

Curriculum Vitae

Grant Muāgututi'a

Assistant Professor of Linguistics
Liberal Studies Department
California State University, San Marcos
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, May 2018
Linguistics
Dissertation: *Recovering Ergativity in Heritage Samoan*

M.A., University of Auckland, June 2010
Linguistics, First Class Honours
Thesis: *The Second Language Acquisition of Samoan*

B.A., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, May 2007
Linguistics, National Honors Society

HS Diploma, Francis W. Parker School, June 2004
Cum Laude Society

TEACHING

Term	Year	Course	# of Students	Other Info
Spring	2025	LING 351: Language Acquisition	42	In-person
		LING 480: Linguistic Field Methods	30	In-person
Fall	2024	LING 321: Introduction to Syntax	27	In-person
Spring	2024	LING 200: English Grammar & Syntax	35	In-person
		LING 300: Linguistics in the Classroom	41	In-person
		LING 480: Linguistic Field Methods	32	In-person
Fall	2023	LING 300: Linguistics in the Classroom	36	In-person
		LING 300: Linguistics in the Classroom	39	In-person

		LING 351: Language Acquisition	34	In-person
Spring	2023	LING 300: Linguistics in the Classroom	42	In-person
		LING 321: Introduction to Syntax	17	New Prep: In-person
		LING 480: Linguistic Field Methods	30	In-person
Fall	2022	LING 200: English Grammar & Syntax	70	In-person
		LING 351: Language Acquisition	40	In-person
Spring	2022	LING 300: Introduction to Linguistics	80	In-person (masked)
		LING 480: Linguistic Field Methods	40	New Prep: In-person (masked)
Fall	2021	LING 200: English Grammar & Syntax	70	In-person (masked)
		LING 351: Language Acquisition	40	New Prep: In-person (masked)
Spring	2021	LING 300: Introduction to Linguistics	82	New Prep; Online (Sync.)
Fall	2020	LING 100: English Grammar & Syntax	70	New Prep; Online (Sync.)

Other Teaching Activities:

Summer 2025 –

Program Director:

- CSUSM Gagana Sāmoa Language & Performing Arts Program
 - Introductory, Intermediate, & Advanced Courses on Samoan Language
 - K-8; 9-Adult

Spring 2025 –

Associate Faculty:

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135/234/235: Pacific Island Dance I/II/III/IV
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Spring Dance Concert – *Moving Pictures*
 - *E Holoholo Kākou* – ‘Let’s Cruise’, May 2025

Fall 2024 –

Associate Faculty:

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135/234/235: Pacific Island Dance I/II/III/IV
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Fall Dance Concert – *Dance Reflections*
 - *Maui Nō Ka ‘Oi*, December 2024

Summer 2024 –*Program Director:*

- CSUSM Gagana Sāmoa Language & Performing Arts Program
 - Introductory & Intermediate Courses on Samoan Language
 - K-8; 9-Adult

Spring 2024 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135/234/235: Pacific Island Dance I/II/III/IV
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Spring Dance Concert – *Dance Break*
 - *Lei Pua* – ‘A Garland of Flowers’, May 2024

Fall 2023 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135/234: Pacific Island Dance I/II/III
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Fall Dance Concert – *Dance Reflections*
 - *Loto Tasi* – ‘One Heart’, Dec 2023

Spring 2023 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135: Pacific Island Dance I/II
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Spring Dance Concert – *Dance Break*
 - *Mana Moana* – ‘Oceanic Movement’, May 2023

Fall 2022 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134/135: Pacific Island Dance I/II
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Fall Dance Concert – *Dance Reflections*
 - *Fealofani* – ‘Journey of Friendship’, Dec 2022

Spring 2022 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134: Pacific Island Dance II
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance (Intermediate)
 - Pacific Island Piece for Spring Dance Concert – *Dance Break*
 - *Tioata* – ‘Reflections of the Pacific’, May 2022

Fall 2021 –*Associate Faculty:*

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134: Pacific Island Dance I
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Fall Dance Concert – *Dance Reflections*

- *Fōlau* – ‘Journey through the Pacific’, Dec 2021

Fall 2021 –

Associate Faculty:

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - DNCE 134: Pacific Island Dance I
 - Introduction to Pacific Island Dance
 - Pacific Island Piece for Fall Dance Concert – *Dance Reflections*
 - *Fōlau* – ‘Journey through the Pacific’, Dec 2021

Spring 2021 –

Guest Lecturer:

- MiraCosta Community College, MANA Media Project, Feb - May 2021
 - Cultural Performing Arts Workshop Series

Director / Choreographer:

- MiraCosta Community College, Dance Department
 - Pacific Island Piece for Spring Dance Concert – *Oxygen for the Soul*
 - *Tama A Sāmoa* – ‘Child of Sāmoa’, Apr 2021

Fall 2020 –

Invited Speaker:

Mira Costa Community College, MANA

- “We Are Oceania!: An Intro to Pacific Studies”, September 2020
- “Languages of the Pacific”, October 2020
- “Musical Traditions of Polynesia”, December 2020

Additional Teaching Experience (2014-2020):

University Instructor:

Univeristy of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Linguistics (Fall 2014 – Spring 2020)

- LING 102: Introduction to Lingusites
- LING 105: Language Endangerment
- LING 150: Language in Hawai‘i and Pacific

Univeristy of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Samoan Studies (Spring 2015 – Fall 2017)

- SAM 201: Intermediate Samoan I
- SAM 202: Intermedieate Samoan II

RESEARCH

Journals:

Mūagututi‘a, Grant & Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Acquiring ergativity in Samoan. Manuscript submitted for publication in *Language Acquisition*.

Mūagututi‘a, Grant. 2018. Recovering Ergativity in Heritage Samoan. PhD Dissertation. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Mūagututi‘a, Grant. 2017. An ergative intervention in heritage Samoan. *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa: Working Papers in Linguistics*, 48(6).

Muāgututi‘a, Grant. 2016. The acquisition of ergativity in Samoan. *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa: Working Papers in Linguistics*, 48(5).

Book Chapter:

- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Theresa Suarez, & Madeline Lee. 2025 (in press). Nurturing the Vā in Community-Campus Partnerships with the Sāmoan Community in Oceanside, CA. In A. Robles, S. Gururaj, K. Bird, S. Moore, & C. Vincent (eds.), *Equitable Community Engagement with Colleges and Universities: Exploring Equity in Community-Campus Relationships*. New York: Routledge.
- Charters, Helen & Grant Muāgututi‘a. 2015. Processing alignments: Semantic, Thematic, and Structural Prominence in Samoan SLA. In K. Baten, A. Buyl, K. Lochtman & M.V. Herreweghe (eds.), *Theoretical and Methodological Developments in Processability Theory*, 21-44. Amsterdam, Netherlands: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Conference Presentations:

- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Theresa Suarez, & Madeline Lee. 2025. Empowering and Sustaining Vā Sā in Community-Campus Partnerships: A neighborhood study of Samoan Community in Oceanside, CA. Paper presented at the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE). Oakland, CA, April 2025.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant. 2022. Acquiring Ergativity: Control before case? – The case of Samoan *tago*. Paper to be presented at the Conference on Oceanic Linguistics. University of French Polynesia, September 2022.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Kamil Deen, & William O’Grady. 2018. Recovering Ergativity in Heritage Samoan. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston University, November 2018.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Kamil Deen, & William O’Grady. 2017. An Ergative Intervention in Heritage Samoan. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston University, November 2017.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Kamil Deen, & William O’Grady. 2016. The Acquisition of Ergativity in Samoan. Paper presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston University, November 2016.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant. 2016. Teaching Samoan through Performing Arts and Technology. Paper presented at the Le Fetūao Samoan Language Center Symposium. University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, August 2016.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, Elisapeta Alaimaleata, & Alice Malepeai-Silbanuz. 2016. Samoan Language Tech Camps: Integrating Language, Music, and Technology. Paper presented at the Administration for Native Americans Grantee Conference. Tunica-Biloxi of Louisiana, June 2016.

Media & Film:

- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, linguist. *Moana 2*. Directed by Dana Ledoux-Miller, David Derrick Jr., & Jason Hand, Walt Disney Studios, 2025.
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, linguist and lead cultural consultant. *Moana Live Action*. Directed by Thomas Kail, Walt Disney Studios, 2026 (forthcoming).
- Muāgututi‘a, Grant, lead cultural consultant. *Voyaging with Moana in Sofia the First*. Directed by Jamie Mitchell, Walt Disney Studios, 2026 (forthcoming).

Muāgututi‘a, Grant, lead cultural consultant. *Moana Live-to-Film*. Directed by Bronson, Walt Disney Studios, 2026 (forthcoming).

Muāgututi‘a, Grant, lead cultural consultant. *EA Sports UFC 6*. Directed by Brian Hayes, Electronic Arts Studios, 2026 (forthcoming).

Invited Talks:

Mana Moana: Samoan Language & Performing Arts, City of Vista, Vista, CA, May 27, 2025.

Gagana Sāmoa: Insight on the Samoan Language, Samoan Solutions, San Francisco, CA, May 21, 2025.

Gagana Sāmoa Language & Performing Arts, San Diego State University Asian Pacific Island Desi American Student Center, San Diego, CA, May 7, 2025.

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: Language & Performing Arts, ‘Umeke: Preserving Culture & Traditions of Hawai‘i, MiraCosta College, Oceanside, CA, April 19, 2025.

American Indian College Fund: Moana 2 Cultural Insights, Walt Disney Studios, Virtual, March 17, 2025.

Wayfinding: Language & Identity in the Pacific, CSUSM APIDA Wayinders, San Marcos, CA, February 12, 2025.

Sparking Dialogue: Moana 2 Cultural Trust, CSUSM, San Marcos, CA, December 5, 2024.

Lessons in Developing Samoan Language Curriculum, Portland State University, Portland, OR, November 5, 2024.

Gagana Sāmoa Language & Performing Arts, Samoan Pacific Development Corporation, Medford, OR, October 6, 2024.

CSUSM Pacific Islander Symposium: Empowering Servant Leadership in Education – Language, Arts & Culture, San Marcos, CA, September 3, 2024

Grand Talanoa: Connecting Pasifika Scholars, MiraCosta Community College, Oceanside, CA, July 3, 2024

FAIVA: We Are Ocean, VASA Conference – Talanoa Series, City College of San Francisco, April 19, 2024.

Mana Moana – Empowering Pasifika Through Language & Performing Arts, Keynote for Pacific Islander Association Annual Conference, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, November 5, 2023.

Faiva o Sāmoa: An Evening with FAIVA, CSUSM Arts & Lectures, San Marcos, CA, October 16, 2023.

Nuevo Pacifico: The New Pacific, Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, CA, August 18, 2023.

Faiva o Sāmoa: Crafts of Samoa, Polynesian Heritage Awards, San Francisco, CA, May 6, 2023.

Fafaga i ‘Upu: Drawing on Linguistic Research to Inform Language Pedagogy, Ka Haka‘ula o Ke‘elikolani Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Hawai‘i, March 14, 2023.

Revitalizing Traditional Samoan Music, Tamāli‘i Productions, Phoenix, AZ, February 18, 2023.

Preserving Language Through Performing Arts, Pacific Island Ethnic Museum, Long Beach, CA, December 3, 2022.

SERVICE

Coordinator, CSUSM Liberal Studies Department Assessment, Fall 2022-present.

Member, CSUSM APIDA Steering Committee, Fall 2023-present.

Member, Oceanside Samoan Cultural Committee, Spring 2023-present.

Member, CSUSM Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Equity Action Team, Fall 2022-present.

Chair, Pacific Islander Festival Scholarship Committee, Spring 2024.

Member, CSUSM CHABSS CIDE Committee, Fall 2023.

Member, CSU Middle Leadership Academy, Fall 2022-Spring 2023.

Reviewer, Boston University Conference on Language Development, Fall 2022.

Reviewer, International Conference on Language Conservation and Documentation (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa), Fall 2022.

Member, Liberal Studies Department Budget Committee, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Reviewer, Linguistics Program Major (P-Form), Fall 2020.

Course Development, LING 321: Intro to Syntax (Syllabus and C-Form), Fall 2020.

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

Asian Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program 2025 - 2030
California State University

- \$280,000 every year for 5 years
- Provide opportunities for deep, integrative, and pervasive culturally responsive and community-engaged learning experiences for APIDA students throughout the higher education pipeline and beyond

National Science Foundation 2017 - 2018
NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

- BCS#1729915 (\$12,000)
- Data collection in American Sāmoa, California, and Hawai‘i for study of acquisition of recovering ergativity in heritage Samoan

Boston University 2016 - 2017
Travel Award

- Boston University Conference on Language Development 2016 (\$300)
- Boston University Conference on Language Development 2017 (\$300)

Bilinski Educational Foundation 2015 - 2016
Pre-Dissertation Research Award

- Data collection in Sāmoa - L1 acquisition of ergativity in Samoan 2015 (\$5,000)
- Data collection in California - ergativity in heritage Samoan 2016 (\$5,000)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Walt Disney Studios

2023 - present

Linguist & Cultural Consultant

- Moana 2 (Animated Film) –
 - Sourcing of character and place names
 - Dialect coach for pronunciation of Polynesian languages
 - Review of lyrical documentation and presentation
 - Provide general cultural insight for film overall
- Moana (Live Action) –
 - Lead on-set cultural consultant for filming
 - Dialect coach for pronunciation of Polynesian languages
 - Lyric composition and editorial review
- Moana (Disney Jr Series) –
 - Review of lyrical documentation and presentation
 - Provide cultural insight for series overall
- Moana Theater Production (Disney Concert) –
 - Recruiting of and communication with musicians for Polynesian ensemble
 - Language instruction for pronunciation of Polynesian languages
 - Review of lyrical documentation and presentation

MiraCosta Community College

2021 - present

Associate Faculty - Dance

- Pacific Island Dance —
 - Instruction of course introducing styles of Pacific Island dance (including Sāmoa, Hawai‘i, Aotearoa, and Tonga): DNCE 134, 135, 234, & 235.
 - Design curriculum, choreography, costumes, and course materials.
 - Direct public performances and concert pieces.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2018 - 2020

Instructor (I2) - Linguistics

- Unit Mastery Program Coordinator —
 - Instruct linguistic courses: LING102 (Intro to Linguistics), LING105 (Language Endangerment), LING150 (Language in Hawai‘i and the Pacific)
 - Design curriculum and course materials.
 - Oversee and coordinate graduate student instructors.

Paradise Cove Lū‘au

2017 - 2020

Musician, Choreographer, Cultural Consultant

- Design and choreography of culturally authentic presentations.
- Training of dancers, singers, and performers in Polynesian performing arts.
- Providing cultural music and performance.

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2014 - 2018

Graduate Assistant, PhD (Linguistics)

- Lecturer —
 - Linguistics: LING102 (Intro to Linguistics), LING105 (Language Endangerment), LING150 (Language in Hawai‘i and the Pacific)
 - Samoan: Intermediate Samoan Language — SAM201, SAM202

Le Fetūao Samoan Language Learning Center

2015 - 2017

Performing Arts Director

- Facilitate the acquisition of the Samoan language through cultural songs and dances.
- Recording, editing, and production of Samoan song and dance materials.
- Conversion of lesson plans and student handouts as curriculum development.

Oceanside Unified School District, Oceanside, CA

2011 – 2014

Polynesian Outreach Program Coordinator

- Facilitate youth, parent, and family outreach program for the Polynesian community.
- Provide academic and motivational mentoring at both the high school and middle school levels, fostering cross-cultural skills.
- Serve as liaison between the Polynesian community and the Oceanside Unified School District, teachers, and staff.

Oceanside & El Camino High School, Oceanside, CA

2010 – 2014

Volleyball Coach

- Run/manage practices, tournaments, and games for Freshman girls’ and JV boys’ volleyball teams.

San Diego Volleyball Club, Rancho Bernardo, CA

2010 – 2011

Volleyball Coach

- Run/manage practices and tournaments for high school aged volleyball team.

University of Auckland, New Zealand

2008 – 2010

Tutor/Research Assistant/Transcriber

- Provided academic support for Polynesian undergraduate students in the form of study groups, academic retreats, lectures, and one-on-one tutoring sessions.
- Worked in both the Pacific Studies and Linguistic Departments.
- Carried out research on issues of Polynesian immigration to New Zealand.
- Analyzed numerous newspaper archives and government reports.
- Transcribed and translated interviews in both English and Samoan on academic achievement of Polynesian university students.

Fale Pasifika, Centre for Pacific Studies, Auckland, New Zealand

2008 – 2009

Fale Crew

- Manager and overseer of diverse cultural events.
- Consultant of cultural protocol.
- Facility and equipment management.

Outreach College, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2005 – 2007

Interchanger

- Taught English as a second language to foreign exchange students.
- Organized and facilitated study groups and tutoring sessions
- Served as cultural consultant to ease students' transition into new environment.