

# Gretchen Kern

Curriculum Vitae  
Spring, 2024

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<https://grekern.github.io/>

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## Areas of specialization

Phonology, language revitalization, language documentation, philology, morphology, syntax, Irish, Sahaptin (Ičičškiin)

## Professional experience

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| 2023 – present | <b>Owens Valley Career Development Center</b> , Visalia, CA<br>Nüümü Yadoha Language Program<br>Language Manager<br>I oversee a language program of up to 25 employees that teaches seven indigenous languages (and culture) at multiple urban and rural sites across seven counties in central California.                     |
| 2019 – 2022    | <b>Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</b> , Pendleton, OR<br>Language Program, Department of Education<br>Tribal Linguist<br>I helped preserve the three languages of the reservation by documenting language with fluent speakers, creating teaching materials, and improving the quality of the archives. |
| 2015 – 2018    | <b>IPSoft, Inc.</b> , New York, NY<br>Research & Development<br>Corpus Linguist<br>I improved the performance of artificial intelligence language understanding and generation by providing training data in eight languages and advising engineers with linguistic insights.   |

## Education

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| 2010 – 2015 | <b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> , Cambridge, MA<br>Department of Linguistics and Philosophy<br>PhD in Linguistics (specialization in phonology)<br>Dissertation: <i>Rhyming Grammars and Celtic Phonology</i><br>Committee: Donca Steriade (chair), Adam Albright, Edward Flemming |
| 2009 – 2010 | <b>University of Wisconsin-Madison</b> , Madison, WI<br>Department of Linguistics<br>MA in Linguistics<br>Thesis: <i>On Secondary Stress in Old Irish</i><br>Advisor: Marlys Macken   |
| 2007 – 2009 | <b>Aberystwyth University</b> , Aberystwyth, Wales, UK<br>Department of Welsh<br>MA in Irish<br>Thesis: <i>Ogam Inscriptions of Ireland: A relative chronology based on linguistic evidence</i><br>Advisor: Patrick Sims-Williams   |
| 1999 – 2003 | <b>University of Southern California</b> , Los Angeles, CA<br>Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures<br>BA in East Asian Languages and Cultures (specialization in Japanese)   |
| 2002        | <b>Waseda University</b> , Tokyo, Japan<br>Center for International Education<br>Study abroad exchange program, spring semester   |

**Publications**

- In preparation Kern, G. The phonetic basis of early Irish rhyme: An analysis of sonority contours in *Saltair na Rann*.  
 2022 Geary, J. & G. Kern. Word order variation in interrogative sentences in Northwest Sahaptin texts. *Proceedings of WAIL 24*. <https://sites.google.com/view/wailconferenceucsb/proceedings>

**Other manuscripts**

- 2022 Papácu Ímatalam Sínwit  
 A six-chapter textbook for intermediate Umatilla Sahaptin, covering conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, with practice exercises. Written with and for the CTUIR Language Program.
- 2022 Úyit Ímatalam Sínwit  
 A twelve-chapter textbook for beginning Umatilla Sahaptin, covering conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, with practice exercises, glossaries and indices. Written with and for the CTUIR Language Program. Used with UMA101 at Blue Mountain Community College and at Nixyáawi Community High School.
- 2020 Gilbert Minthorn Texts  
 Edited a collection of five historical tales collected by Morris Swadesh from Cayuse/Nez Perce speaker Gilbert Minthorn in 1930. The texts had been translated and glossed by Noel Rude.

**Conference presentations & posters**

- 2022 Geary, J. & G. Kern. *Word order variation in interrogative sentences in Northwest Sahaptin texts*. 24<sup>th</sup> Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL24), UC Santa Barbara.
- 2021 Kern, G. & J. Geary. *Developing teaching materials for the Umatilla Sahaptin language: Balancing insights from linguistic theory with learners' communicative needs*. Poster, 39<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL39). University of Arizona (online).
- 2015 Kern, G. *Syntactically unjustified morphs and other strategies for hiatus resolution in Irish prepositions*. 12<sup>th</sup> Old World Conference in Phonology, Universitat de Barcelona.
- 2014 Kern, G. *The (Dis)use of the syllable in the rhymes of Dafydd ap Gwilym*. 34<sup>th</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
- 2013 Kern, G. *Old Irish Pronouns, Agreement and Disagreement*. 33<sup>rd</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Aspects of Old and Middle Irish Rhyme*. 32<sup>nd</sup> Harvard Celtic Colloquium. Harvard University.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. 7<sup>th</sup> Celtic Linguistics Conference, Université Rennes 2, France.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. Poster, 20<sup>th</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. University of Manchester, England.
- 2010 Kern, G. *On Secondary Stress in Old Irish*. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UCLA.

**Invited talks & workshops**

- 2024 Kern, G. *What can linguistics do for endangered languages?* University of California, Davis.
- 2023 Kern, G. *Sounds and Writing*. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Yokuts, Miwok, and Mono Conference. Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Language Program, Coarsegold, CA.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Rhyme and Meter in Early Irish Verse*. Literary Linguistics Research Group, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

- 2012 Kern, G. *The Phonetic Basis of Early Irish Rhyme*. Indo-European Workshop, Harvard University.
- 2012 Kern, G. *Perceptual Similarity in Sonority Contours: Evidence from Early Irish Rhyming Patterns*. MIT Phonology Circle.

**Grants & awards**

- 2022 - 2025 Administration for Native Americans  
Native Languages Preservation & Maintenance Grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This funds the creation of a three-textbook series, with accompanying video lessons and audio recordings, as well as hiring three language apprentices.
- 2022 Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Living Languages Grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This funded the hiring of a preschool Umatilla immersion teacher for one year, the development of immersion curriculum, and a variety of classroom supplies.
- 2021 Administration for Native Americans  
Non-competitive funding  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This grant funded the professional digitization of the CTUIR’s physical audio recordings and the collection of information about the content of the recordings to enter into the digital archives.
- 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities  
CARES Act grant  
Grantee: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
This grant funded hiring two oral historians and to create professionally recorded video interviews with tribal elders about prior experience with pandemics and natural disasters.
- 2012 Association Francophone de la Communication Parlée  
Conference travel funding.
- 2010 US Department of Education  
Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, through the UW-Madison.  
This funded six weeks of intensive Irish study at Oideas Gael in Donegal, Ireland.
- 2009 Diebold Fellowship in Indo-European Studies  
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute funding  
This covered tuition at the LSA Summer Institute at UC Berkeley.

**Teaching experience**

**Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, OR**

- Fall 2022 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill
- Fall 2021 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill, co-teaching assistant: Jonathan Geary
- Spring 2021 UMA101, Introduction to Umatilla (teaching assistant, course developer)  
Instructor: Fred Hill, co-teaching assistant: Jonathan Geary

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**

- Fall 2013 24.961 (graduate introduction to phonology) (teaching assistant)  
Instructor: Michael Kenstowicz

Fall 2012 | 24.900 (undergraduate introduction to linguistics) (teaching assistant)  
Instructor: David Pesetsky

**TESOL experience**

Fall 2004 | Lycée de l'Elorn. Landerneau, France, through the Teaching Assistant Program in France USA  
English teaching assistant (Assistante d'anglais)

Spring 2003 | University of Southern California Language Academy. Los Angeles, CA  
Classroom assistant

**Courses & workshops**

2022 | University of Chicago Language Center  
Assessment-Driven, Reverse-Designed Language Pedagogy

2021 | Center for Applied Linguistics  
Assessment for Language Instructors: The Basics

2019 | Africa Consultants International, Dakar, Senegal  
40 hours of French and Wolof courses

2019 | Durban Language School, Durban, South Africa  
CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), 120-hour TEFL course

2011 | Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin, Ireland  
Two-week intensive Old and Classical Modern Irish course

2010 | Oideas Gael, Gleann Cholm Cille & Gleann Fhinne, Co. Donegal, Ireland  
Six-week intensive Modern Irish language course

2009 | University of California, Berkeley  
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute

2009 | University of Arizona, Tucson  
Formal Approaches to Celtic Linguistics Mini-course

2008 | Welsh for Adults, Aberystwyth, Wales  
Week-long intensive Welsh course

**Certifications**

2019 | CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

2017 | Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1

**Service**

2021 – 2023 | MIT Alumni Association Educational Council, Oregon & Fresno, CA, chapters.  
Alumni interviewer for undergraduate admissions

2021 | Two Rabbits, Washington, D.C.  
Finance and administrative support for ASTRADHE, Cameroon

2013 | Graduate Women@MIT  
Co-chair, Graduate Orientation Women's Welcome Lunch

2012 – 2013 | MIT Linguistics Department  
Student representative

2010 | UW-Madison Linguistics Department  
Organizing committee, Workshop in General Linguistics 8

**Technology**

Python (nltk, sci-kitlearn), RegEx, Linux, praat

**Languages**

*Native:* English

*Advanced:* Japanese (JLPT N1), French

*Intermediate:* Modern Irish, Haitian Creole, Umatilla Sahaptin

*Novice:* Welsh, Wolof, Nez Perce