

## Rodrigo Ranero

Department of Linguistics  
University of Maryland, College Park

1401 Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20782  
United States of America

E-mail: [rranero@umd.edu](mailto:rranero@umd.edu)  
URL: [rodrigoranero.com](http://rodrigoranero.com)

## Education

- 2016 — PhD in Linguistics  
University of Maryland, College Park  
Advisors: Maria Polinsky & Omer Preminger  
*Flagship Fellow*
- 2015 MPhil, *with distinction*, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics  
University of Cambridge  
*Pomona – Downing Scholar*
- 2014 BA, *magna cum laude*, Linguistics and Cognitive Science  
Pomona College
- 2016, 2017 University of Maryland Summer Field School  
1-month intensive Kaqchikel immersion program in Guatemala

## Research Interests

BROAD morphosyntax, language revitalization, language acquisition, phonology  
NARROW ellipsis, syntactic ergativity, optionality, linearization, harmony processes  
LANGUAGES Kaqchikel, Tz’utujil, K’iche’, Kuria, Luganda, Maay, Xinka, Spanish

## Publications

### REFEREED ARTICLES

- In preparation **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Voice mismatches in Kaqchikel sluicing: Consequences for syntactic parallelism”. To be submitted to *Language*.
- Under review Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement as successful/failed AGREE: Evidence from Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan)”. *Linguistic Variation* [[link](#)]
- Under review **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “The eventive core is not special in ellipsis: A reply to Rudin (2019)”. *Linguistic Inquiry* [[link](#)]
- To appear Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Chain Reduction via Substitution: Evidence from Mayan”. *Glossa*. [[link](#)]
- To appear Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan) is syntactic”. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft (Journal of the Linguistic Society of Germany)*. Special proceedings of DGfS

- Workshop “Who cares? Contrast and Opposition in ‘Free’ Phenomena”, edited by A. Pankau and V. Struckmeier. De Gruyter: Mouton. [\[link\]](#)
- 2019 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Deriving an Object Dislocation Asymmetry in Luganda”. In *Theory and Description in African Linguistics: Selected Proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, edited by E. Clem, P. Jenks, and H. Sande, 595-622. Berlin: Lang. Sci. Press. [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.3367189](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3367189)
- 2018 Landman, Meredith & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Focus Marking in Kuria”. In *African linguistics on the prairie: Selected papers from the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, edited by J. Kandybowicz, T. Major, H. Torrence, and P. Duncan, 393-412. Berlin: Language Science Press. [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1251754](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1251754).
- 2015 Diercks, Michael, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Mary Paster. “Evidence for a Clitic Analysis of Object Markers in Kuria”. In *Selected Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics*, edited by R. Kramer, E. Zsiga, and O. Boyer, 52-70. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. [\[link\]](#)

PROCEEDINGS PAPERS (REFEREED ABSTRACT); \*WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT (UNDERLINED)

- To appear \* Fried, Marisa, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Agreement in K’iche’ Mayan: Reflections on Microvariation and Acquisition”. In *Proceedings of Penn Linguistics Colloquium 44*. [\[link\]](#)
- To appear **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Voice mismatches in Kaqchikel (Mayan) sluicing. In *Proceedings of WSCLA 24*, edited by D. Reisinger. Vancouver, BC: UBCWPL. [\[link\]](#)
- 2017 Douglas, Jamie, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Michelle Sheehan. “Two Types of Syntactic Ergativity in Mayan”. In *Proceedings of GLOW in Asia XI: Volume 2*, edited by M. Y. Erlewine, 41-56. Cambridge, MA: MIT Working Papers in Linguistics. [\[link\]](#)

DICTIONARIES, TEXTBOOKS AND DOCUMENTATION FOR MINORITY LANGUAGES

- 2018 Estrada, Yolanda, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Filiberto Patal Majzul. “Kaqchikel ritual language: Four ceremonies by the Waqxaqi’ B’atz’ collective”. Video recordings and transcriptions (10 hours; archived by the Firebird Foundation).
- 2014 “Talking Dictionaries of Guatemala” (co-author of 22 online dictionaries) [\[link\]](#)
- 2013 **Ranero, Rodrigo** & COPXIG. “Alyamalh Xinka - Wirimalh Xinka—Módulo II: Morfología” (“Let’s teach and speak Xinka—Module II: Morphology”). Guatemala: Editorial Cholsamaj. 124 pp.
- 2012 **Ranero, Rodrigo** & COPXIG. “Alyamalh Xinka - Wirimalh Xinka—Módulo I: Guía de Ortografía y Pronunciación” (“Let’s teach and speak Xinka—Module I: Orthography and Pronunciation”). Guatemala: Editorial Cholsamaj. 52pp.

REVIEWS AND GRAMMATICAL SKETCHES

- 2018 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Review of Eguren, Luis, Olga Fernández-Soriano, and Amaya Mendikoetxea eds. (2016) Rethinking Parameters”. *Linguistic Variation* 18:1, 197-204.
- 2015 Paster, Mary & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “CASL Introductory Sketches for African Languages: Maay”. Technical Report 2.9B, DO050: University of Maryland-CASL.
- 2013 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Review of Haider, Hubert (2012) Symmetry Breaking in Syntax”. *California Linguistic Notes*. Volume XXXVIII, No.1 Spring 2013

## Awards and Honors

EXTERNAL; \*WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT (UNDERLINED)

- 2020 [Cosmos Club Foundation Scholarship](#)
- 2020 \* [Jacobs Research Funds](#) group grant [with P. Lyskawa & M. Fried]
- 2019 [Jacobs Research Funds](#) group grant [with O. Preminger, P. Lyskawa & C. Baron]
- 2018 [Jacobs Research Funds](#) group grant [with T. Levin & P. Lyskawa]
- 2018 [Cosmos Club Foundation Scholarship](#)
- 2017 [Firebird Foundation Fellowship](#) [with Y. Estrada]
- 2013 [Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship](#)
- 2013 [Davis Projects for Peace Grant](#)

INTERNAL

- 2016 — 2021 [UMD Flagship Fellowship](#) (recruitment award)
- 2019 Arts and Humanities (ARHU) Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2019 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award
- 2016 Arts and Humanities (ARHU) Graduate Student Travel Award
- 2016 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Award
- 2016 [Pomona College Sherwood Heiser Fellowship](#)
- 2014 — 2015 [Pomona College Downing Scholarship](#)
- 2014 Glass Linguistics Prize
- 2014 Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma of California
- 2013 [Pomona College Summer Undergraduate Research Project \(SURP\) Grant](#)
- 2012 [Pomona College Summer Undergraduate Research Project \(SURP\) Grant](#)

## Presentations

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Linguistic Links of Xinka: Importance for the Strengthening of Identity”. Online conference organized by the Guatemalan *Presidential Commission Against Discrimination and Racism (CODISRA)*.
- 2016 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “La Lingüística Generativa y la Evolución del Lenguaje”. Universidad San Carlos; Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2016 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Fundamentos de la Lingüística: Adquisición, Variación y Evolución del Lenguaje”. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala; Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2013 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Retos del Análisis Estructural del Idioma Xinka”. X Congreso de Estudios Mayas. Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2013 Paster, Mary & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “The Reclamation of Rumsen”. Indigenous Languages Symposium, Pomona College.
- 2013 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “The Reclamation of Xinka”. Indigenous Languages Symposium, Pomona College.

REFEREED TALKS

- Upcoming Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Vowel Harmony in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan)”. Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting.

- Upcoming Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Sibilant Harmony in Santiago Tz’utujil”. Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting.
- 2020 Baron, Christopher, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Narcissistic allomorphy in Santiago Tz’utujil”. Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA), New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Truncamiento en kaqchikel: consecuencias para la identidad en la elipsis”. IX Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA). UT Austin.
- 2019 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Voice Mismatches in Kaqchikel (Mayan) Sluicing”. Workshop on the Structure and Constituency of the Languages of the Americas (WSCLA) 24. University of Maryland.
- 2019 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan) is syntactic”. Contrasts and Oppositions in ‘Free’ Linguistic Phenomena—Workshop at DGfS 2019, Bremen, Germany.
- 2018 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Derivando la Concordancia Opcional en los Idiomas Mayas de Oriente”. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 5, Antigua Guatemala.
- 2018 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Microvariation in Eastern Mayan number agreement”. Cambridge Comparative Syntax (CamCoS) 7, University of Cambridge.
- 2017 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Restrictions on Adjunct Extraction: Microvariation in Mayan”. Cambridge Comparative Syntax (CamCoS) 6, University of Cambridge.
- 2017 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Adjunct Extraction: A View from Mayan”. Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLS) 43, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2017 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Adjunct Extraction in Kaqchikel and Tz’utujil”. Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA), Austin, TX.
- 2016 Douglas, Jamie, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Michelle Sheehan. “Derivando la Ergatividad Sintáctica en los Idiomas Mayas”. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 4, Universidad de Oriente, México.
- 2016 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “La Extracción de Adjuntos en Kaqchikel y Tz’utujil”. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) 4, Universidad de Oriente, México.
- 2016 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “The syntax of object dislocation in Luganda”. 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), University of California, Berkeley.
- 2014 Landman, Meredith & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “On focus marking in Kuria”. 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), University of Kansas.
- 2013 Diercks, Michael, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Rebekah Cramerus. “On object marking in Kikuria”. 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), Georgetown University.

REFEREED POSTERS; \*WITH UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT (UNDERLINED)

- 2020 \* Fried, Marisa, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Agreement in K’iche’ (Mayan): Reflections on Microvariation”. Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC) 44.

- 2019 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “A Mayan Diagnostic for the Unergative vs. Unaccusative Distinction”. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 42*, University of Oslo.
- 2018 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan): The effects of animacy and grammatical function”. *Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting*, Salt Lake City.
- 2017 Douglas, Jamie, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Michelle Sheehan. “Two Kinds of Syntactic Ergativity in Mayan”. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) Asia XI*, National University of Singapore.

#### OTHER

- 2020 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Revisiting Gender Mismatches in Ellipsis”. S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2020 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “No movement out of negation? A Kaqchikel (Mayan) puzzle.” S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2019 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan) is syntactic”. S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2019 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “The eventive core is *not* special in ellipsis”. ECO-5, University of Maryland.
- 2018 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Voice mismatches in sluicing — a Mayan perspective”. S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2018 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Opcionalidad en la Conjugación Verbal del Tz’utujil de Santiago”. *Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Altiplano*.
- 2018 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “No Optionality in Syntax — A View from Mayan Number Agreement”. S-Lab, University of Maryland.
- 2018 Douglas, Jamie, **Rodrigo Ranero** & Michelle Sheehan. “How A-movement can lead to extraction restrictions”. *Asymmetries 2018, DGfS workshop at Stuttgart University*. Michelle Sheehan (invited speaker) presenting joint work.
- 2017 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Thinking like a fieldworker: number agreement in Tz’utujil Mayan”. *Language Science Lunch Talks (LSLT)*, University of Maryland.
- 2016 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Adjunct extraction: a view from Mayan”. *Language Science Lunch Talks (LSLT)*, University of Maryland.
- 2014 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “The Reclamation of Xinka”. 26th Annual SURP Conference, Pomona College.
- 2013 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Returning from the Edge: The Revitalization of Xinka”. 25th Annual SURP Conference, Pomona College.

## Teaching

### STUDENT MENTORSHIP

- 2018 — Co-mentor (with Paulina Lyskawa) Marisa Fried, an undergraduate, NSF-funded RA. Duties include meeting weekly with student, preparing her for research trips in Guatemala, advising her during research trips, and co-writing a publication.
- 2019 Mentored seven students (3 graduate / 4 undergraduate) during four-week summer research program on K’iche’ in El Novillero, through UMD’s Guatemala Field

Station. Duties included teaching elicitation methodology, supervising fieldwork, advising projects, and managing logistics.

2019 — 2020 Mentor Daniel Coyne, an undergraduate, NSF-funded RA. Duties include meeting weekly with student and supervising his work on a project related to the identity condition on ellipsis.

#### INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Fall 2019 LING 419B: The Syntax of Silence  
Duties: independently design and teach discussion-based seminar on the syntax of ellipsis.

#### TEACHING ASSISTANT

Spring 2020 LING 330: Historical Linguistics  
Instructor: Margaret Antonisse  
Duties: occasional lecturing, grading, weekly office hours.

Fall 2019 SPAN 425: Hispanic Linguistics II  
Instructor: Juan Uriagereka  
Duties: grading, meeting with students by appointment.

Fall 2018 LING 321: Phonology I, UMD  
Instructor: Margaret Antonisse  
Duties: occasional lecturing, grading, weekly office hours.

Spring 2018 LING 311: Syntax I, UMD  
Instructor: Tonia Bleam  
Duties: grading, weekly office hours.

Fall 2017 LING 200: Introductory Linguistics, UMD  
Instructor: Margaret Antonisse  
Duties: leading discussion session, grading, weekly office hours.

Spring 2014 LGCS 105: Syntax, Pomona College  
Instructor: Meredith Landman  
Duties: grading, weekly office hours.

Fall 2013 LGCS 010: Introduction to Linguistics, Pomona College  
Instructor: Meredith Landman  
Duties: grading, weekly office hours.

Spring 2013 LGCS 010: Introduction to Linguistics, Pomona College  
Instructor: Meredith Landman  
Duties: grading, weekly office hours

Fall 2012 LGCS 010: Introduction to Linguistics, Pomona College  
Instructor: Meredith Landman  
Duties: grading, weekly office hours.

## Research

#### FIELDWORK

2016 — Work with Tz'utujil, Kaqchikel, and K'iche' language consultants in Santiago Atitlán, Patzún, Tecpán, Sumpango, and El Novillero (Guatemala), through UMD's Guatemala Field Station [[link](#)].

- 2017 — 2018 Language documentation project with Kaqchikel spiritual guides in Sumpango, Guatemala. Duties included supervising the recording of religious ceremonies, supervising editing and transcription of recordings, and leading workshops. In collaboration with *Waqxaqi' B'atz'* and Professor Yolanda Estrada (USAC).
- 2014 — 2015 Work with Luganda language consultant in Cambridge, UK.
- 2013 — 2014 Work with Maay language consultants in San Diego, CA.
- 2012 — 2015 Language reclamation project with the Xinka community in Chiquimulilla, Guatemala. Duties included analyzing material on Xinka, writing textbooks, leading teacher trainings, and establishing a partnership with the government. In collaboration with the *Consejo del Pueblo Xinka de Guatemala* (COPXIG).
- 2012 — 2014 Work with Kuria language consultant in Claremont, CA.

#### ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2020 For Howard Lasnik. Duties included revising handouts and manuscripts.
- 2019 For Howard Lasnik. Duties included revising handouts for colloquium talks and compiling the bibliography and index for an upcoming book.
- 2012 — 2013 For Mary Paster. Assist members of the Rumsen tribe in establishing a language reclamation project. Duties included compiling and analyzing material on the Rumsen language and teaching weekly language classes at the tribal office.

## Service

- 2019 — Journal reviewing: *Diachronica* (1), *Linguistic Inquiry* (1), *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (1)
- 2018 — 2019 Member, WSCLA 24 committee. UMD Linguistics Department
- 2017 — 2018 Co-chair, colloquium committee. UMD Linguistics Department
- 2017 — 2018 Chair, Mayfest Workshop (*Nayfest*) committee. UMD Linguistics Department
- 2017 Member, Language Science Day committee. UMD Language Science Center
- 2016 — 2018 Member, Research Committee. UMD Language Science Center
- 2014 Workshop facilitator. [Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages](#) and Academy of Mayan Languages of Guatemala (ALMG)

## Language Proficiency

Spanish (*native*)

English (*fluent*)

Italian (*advanced*)

French, Kaqchikel, German, Mandarin (*intermediate*)

Tz'utujil, Kaqchikel, K'iche', Luganda, Maay, Kuria (*elicitation*)

Xinka, Rumsen (*research knowledge*)

## References

**Professor Maria Polinsky**

Linguistics Department, UMD

polinsky@umd.edu

**Associate Professor Omer Preminger**

Linguistics Department, UMD  
omerp@umd.edu

**Assistant Professor Pedro Mateo Pedro**

Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto  
pedro.mateo@utoronto.ca

**Distinguished University Professor Howard Lasnik**

Linguistics Department, UMD  
lasnik@umd.edu