kindergarten teacher</b> , Carver Dual Language School, Kansas City   | 2020-2022    |
| <b>Program Assistant</b> , Amigos de las Américas, Virtual   | 2021         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion facilitation in Spanish and English in virtual exchange with high schoolers from the US and South America.</li> <li>Student mentoring on community service projects.</li> <li>Logistic/tech support in Zoom meetings.</li> </ul>                             |              |
| <b>Peer Mentor</b> , Emory College Program in Linguistics, Atlanta   | 2020         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LING485 Field Methods, Dr. Yun Kim</li> <li>Language studied: Tigrinya</li> </ul>   |              |
| <b>Research Assistant</b> , Dr. Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics   | 2019         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tone in Logooli (Bantu)</li> </ul>  |              |
| <b>MENTORING</b>   |              |
| Casen Stiber   | 2024-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project: The semantics of plural marking in Nawat</li> </ul>  |              |
| Grant Shubin   | 2023-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipient of SPARK Award for Undergraduate Research in Linguistics</li> <li>Accepted to present at Quebec Conference on Language Learning and Teaching 2025, Linguistics Conference at UGA 2025</li> <li>Project: The acquisition of pro-drop in L3 Japanese</li> </ul> |              |
| <b>WORKSHOP</b>  |              |
| Institute on Collaborative Language Research   | 2024         |
| <b>SERVICE</b>   |              |
| President, Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia  | 2024-2025    |
| Co-chair, Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia  | 2025         |

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| Ad hoc reviewer, Proceedings of the Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia   | 2024         |
| Vice president, Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia                          | 2023-2024    |
| Ad hoc reviewer, Working Papers in the Language Sciences at the University of Rochester   | 2024         |
| Board member, UGA Working Papers in Linguistics   | 2023-2024    |
| Member, Communications Committee, Linguistics Conference at UGA                           | 2023-2024    |
| Panel organizer, Tense and Aspect in Minoritized Varieties, Linguistics Conference at UGA | 2024         |
| Member, Linguistics Society of America  | 2022-Present |
| Corps Member, Teach For America   | 2020-2022    |
| Member, Americorps  | 2020-2022    |

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**LANGUAGES**

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English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Japanese (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate), Chuj (Basic conversational, linguistic knowledge)