

Seaira Lett

PhD candidate, Department of Linguistics
University of Georgia
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EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Dissertation The semantics of tense, aspect, and modality in Chuj	In progress
Qualifying Papers Initial evidence towards a tenseless analysis of Chuj (Mayan)	2025
The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan): Support for encoding the addressee in the syntax	2023
Honors Thesis Syntax and Morphology of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj, a Mayan Language of Guatemala <i>Highest honors</i> , representing a quality suitable for publication Advisor: Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics	2020

PUBLICATIONS

In preparation & submitted

Lett, Seaira. Submitted. Insights from the structure of plural addressee marking and imperatives in Chuj.
Lett, Seaira & Pilar Chamorro. In preparation. The tenseless status of Chuj aspect markers.
Lett, Seaira, Pilar Chamorro & Quesler Fagundes Camargos. In preparation. Analyzing event boundaries: Aspect markers *wra* and *pin* in Wari'.

Peer-reviewed

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

Proceedings

Lett, Seaira. 2025. A reanalysis of tense in Chuj (Mayan). *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America*, 10(1): 5887.

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*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

(Tense and) aspect in Chuj. Emory University Program in Linguistics, Atlanta, GA. December 2025. (honorarium: \$100)

Invited guest lectures

Reimagining Participation in the Classroom. GRSC7200 Teaching and Learning in Collegiate Classrooms, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. September 2025.

Linguistic Field Methods and Language Documentation. Linguistics Club, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. March 2024.

Third Language Acquisition. Second Language Acquisition and Cognition Lab, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. September 2023.

Documenting Chuj (Mayan) in the US. Emory University Program in Linguistics, Atlanta, GA. November 2023. (honorarium: \$100)

Conferences

The Perfect Time Span and temporal remoteness marking in Chuj (Talk). Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas and Semantics of Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. May 2026.

Two faces of inchoativity in Wari': A study of the aspectual markers *wra* and *pin* (with Quesler Fagundes Camargos & Pilar Chamorro) (Talk). Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas and Semantics of Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. May 2026.

Documenting temporal expression in Chuj and why it matters (Talk). Conference on the Americas 29, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, GA. February 2026.

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. August 2025.

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. May 2025.

Towards automatic speech recognition in Chuj (Mayan): Wav2Vec2 model results (Talk). Linguistics Conference at UGA 2025, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. March 2025.

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. March 2025.

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. March 2025.

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. October 2024.

Searching for tense in Chuj (Mayan) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. February 2024.

The effect of nativeness on L2 Spanish speakers' grammaticality judgements (with Caroline Schneider) (Talk). Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. February 2024.

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. November 2023.

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. October 2023.

On the documentation of San Sebastián Coatán Chuj in the US. (Talk). Kaleidoscope Conference 17. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. March 2023.

The morphosyntax of imperatives in Chuj (Mayan). (Talk). University of Miami Graduate Student Conference. Miami, FL. March 2023.

Imperatives in Chuj (Talk). Conference on the Americas 26. Athens, GA, February 2023.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics 6. San Cristobal de Las Casas, Mexico. November 2021.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Purdue Linguistics Symposium. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. April 2021.

Negation in Chuj (Talk). Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. April 2021.

Negation Formation in Lulogooli: Four Ways to Say No (with Julie Weschler) (Poster). National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA. April 2019.

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.

FUNDING

CIPL (Comité International Permanent des Linguistes) Travel Grant, €500 2025

University of Georgia ASCEND Award, \$5000 2025

LSA Linguistic Institute Fellowship, \$2500 2025

University of Georgia Summer Research Grant, \$1500 2024

Willson Center Graduate Research Award, \$1200 2023

Emory College Language Center Student Research Grant, \$200 2019

LABS & OTHER PROJECTS

Coordinator, SeMantis (Semantics and its interfaces) Lab 2024-Present

Project leader, SLAC (Second Language Acquisition and Cognition) Lab 2022-2025

Ethnologue Contributor 2022-Present

Two approved contributions on Chuj

AWARDS

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award 2025

Best Graduate Paper, Conference on the Americas, \$200 2023

Spotlight on Inclusive Excellence, UGA Department of Linguistics 2023

Award for Excellence in Spanish and Linguistics, Emory University 2020

TEACHING & OTHER EXPERIENCE

Workshop Instructor, Institute on Collaborative Language Research, University of Nevada, Reno 2026

Understanding morphology (the structure of words) for community language work (with Lukas Denk)

Sneezing versus *Eating*: Lexical aspect and how to document it (with Pilar Chamorro)

Ate versus *have eaten*: Viewpoint aspect and how to document it (with Pilar Chamorro)

Research assistant, University of Georgia Department of Linguistics, Athens 2024

Teaching assistant, University of Georgia Department of Linguistics, Athens 2022-Present

LING2100 The Study of Language (Instructor of record)

LING2100E The Study of Language (online)

LING3150W Generative Syntax (writing-intensive)

LING4880 Introduction to Language Documentation and Field Methods

Spanish-English kindergarten teacher, Carver Dual Language School, Kansas City 2020-2022

Program Assistant, Amigos de las Américas, Virtual 2021

Discussion facilitation in Spanish and English in virtual exchange with high schoolers from the US and South America.

Student mentoring on community service projects.

Logistic/tech support in Zoom meetings.

Peer Mentor, Emory College Program in Linguistics, Atlanta 2020

LING485 Field Methods, Dr. Yun Kim

Research Assistant, Dr. Marjorie Pak, Emory College Program in Linguistics 2019

Project: Tone in Logooli (Bantu)

MENTORING

Casen Stiber	2024-Present
SPARK Award for Undergraduate Research in Linguistics	
Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Research Award	
Project: Plurality in Nawat	
Grant Shubin	2023-Present
SPARK Award for Undergraduate Research in Linguistics	
Project: The acquisition of pro-drop in L3 Japanese	

WORKSHOP

Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang), Arizona State University	2024
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SERVICE

Panel organizer, Documenting semantics in Indigenous languages, Conference on the Americas 29	2026
Ad hoc reviewer, Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas and Semantics of Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania	2026
President, Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia	2024-2025
Co-chair, Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia	2025
Ad hoc reviewer, Proceedings of the Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia 2024	2025
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 10	2024
Board member, UGA Working Papers in Linguistics	2023-2024
Volunteer, 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

FIELDWORK

San Sebastián Coatán, Huehuetenango, Guatemala (8 weeks)	2026
Greenville, South Carolina (day trips)	2023
Seymour, Indiana (12 weeks)	2019-2020

LANGUAGES

English (Native), Spanish (Near-native), Japanese (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate), Chuj (Basic conversational, linguistic knowledge)

Programming: R, Python, Bash, Corpus Query Processor