

Line Mikkelsen, Diversity statement

My work at UC Berkeley promotes diversity in three main ways.

In the classes I teach, especially large undergraduate classes, I aim to raise awareness of the linguistic diversity of California. My methods range from simply surveying students about the languages they speak and presenting the results to the class to using data from California languages (indigenous and immigrant languages) in lectures, homeworks, and exams.

Many linguistics majors speak one or more heritage languages and are eager to use their linguistic training to understand their heritage language, but often unsure how to do this, since they might be less than fluent in the language and/or not be literate in the language. I have worked with three such students, Royceleen Loqa Holmes, Milla Nizar and Jed Pizarro-Guevara. Milla Nizar and Jed Pizarro-Guevara both wrote senior theses under my guidance on the syntax of Malayalam (a language of South India) and Tagalog, respectively. Both produced theses of very high quality and both used their thesis work as an opportunity for serious engagement with the relevant language communities, here in California, as well as in India and the Philippines.

In terms of research, I and Berkeley colleagues and students work with the Karuk tribe in Northern California on documentation and revitalization of Karuk, an indigenous and highly endangered language. Our work includes linguistic documentation and the creation of resources for community language programs. We have developed a substantial online archive of Karuk texts and audio recording and integrated these with the Karuk dictionary created by William Bright and Susan Gehr. More information at <http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~karuk/>. We regularly participate in Karuk language classes in Yreka schools and community centers and have hosted language events for high school students from the Karuk community at Berkeley in connections with Cal Day. I also mentor graduate and undergraduate research on indigenous languages of the Americas, including Nico Baier's work on Flathead Salish (a Salish language of Montana), Amy Campbell and Lindsey Newbold's work on Hupa (an Athabaskan language of Northwest California), Kayla Carpenter's work on Karuk and Wailaki (an Athabaskan language of Northern California), Justin Lei's work on Yurok (an Algic language of coastal Northern California), Kouros Falati, Erik Maier, Karie Moorman, Clare Sandy, and Whitney White's work on Karuk, Melanie Redeye's work on Seneca (an Iroquoian languages of upstate New York), Katie Sardinha's work on Kwak'waka (a Wakashan language of British Columbia), Tammy Stark's work on Omagua (a Tupi-Guarani language of the Amazon), and Maziar Toosarvandani's work on Northern Paiute (an Uto-Aztecan language spoken in the communities of Mono Lake, Bridgeport, Colville (California), and Sweetwater (Nevada)).