

MICHAEL FORD THOMAS

Curriculum Vitae
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Linguistic fieldwork, typology, and areal linguistics. The relation between rhetoric, discourse and grammar. The role of theory in grammatical description. Language policy and development. Second language acquisition.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder. Dissertation: "A Grammar of Sakun (Sukur)" supervised by Professor Zygmunt Frajzyngier. November, 2013
- M.A. Linguistics University of Colorado at Boulder. May, 2005
- TEFL ELS Language Schools, Santa Monica. February, 1996
- B.A. Philosophy Pennsylvania State University at University Park. May, 1993

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, M. (Under Review). "The Phonology of Sakun (Sukur), areal and typological perspectives".

Thomas, M. (Under Review). "Grammatical convergence among Chadic languages in the Mandaras: External motivations for converging areal features."

Thomas, M. (2013). "Building community participation into the documentation design: Lessons learned in Sakun (Sukur)" In *Applied Language Documentation in sub-Saharan Africa*, Bond, O. and S. McGill (eds.) LDLT v. 11, SOAS, London.

Thomas, M. (2009). "Do formal models constrain language description? The case of agreement morphology." In eds. Austin, P., O. Bond, M. Charette, D. Nathan and P. Sells

Proceedings of Conference on Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory 2, 285-294. SOAS, London.

Thomas, M. and L. Michaelis. (2009). "Aspectual Selectors, Scales and Contextual Operators: An analysis of *by* temporal adjuncts." In eds. Leow, R., H. Campos and D. Lardiere, *Little Words: Their History, Phonology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Acquisition*, 131-141. Georgetown University Press. Washington, D.C.

Thomas, M. (2006) "Bernard Spolsky's *Language Policy*." *Colorado Research In Linguistics*. 19.1

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 "The Grammar of Citations: An Empirical Investigation". Presentation accepted for the Palouse Language and Culture Symposium. University of Idaho. April 14th, 2018.
- 2017 "Boko Haram and languages of the Mandara Mountains: The displacement of the UNESCO Sukur World Heritage Site and disruption of the Mandara linguistic ecology." Presented at the Western Conference on Linguistics. Boise State University. October 20th-22nd, 2017.
- 2011 "Workshop on the ELAN annotation software package." Held during the *2011 Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute*. University of Colorado, Boulder. July 10th and July 16th.
- 2011 "Aspectual asymmetries under negation in Sakun." Presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of African Linguistics. University of Maryland, College Park. July 10th – 12th, 2011.
- 2011 "Building community participation into the documentation design: lessons learned in Sakun (Sukur)" Presented at the Workshop on applied Language Documentation in sub-Saharan Africa. School of Oriental and African Studies, London. May 14th, 2011.
- 2009 "Do formal models constrain language description? The case of agreement morphology." Presented at the 2nd Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory conference. School of Oriental and African Studies, London. November 13 – 14.
- 2009 "Constructions and the grammaticalization patterns of pronouns in central Chadic languages." Presented at the Current Trends on Grammaticalization Research conference. Groningen, Netherlands. October 8 – 9.
- 2009 "Nigerian language policy: Effects of the gap between planning and practice on the UNESCO Sukur Cultural Landscape." Presented at the American Association of Applied Linguistics conference. Denver, Colorado. March 21 - 24.
- 2007 "Interpreting 'by' time adverbials." Presented at the Oxford Postgraduate Linguistics Conference. Oxford, England. September 21 – 22.

- 2007 “Tense, aspect and adjuncts: an analysis of *by* temporal adjuncts” Presented at the Georgetown University Roundtable on Language and Linguistics. Washington, D.C. March 8-11.
- 2007 “What is effective feedback for student writing?” Presented at the 31st CoTESOL conference. Denver, Colorado. November 2-3.
- 2008 CoTESOL. Panel presentation: “How to teach English abroad”
- 2006 CoTESOL. Panel presentation: “How to teach English abroad”

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Research

Hans Rausing Endangered Language Fund Individual Graduate Studentship. University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies. £29,993 (\$49,950). 2010 – 2011.

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. \$11,970. 2009 – 2011.

Fieldwork Support Grant. University of Colorado, Boulder; Department of Linguistics. \$2000. 2008.

Teaching

LIFT Faculty Fellow. Spring 2018 - Fall 2018.

Faculty Fellowship: Contemplative Practices in Higher Education. Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

Provost Best Practices Award for Learning and Teaching with Technology. Nominated in 2013

Graduate School Award for Teaching Excellence. Nominated in 2008.

Delegate for University of Colorado, Boulder at the National Conference on Graduate Student Leadership. Travel and accommodation awarded by Graduate School. 2007.

FIELDWORK

Sakun (Sukur) language. Fieldwork conducted in the Mandara mountains, Madaglai Local Government, Adamawa State, Nigeria, December 2011 – January 2012.

Sakun (Sukur) language. Fieldwork conducted in the Mandara mountains, Madagali Local Government, Adamawa State, Nigeria, November 2010 through March 2011.

Sakun (Sukur) language. Fieldwork conducted in the Mandara mountains, Madagali Local Government, Adamawa State, Nigeria, January through May, 2010.

Sakun (Sukur) language. Pilot project conducted in the Mandara mountains, Madagali Local Government, Adamawa State, Nigeria, May through August, 2008.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Principle Investigator for the “Sakun (Sukur) Language Documentation Project” 2010 – Present.

Research Assistant for the “Arapaho Documentation Project”. 2009.

Research Assistant for the SLHS Cochlear Implant Study. 2005 – 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington State University, Pullman

Mentor for ESL Practicum. Spring 2020.

Honors Thesis Advisor for Alicia May Henderson, "Irony in Online Discourse".

Honors Thesis Advisor for Micah Ramos, "Discourse deixis manipulation through pronominal choice in political journalism"

"Syntax" *Instructor*. Upper division students and graduate students. Spring 2019, Spring 2020.

"Phonology" *Instructor*. Upper division students and graduate students. Fall 2018, Fall 2019.

"College Composition (for Multilingual Writers)" *Instructor*. 25 lower division students. Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020.

"Introduction to Composition for Multilingual Writers" *Instructor*. 20 lower division international students. Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020.

"Communication in Academic Settings" *Instructor*, 20 lower division international students. Fall 2017.

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

“Critical Reading and Writing II” *Instructor*. 25 lower division students. Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014 .

“Business Communication” *Instructor*. 25 lower division students. Fall, 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013.

“Critical Reading and Writing I” *Instructor*. 25 lower division students. Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014 .

Cape Cod Community College

“Business Communication” *Instructor*. 25 lower division students. Fall 2012.

University of Colorado, Boulder

“Introduction to Linguistics”. *Instructor*. 20-180 student lower division undergraduate lecture course. 2 Teaching Assistants with 180 students. Summer 2012; Fall 2008; Summer 2007

“Morphology and Syntax”. *Instructor*. 45 student upper level undergraduate lecture course. 1 grader to assist. Spring 2012; Fall 2011; Fall 2007

“World Language Policies”. *Instructor*. 35 student upper level undergraduate lecture course. Spring 2008; Fall 2005.

“Semantics”. *Instructor*. 35 student upper level undergraduate lecture course. 1 grader to assist. Fall 2006; Summer 2006

“Sound Structures”. *Teaching Assistant*. Spring 2007.

“The Study of Words”. *Teaching Assistant*. Spring 2009.

“Language and Gender”. *Teaching Assistant*. Spring 2006.

“Language and U.S. Society”. *Teaching Assistant*. Fall 2009.

GUEST LECTURES

“*Grammaticalization of Landscapes: Sakun and Manam*” Lecture presented in ‘Language, Thought and Culture’, Fall 2008.

“*Introduction to International Language Policy*” Lecture presented in ‘Language and U.S. Society’, Fall 2007.

“*Language Policy in Multilingual States: Comparing policy in Nigeria and the former Soviet Union.*” Lecture presented in ‘World Language Policies’, Spring 2011.

“*Linguistic Fieldwork in the Mandara Mountains*” Lecture presented in ‘Introduction to Linguistics’, Spring 2009.

“*Linguistic typology and areal linguistics.*” Lecture presented in ‘Introduction to Linguistics’, Fall 2011; Spring 2011.

“*Phonetics and Phonology in the field.*” Lecture presented in ‘Phonetics and Phonology’, Fall 2011.

University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

“*Language Documentation and Development in Sakun (Sukur)*” Invited lecture presented to the Linguistics Department, Spring 2011.

Front Range Community College, Colorado

“Linguistics for ESL Teachers” *Instructor*. 20 upper division students, Fall 2006.

“English as a Second Language”. Instructor for levels 1-8. Spring 2005 through Fall 2006

International ESL teaching experience

South Korea, Brazil, Turkey, Cambodia, Taiwan and China. ESL Instructor from 1996 through 2003 at the University level and at private institutes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE

Faculty Advisor for the Washington State University Linguistics Club, 2017-present.

LIFT Faculty **Fellow**. Spring 2018 - Fall 2018.

Contemplative Practices in Higher Education Faculty **Fellowship**. Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

Editor-in-Chief for Colorado Research In Linguistics (CRIL), 2008-2012.

Associate Editor for Colorado Research In Linguistics (CRIL), 2004-2007.

Delegate for University of Colorado, Boulder at the *National Conference on Graduate Student Leadership*, 2008.

Lead Graduate Teacher for the Department of Linguistics, 2008.

Coordinator of the *Linguistics Department Colloquium Series*, 2004 - 2006

Student Representative for *Search Committee for Associate Professor of Phonology* , 2005.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Linguistic Typology
Linguistics Society of America
WAESOL

REFERENCES

Available upon request.