

# Jessie Sams

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication  
Stephen F. Austin State University

### Education

Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2008

Dissertation committee chair: Professor Laura Michaelis

Dissertation title: "A Syntactic Analysis of Written English Quotatives"

M.A. in Linguistics, University of Colorado at Boulder, December 2005

B.S. in English, *Magna cum laude*, Truman State University, May 2003

### Certification and Recognition

AARC Bravo Award, Outstanding Support of SFA Students, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2020.

Teaching Excellence Award, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2017.

Certified Online Course Developer and Instructor, Stephen F. Austin State University, May 2010.

### Academic Recognition and Funded Research

Recipient of Research/Creative Activity Grant. Sponsored by Stephen F. Austin State University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, \$10,000, January 2020-August 2021.

Recipient of four mini-grants for implementation of high-impact practices in the classroom. Sponsored by Stephen F. Austin State University Office of High-Impact Practices, \$1000.00 each, 2012-2014.

Co-principal investigator for a research grant: "Documentation of the Haya Language." Sponsored by Stephen F. Austin State University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, \$1575.00, July 2012-August 2012.

Graduate faculty member, Stephen F. Austin State University, 2009.

Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter of Missouri at Truman State University. Inducted April 2003.

### Research and Teaching Interests

Constructed languages; interface between syntax and semantics; quotatives; English grammar and history/etymology; study of literature from a linguistic perspective.

### Languages (structural knowledge)

English, German, Spanish, Ancient Greek, Latin, ASL, Old English.

### Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of Linguistics, Stephen F. Austin State University, Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication, January 2018-present (Department of English, August 2015-December 2018).

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Stephen F. Austin State University, Department of English, August 2009-2015.

Adjunct Instructor, Niagara University, Department of English and Department of Communication Studies, August 2008-May 2009.

Adjunct Instructor, Daemen College, Department of English (Composition), September 2007-May 2009.

GPTI (Graduate Part-Time Instructor), University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Linguistics, August 2005-May 2007.

### Teaching Experience

College courses taught include the following:

- LING 3341 Introduction to Linguistics
- LING 3342 History of the English Language
- LING 3343 Descriptive Linguistics, taught as Linguistics of ASL

- LING 3344 Structures of English
- LING 4337 Invented Languages
- LING 4339 English Grammar
- LING 4342 Topics in Linguistics
  - DnD Language & Identity
  - Linguistics & Reality TV
  - Old English
  - Applied Linguistics in Media
  - Psycholinguistics
- LING 4195 Independent Study
  - Grammar and Pedagogy
  - Linguistic Analysis of Corpora
  - Gender and Language in YA Fiction
  - Grammar of Conlangs
  - Language Policies and Speaker Attitudes: Guaraní

### **Conlang publications**

With David J. Peterson. 2020-present. *Ménishè language*. Appears in Eliot Laurence, Will Ferrell, Adam McKay, Kevin Messick, Maria Maggenti, and Steven Adelson's (executive producers) *Motherland: Fort Salem*. Freeform Studios and Gary Sanchez Productions.

With David J. Peterson. 2021. Engála phrasebook. Appears in David J. Peterson's *The Art of Language Invention (2nd ed.)*. Penguin Books.

"A discovery of conlangs and conlangers." 2021. *Fiat Lingua*.

"Conlang courses around the globe." 2020. *Fiat Lingua*.

"Gnóma: A brief grammatical sketch of a conlang." 2016. *Fiat Lingua* 36.

### **Written publications**

*The Conlang Guide: How to create a language*. Under contract with Cambridge University Press.

"Word formation in *HIMYM*." 2016. In Kristy Beers Fägersten (ed.) *Watching TV with a Linguist*. Syracuse University Press, 161-180.

"Quoting the Unspoken: An Analysis of Quotatives in Spoken Discourse." 2010. *Journal of Pragmatics* 42(11). 3147-3160.

"Genre-Controlled Constructions in Written Language Quotatives: A case study of English quotatives from two major genres." 2009. In Roberta Corrigan, Edith A. Moravcsik, Hamid Ouali, and Kathleen Wheatley (eds.) *Typological Studies in Language: Formulaic Language*. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 147-170.

### **Video publication**

With David J. Peterson. 2020. *LangTime Studio*. YouTube.

### **Book Reviews**

Book review of Biber, Douglas and Bethany Gray. *Grammatical Complexity in Academic English*. 2019. Cambridge University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 30.4515.

Book review of Garner, Bryan A. *Garner's Modern English Usage: The authority on grammar, usage, and style* (4th ed.). 2017. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 28.2201.

Book review of Durkin, Philip. *Borrowed Words: A history of loanwords in English*. 2016. Oxford University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 27.2129.

Book review of Bailey, Richard W. *Speaking American: A history of English in the United States*. 2016. Oxford University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 27.2098.

Book review of Moore, Colette. *Quoting Speech in Early English*. 2014. Cambridge University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 26.2393.

Book review of van Gelderen, Elly. *A History of the English Language*. 2014. John Benjamins Publishing Company. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 26.2526.

- Book review of Mugglestone, Lynda (ed.) *The Oxford History of English* (Updated Edition). 2012. Oxford University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 24.2262.
- Book review of Richardson, Kay. *Television Dramatic Dialogue*. 2010. Oxford University Press. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 21.5041.
- Book review of Quaglio, Paulo. *Television Dialogue: The sitcom Friends vs. natural conversation*. 2009. John Benjamins Publishing Company. Review appeared in *LinguistList* 21.239.

### **Unpublished Language Consultant Work**

- Mérorém language*. Eric Clough's *Into Mystery* project, beginning Spring 2013.
- Xyrab language*. Mary Cool's short story, Spring 2013.

### **Invited Speaker**

- "Sentences *au naturel*: Benefits of using natural language data in the classroom." East Texas English Language & Literature Conference (ETELL), at Angelina Community College, October 6, 2018.
- "Authors, genres, and series: Their effects on written English quotatives." Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics, hosted by the Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia (LSUGA), October 24, 2014.

### **Conference Presentations**

- "Creativity and simulations: Using simulated scenarios to increase creative thinking." Pedagogicon Conference at Eastern Kentucky University, May 2016.
- "Prayer or Incantation? A linguistic analysis." With co-author Lindsey Antonini. Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) LXXXI in Myrtle Beach, SC, March 2014.
- "Sociolinguistic attitudes toward Spanish and Guaraní in Paraguay." With co-author Kelsey Nixon (undergraduate student). SCMLA Conference in New Orleans, LA, October 3, 2013.
- "From /p, t, k/ to Potake: Moving from sounds to words." 5th Language Construction Conference in Austin, TX, May 4, 2013.
- "Coaching Linguistics: Using sports psychology to enhance undergraduate linguistics teaching." Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL) LXXX in Spartanburg, SC, April 6, 2013.
- "*Fingerwaggled* and *Don Corleoned*: Quoting verb selection as evidence for formulaic constructions." With co-author Lindsey Antonini (undergraduate student). 5th Annual Formulaic Language Research Network Conference in Tilburg, the Netherlands, March 28-30, 2012.
- "Middle English and translated works." Foreign Influences on Medieval English Conference in Warsaw, Poland, December 2009.
- "Genre-controlled constructions in written language quotatives." 2007 UWM Linguistics Symposium on Formulaic Language, April 2007.

### **Poster Presentations**

- "How accurate is Hollywood? Critical analyses of language portrayal in media." Poster session at Conference on High Impact Practices at Stephen F. Austin State University, April 2014.
- "Leaving Rome Behind: Using the iFontMaker app to create a new writing system." With co-presenters Mark Ervin, Leslie Hill, Kelsey Nixon, Chelsea Sabella, Brody Wedgeworth, and René Williams. Poster session at the 5th Language Construction Conference in Austin, TX, May 4, 2013.
- "Tapping Into Creativity: Using creative pursuits to teach linguistic concepts." Poster session at Conference on High Impact Practices at Stephen F. Austin State University, April 30, 2013.
- "Integrating data analysis and critical thinking skills in the linguistics classroom." Poster session at Conference on High Impact Practices at Stephen F. Austin State University, April 28, 2012.
- "Quoting the unspoken: An analysis of quotations in spoken discourse." Poster session at Bright Ideas Conference at Stephen F. Austin State University, April 2010.
- "A construction grammar approach to analyzing written English quotatives." Poster session at the 5th International Construction Grammar Conference, September 2008.

### **Guest Presentations and Lectures**

Grammar Workshop for writing tutors in the AARC, September 2019.  
Panelist for English Secondary Education Information Session, February 2018.  
Presentation of common grammatical errors and methods for correcting them. Sigma Tau Delta roundtable, April 2017.  
“Linguistic features and social class.” Guest lecture for ENG 481, March 2017.  
“Research in Linguistics.” Guest lecture for ENG 502, November 2016.  
Panelist for Sigma Tau Delta’s Graduate School Panel, October 2016.  
“Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca*.” Guest lecture for ENG 444, September 2016.  
Panelist for Sigma Tau Delta’s Literary Awards Submissions Panel, February 2016.  
Workshop on writing abstracts and presenting at conferences. English Graduate Student Association, September 2014.  
“Effects of genre, author, and series on written language features.” Guest lecture for ENG 438 Forensic Linguistics, September 2014.

### **Teaching and Program Development**

#### Linguistics program initiatives

- Co-coordinator of Linguistics Concentration, 2020-present
- Co-coordinator of Linguistics Minor, 2009-present
- David J. Peterson campus visits and guest lectures, Spring 2015, 2017, and 2019
- Linguistics website, March 2013-May 2018
- Linguistics Tumblr, August 2014-December 2018
- SFA Linguistics Conference, 2013-2014
- SFA Linguistics Club, 2011-2012
- Development of seven new linguistics programs, Fall 2009-Fall 2013
- Development and implementation of Linguistics Minor, Fall 2009

#### Original full-length linguistics textbooks, written for specific courses

- *Grammar in Real Life: #itdepends*, ENG 439 English Grammar, 2015-present
- *Exploring English: Linguistic structures of English*, ENG 344 Structures of English, 2014-present

#### Professional development

- ASL Workshop attendee, Fall 2014
- Coursework in ASL, August 2013-December 2014
- Member of four Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs), 2011-2014

#### Thesis committees

- Member, Rachel Bollinger, M.A. candidate, 2019-present
- Member, Brittany McCreary, M.A. candidate, 2016-2017
- Chair, Renee Williams, M.A. candidate, May 2014-July 2015
- Member, Stina Herrera, M.F.A. candidate, May 2014-December 2014
- Member, Gabrielle Monk, M.F.A. candidate, May 2013-May 2014

### **Service to the University, Department, and Community**

#### Stephen F. Austin State University service

- CTL Faculty Reading Circle (leader), Spring 2021
- Music Prep Advisory Board, 2020-present
- Grievance Panel, September 2017-2020
- Faculty advisor for HerCampus SFA, September 2018-May 2020
- Pre-Law Academy Mock Trial judge, June 2019
- Financial Aid Committee, June 2014-May 2017
- Panel organizer for HerStory Conference, Spring 2017
- High-Impact Practices Specialist (faculty facilitator for FLCs), January 2014-December 2016
- UIL: Spelling & Vocabulary Event Coordinator, 2013-2016

- Mobile Tablet Initiative Committee, August 2014-May 2015
- Google Apps/Office 365 Evaluation Committee, June 2014-May 2015
- Committee for CTL Certifications, August 2014-August 2015
- ODK Awards Selection Committee, Spring 2014

College of Liberal and Applied Arts service

- URC College Committee, September 2019-present
- College Council, September 2017-December 2018
- College Tenure Review Committee, November 2017
- SOAR Committee, Spring 2017
- Cutting-Edge Curriculum Committee, Spring 2013

Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication service

- Committee for Proposals and Modifications to Linguistics Program, August 2019-present
- Committee for Student Recruitment and Retention, August 2019-present

Department of English and Creative Writing service

- Executive Committee, 2009-2012; 2015-2018
- Chair of Lecturer Search Committee, Spring 2018
- Chair of Tenure Review Committee, October 2017
- URC Reader, Spring 2018, Spring 2016
- Chairperson of Tenure Review Committee, Fall 2017
- Scheduling Committee, August 2015-December 2018
- Search Committees, Spring/Summer 2010, 2014-2015
- Reader for Literary Awards, 2010-2014
- English Secondary Education flyer, 2013
- Linguistics brochure, 2013
- Committee on Workload Policy, September 2011-May 2012

Linguistics and academic community service

- Mentor for Walter Johnson High School (Bethesda, MD) student, November 2020-January 2021
- Language Creation Society, Board of Directors, January 2014-December 2018
- *Language Creation Tribune*, Chair of Editorial Committee, January 2014-August 2017
- Advisor for R.L. Paschal High School linguistics student, October 2016-March 2017
- LCC6 Conlang Relay Master, January 2015-May 2015
- Conference session moderator for SCMLA, 2013
- Service as reviewer:
  - Publishers: Routledge (2018), Cambridge University Press (2017), Pearson (2013), Wiley-Blackwell Publishers (2010)
  - Journals: *Journal of Pragmatics* (2018), *Fiat Lingua* (November 2015-2017), *Text and Talk* (2014), *Linguistics in the Netherlands* (2013)
  - Independent publications: SpecGram (2013), *Language Construction Kit* (2012)

Public recognition of work

- Podcast interview with George Corley and David J. Peterson, *Conglangery Podcast*, April 2020
- Interview with Avi Selk, *Washington Post*, for article, May 2019
- Podcast interview with George Corley, *Conglangery Podcast*, April 2019
- Interviews with Ashley Winchester, *New York Times*, for article, November 2015-February 2016

Nacogdoches Community Service

- Piney Woods Youth Orchestra Booster Club, Treasurer, February 2020-present

Updated December 2020