

Michelle Kamigaki-Baron

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Education

- 2020- *present* Doctor of Philosophy
Linguistics, University of British Columbia
Supervisor: Dr. [Molly Babel](#)
All but dissertation (ABD); Expected graduation: June 2026
- 2018 - 2020 Master of Arts
Linguistics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Advisor: Dr. [Katie Drager](#)
- 2011 - 2014 Bachelor of Arts
Biological Sciences (Genetics), University of Southern California
Political Science
Advisor: Dr. Simon Gayther
Thesis: Investigated the function of ovarian cancer risk-associated SNPs located in the 3' and 5' UTRs of protein-coding genes

Current employment

Sessional Instructor | Simon Fraser University
LING 330: Phonetics (Spring 2026 – Present)
LING 190: Science of Speech (Fall 2025)

Research Assistant | University of British Columbia
Supervisor: Dr. Molly Babel (Fall 2020 – present)

Primary Investigator | University of British Columbia
Secwepemctsin Structure and Sound group at UBC (2023 – present)

Relevant previous employment

Teaching Assistant | University of British Columbia

LING 100: Introduction to Language and Linguistics – Dr. Eva Csipak (Fall 2025)

LING 101: Languages of the World – Dr. Strang Burton (Summer 2025)

LING 209: Clinical Topics of Speech Sciences – Dr. Molly Babel (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

LING 313: Introduction to Phonetics & Speech Science – Dr. Molly Babel (Fall 2023)

LING 313: Introduction to Phonetics & Speech Science – Dr. Amanda Cardoso (Fall 2022)

LING 313: Introduction to Phonetics & Speech Science – Dr. Jahurul Islam (Spring 2022)

LING 200: Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology – Dr. Anne-Michelle Tessier (Fall 2021)

Teaching Assistant | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

LING 102: Introduction to the Study of Language – Dr. Kamil Deen (Spring 2020)

LING 150: Language in Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific – Dr. Grant Muagututia (Fall 2019)

LING 105: Language Endangerment, Globalization, and Indigenous Peoples – Dr. Grant Muagututia (Fall 2019)

LING 102: Introduction to the Study of Language – Dr. Grant Muagututia (Fall 2019)

Phonetics Laboratory Assistant | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Spring 2018 – Spring 2020)

English Teacher | Education First (Guangzhou, China) March 2016 – March 2018

Research Assistant | USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (Los Angeles, CA) Sep 2013 – Sep 2015

Volunteer work

Co-chair, Community Outreach Committee – Green College, University of British Columbia (2024 – present)

Co-chair and Moderator, Members’ Series – Green College, University of British Columbia (2022 – 2024)

EDI PhD Representative – Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia (2023 – 2024)

Tutoring – Department of Linguistics, University of British Columbia (2021 – 2023)

Linguistics Society of Mānoa – Fundraising Chair University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (2019 – 2020)

Linguistics Society of Mānoa – Secretary University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (2019 – 2020)

English Teacher - Department of Education, National Pingtung University (2010)

Published works

Grams, J., Kamigaki-Baron, M., Drager, K. (in press). Pidgin and English in Hawai‘i. In R. Hickey and K. Burridge. *New Cambridge History of the English Language Volume VI: English in Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Pacific*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Babel, M., Kamigaki-Baron, M., Soo, R. (2024). Bilingual speech and exemplar theory. In M. Amengual *The Cambridge Handbook of Bilingual Phonetics and Phonology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kamigaki-Baron, M. (2021). Acoustic Description of Secwepemctsin Vowels. *The 56th Annual International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages (ICSNL56)* [paper]

Nastevski, A.L., Yu, B., Liu, S., Kamigaki-Baron, M., De Boer, G., Gick, B. (2021). How do masks affect the way we speak? *Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA)*. [paper]

Lo, R., Wang, M., Kamigaki-Baron, M., Luntzlara, N., Sóskuthy, M. (2018) Vowels are "stretchier" than consonants: A cross-linguistic corpus study of the segmental implementation of articulation rate. LabPhon18. [paper]

Public engagement

University of California Berkeley: Do Pidgin speakers have an ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i advantage? Evidence of gradient ambient learning across listeners of different language backgrounds – May 1, 2026

University of Manitoba: Do Pidgin speakers have an ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i advantage? Evidence of gradient ambient learning across listeners of different language backgrounds – Mar 27, 2026

Armchair Linguist (Youtube Channel): [The Language\(s\) of the Aloha State](#) – Mar 15, 2026

UBC Speech Sciences Panel: Parallels between Indigenous languages and creoles: what can we learn from the past and apply to the future? November 27, 2024

Hawai‘i Public Radio (NPR): [Linguist explores if Pidgin speakers have an advantage in learning Hawaiian](#) – March 28, 2024

Swarthmore University: Documenting Creoles and Indigenous Languages – April 8, 2024

University of Victoria: Investigating the Psycholinguistic Connections between Pidgin and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i – March 11, 2024

Moana Nui Podcast: [The Value of Pidgin](#) – February 1, 2024

Moana Nui Podcast: [Let's Talk About "Paradise"](#) – December 5, 2023

Green College UBC: [Learning a New Language by Utilizing Your First Language](#) – November 20, 2023

UBC Colloquium Series: Understanding the Psycholinguistic Connections between Pidgin and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i – April 12, 2023

Fieldnotes Podcast: [On Pidgin and Secwepemctsin Research](#) – January 31, 2023

Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo: Community Presentation: Understanding the Psycholinguistic Connections between Pidgin and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i – February 22, 2023

Green College UBC: [Language as Colonialism](#) – October 1, 2022

Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc: Understanding Stress and Schwa in Secwepemctsin – September 11, 2022

Conference talks

Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Committee Conference, Plenary Speaker: *Evidence of Ambient Learning of an Indigenous Language in the Pacific with Applications to the First Nations Context in Canada* — February 27-28th, 2026

LinguisticsNEW 2025, UBC: *Evidence of Ambient Learning of an Indigenous Language in the Pacific with Applications to the First Nations Context in Canada* — May 16, 2025

University of Saskatchewan, Bilingualism and Multilingualism (BAM II): *Evidence of Ambient Learning of an Indigenous Language in the Pacific with Applications to the First Nations Context in Canada* — May 10, 2025

International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC), University of Hawai'i Mānoa: *Access to 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Education for Kānaka Maoli Living in the Diaspora* — March 9, 2025

International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC), University of Hawai'i Mānoa: *Proto-lexical Advantage for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Acquisition for Pidgin Speakers in Hawai'i and in the Diaspora* — March 8, 2025

New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWA 52), Miami Beach: *Exploring the Social and Linguistic Connections between Pidgin and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i* — November 8, 2024

Pacific (Re)Orientations 2023-4 Conference, UBC Vancouver: — April 15–16, 2024

Bilingualism and Multilingualism Conference, UBC Okanagan: *Understanding Stress and Schwa in Secwepemctsin* — May 14, 2023

56th Annual International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages (Virtual): *Acoustic Description of Secwepemctsin Vowels* — August 21, 2021

Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA, Virtual): *How Do Masks Affect the Way We Speak?* — June 4, 2021

Language & technical skills

Language: English (native), Pidgin (heritage), Mandarin (advanced), Farsi (advanced), 'ōlelo Hawai'i (beginner), Secwepemctsin (basic, fieldwork), Anishinaabemowin (basic, fieldwork)

Computer: Python, R, MatLab, Praat Scripting

Software: ELAN, Praat, Audacity, OpenFace, Eye-tracking software, PsychoPy, E-Prime, Gorilla, Experiment Builder

Relevant award & grants

Most Impactful Paper Award – International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (2025)

Public Scholars Initiative Recipient – University of British Columbia (2023–2025)

Dean of Arts Graduate Student Research Award – University of British Columbia (2023)

Ian McMillian/Māhealani Dudoit Arts Residency (2020)

Four-Year Doctoral Fellowship – University of British Columbia (2020–2024)

International Tuition Award – University of British Columbia (2020–present)

President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award – University of British Columbia (2020–present)

JRF Group Grant, Primary Investigator – University of British Columbia (2023–present)