

## Rodrigo Ranero

American Indian Studies Center  
University of California, Los Angeles  
3215 Campbell Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90095

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

## Employment

2021 - [Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow](#)  
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)  
American Indian Studies Center  
*Mentor: Harold Torrence* (Dept. of Linguistics)

## Education

2016 - 2021 PhD in Linguistics  
University of Maryland, College Park  
*Dissertation: "Identity Conditions on Ellipsis"*  
*Advisers: 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

## Research Interests

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

## Publications

### REFEREED ARTICLES

In preparation Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. "True progressive harmony exists".  
In preparation **Ranero, Rodrigo**. "Voice mismatches in Kaqchikel Sluicing: Consequences for the Identity Condition on Ellipsis".  
In preparation **Ranero, Rodrigo**. "The eventive core is not special in ellipsis".  
2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. "Optional agreement as successful/failed AGREE: Evidence from Santiago Tz'utujil (Mayan)". *Linguistic Variation*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1075/lv.20013.lys>

- 2021 Mendes, Gesoel & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Chain Reduction via Substitution: Evidence from Mayan”. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 6(1): 10. 1–31. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1087>
- 2020 Levin, Theodore, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Optional agreement in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan) is syntactic”. *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*. Volume 39, Issue 3. 329-355. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/zfs-2020-2018>.
- 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 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Voice mismatches in Kaqchikel (Mayan) sluicing. In *Proceedings of WSCLA 24*, edited by D. Reisinger. Vancouver, BC: UBCWPL. [[link](#)]
- 2021 \* Fried, Marisa, Paulina Lyskawa & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Agreement in K’iche’ Mayan: Reflections on Microvariation and Acquisition”. In *Proceedings of Penn Linguistics Colloquium 44*. [[link](#)]
- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Sibilant Harmony in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan)”. In *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v6i1.4968>
- 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](#)]

TEXTBOOKS AND DOCUMENTATION

- In preparation **Ranero, Rodrigo** & COPXIG. “Alyamalh Xinka - Wirimalh Xinka—Módulo III: Sintaxis Básica” (“Let’s teach and speak Xinka—Module III: Basic Syntax”).
- 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” (contributor to 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

## Grants & Awards

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

- 2021 - [Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship at UCLA](#)
- 2021 [Howard Lasnik Award for Distinguished Teaching in Linguistics](#)
- 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

- Upcoming **Ranero, Rodrigo.** Title TBA. University of California, San Diego, Department of Linguistics. Linguistic Fieldwork Working Group.
- Upcoming **Ranero, Rodrigo.** Title TBA. University of California, Berkeley, Department of Linguistics. Fieldwork Forum.
- 2021 **Ranero, Rodrigo.** “Identity in ellipsis reconsidered: The view from Kaqchikel and beyond”. University of California, Irvine, Department of Language Science colloquium.
- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero.** “Sibilant Harmony in Santiago Tz’utujil:

- Synchrony, Diachrony, and Typology”. University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Linguistics. Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America (WLMA) meeting.
- 2020 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Linguistic Links of Xinka: Importance for the Strengthening of Identity”. Online conference “*Characterizing the Xinka People*”, 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**. “True progressive harmony exists”. Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “La armonía progresiva sí existe”. Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) VI.
- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “True progressive harmony exists”. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 52. Rutgers University, Department of Linguistics.
- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “Vowel Harmony in Santiago Tz’utujil (Mayan)”. Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting.
- 2021 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)

- 2021 Lyskawa, Paulina & **Rodrigo Ranero**. “True progressive harmony exists”. Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2021, University of Toronto and York University.
- 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

- Upcoming **Ranero, Rodrigo**. Title TBA. SynSem Seminar. UCLA Department of Linguistics.
- 2021 **Ranero, Rodrigo**. “Identity in ellipsis reconsidered: The view from Kaqchikel and beyond”. ‘You’re on mute’ ellipsis seminar series. NYU.
- 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.

## Teaching

### STUDENT MENTORSHIP

- 2018 - 2020 Co-mentor (with Paulina Lyskawa) Marisa Fried, an undergraduate, NSF-funded RA. Duties included meeting weekly with student, preparing her for research trips in Guatemala, advising her during research trips, and co-writing a publication.
- 2019 - 2020 Mentor Daniel Coyne, an undergraduate, NSF-funded RA. Duties included meeting weekly with student and supervising his work on a project related to the identity condition on ellipsis.
- 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 and advising projects.

### INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- Fall 2019 LING 419B: The Syntax of Silence  
Independently designed and taught 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.

#### INVITED LECTURES

- Spring 2022 Title: TBA  
Course: Ling 819 Ellipsis Seminar (University of Maryland, College Park)  
Instructor: Howard Lasnik
- Fall 2021 Title: “Mayan literature in translation: The view from Humberto Ak’abal’s poetry”  
Course: LIT 156 Translation (Harvey Mudd College)  
Instructor: Isabel Balseiro
- Fall 2020 Title: “¿Qué es el lenguaje y cómo evolucionó?”  
Course: Teoría Antropológica 1 (Universidad del Valle de Guatemala)  
Instructor: Alejandra Colom

## Research

#### FIELDWORK

- 2021 - Language reclamation project with the Xinka community in Guatemala. Weekly meetings with community members to advise the creation of advanced pedagogical material.
- 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 [\[link\]](#).
- 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).
- 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 - 2014 Work with Kuria language consultant in Claremont, CA.

#### ASSISTANTSHIP

- 2019 - For Howard Lasnik. Duties included revising handouts for colloquium talks and compiling the bibliography and index for two upcoming books.
- 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

- 2021 - Abstract reviewing: *Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi) VI*.
- 2019 - Journal reviewing: *Diachronica* (x1), *Linguistic Inquiry* (x2), *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* (x2)
- 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



**Distinguished University Professor Howard Lasnik**

Linguistics Department, UMD  
lasnik@umd.edu

**Professor Mary Paster**

Linguistics and Cognitive Science Department, Pomona College  
Mary.Paster@pomona.edu

*Last updated: 11-16-2021*