

Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie  
Universität zu Köln  
Albertus-Magnus-Platz  
50923 Köln

## Academic Positions

Since 2019	Junior Professor Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie Universität zu Köln
2016–2019	Postdoctoral Research Associate, VariKin Project Department of Anthropology & Archaeology University of Bristol
2015–2016	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow Asien-Afrika-Institut Universität Hamburg

## Education

2015	PhD Linguistics University at Buffalo
2010	MA Language Documentation and Description, <i>Distinction</i> SOAS, University of London
2009	BA German and Linguistics, <i>First Class Honours</i> University of Oxford

## Publications

### A. REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Mitchell, Alice and Péter Rácz. To appear. Children's knowledge of a name-based avoidance register: A quantitative study among Datooga of Tanzania. *American Anthropologist*.

Mitchell, Alice and Fiona M. Jordan. To appear. The ontogeny of kinship categorization. *Journal of Cognition and Culture*.

Mitchell, Alice. To appear. Documenting difference: Interactional approaches to the documentation of special registers. In Rich Sandoval and Nicholas Williams (eds.),

*Interactional approaches to language documentation (Language Documentation & Conservation SP).*

Blythe, Joe, Jeremiah Tunmuck, Alice Mitchell, and Péter Rácz. 2020. Acquiring the lexicon and grammar of universal kinship. *Language* 96(3). 661–695.

Fleming, Luke, Alice Mitchell, and Isabelle Ribot. 2019. In the name of the father-in-law: Pastoralism, patriarchy, and the sociolinguistic prehistory of eastern and southern Africa. *Sociolinguistic Studies* 13(2–4). 171–192.

Mitchell, Alice. 2018. Allusive reference and other-oriented stance in an affinal avoidance register. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 28(1). 4–21.

Mitchell, Alice. 2015. Words that smell like Father-in-law: A linguistic description of the Datooga avoidance register. *Anthropological Linguistics* 57(2). 195–217.

Childs, G. Tucker, Jeff Good, and Alice Mitchell. 2014. Beyond the ancestral code: Towards a model for sociolinguistic language documentation. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 8. 168–191.

## B. BOOKS

Lovegren, Jesse, Alice Mitchell, and Natsuko Nakagawa. 2015. *The Wala language of Malaita, Solomon Islands*. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National University. 243 pages.

## C. BOOK CHAPTERS

Mitchell, Alice. To appear. Phasal polarity in Barabaiga and Gisamjanga Datooga (Nilotic): Interactions with tense, aspect, and participant expectation. Raija Kramer (ed.), *The expression of phasal polarity in African languages*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Mitchell, Alice. 2020. “Oh, bald father!”: Kinship and swearing among Datooga of Tanzania. Nico Nassenstein & Anne Storch (eds.), *Swearing and cursing: Contexts and practices in a critical linguistic perspective*, 79–102. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Mitchell, Alice and Ayu’nwi Neba. 2019. Special-purpose registers of language in Africa. In H. Ekkehard Wolff (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics*, 513–534. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mitchell, Alice. 2017. The pragmatics of a kinship term: The meaning and use of *liyá* ‘mother’ in Datooga (Nilotic). In Raija Kramer & Roland Kießling (eds.), *Mechthildian Approaches to Afrikanistik: Advances in language based research on Africa. Festschrift für Mechthild Reh*, 287–301. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

## D. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Bellingham, Erika, Stephanie Evers, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Alice Mitchell, Sang-Hee Park, Anastasia Stepanova, and Jürgen Bohnemeyer. 2020. Exploring the representation of causality across languages: integrating production, comprehension and conceptualization perspectives. In E. A. Bar-Asher Siegal & N. Boneh (eds.), *Perspectives on causation: Selected papers from the Jerusalem 2017 workshop*, 75–118. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.
- Péter Rácz, Alice Mitchell & Joe Blythe. 2018. Egocentric and allocentric learning of social-indexical meaning in American English, Datooga, and Murrinhpatha. *CogSci 2018 Proceedings*. 2303–2308. Cognitive Science Society.
- Mitchell, Alice. 2015. Extra-ordinary morphology in an avoidance register of Datooga. In Ruth Kramer et al (eds.), *Selected Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. 188–198. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

## Grants and awards

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| 2019      | <i>Together: Designing an inclusive picture book to explore children's concepts of family</i> . Ideas Exchange Fund, Brigstow Institute, University of Bristol; £1,000. Co-Is: Beatrice Paterson-Achenbach and Fiona Jordan. |
| 2015      | Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award. University at Buffalo.   |
| 2014      | <i>Doctoral Dissertation Research: Linguistic avoidance and social relations</i> . National Science Foundation: Linguistics/Cultural Anthropology, Award No. BCS-1422677; \$14,471.  |
| 2014      | College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship. University at Buffalo; \$6,000.  |
| 2013      | Excellence in Teaching Award, University at Buffalo.   |
| 2013      | <i>Avoidance and politeness in the Datooga language</i> . Mark Diamond Research Fund, University at Buffalo; \$1,979.  |
| 2013      | Department of Linguistics Student Research Fund. University at Buffalo; \$800.   |
| 2010–2014 | Presidential Fellowship, University at Buffalo.  |
| 2006–2009 | Lawrence Scholarship, Jesus College, University of Oxford.   |

## Refereed Conference Presentations

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| 2019 | Joe Blythe, Jeremiah Tunmuck, Péter Rácz and Alice Mitchell. Murrinhpatha-speaking children's acquisition of sibling-inflected verbal morphology. Australian Linguistics Society Annual Conference, Sydney, 11–13 December. |
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- 2019 Erika Bellingham, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Yu Li, Alice Mitchell, Sang-Hee Park, Anastasia Stepanova and Juergen Bohnemeyer. The semantic typology of causatives: New approaches to data collection and analysis. 13th Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, Pavia, 4–6 September.
- Knowledge and seniority in Datooga children’s interactions. 16<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Conference, Hong Kong, 9–14 June.
- 2018 “Hey, bonikalaa”: Language contact and experiences of Swahili among rural Datooga children. 14<sup>th</sup> Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Conference, Vienna, 29 May–1 June.
- Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Language and the body in Datooga children’s concepts of kinship. Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK & Commonwealth Annual Conference, Oxford, 18–21 September.
- Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Mother and child yes/no question sequences as affective displays in Datooga. 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Conversation Analysis, Loughborough, 11–15 July.
- Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. “Donkeys dig holes, do they?”: Knowledge transmission in Datooga interaction. Inaugural Conference of the Society of Linguistic Anthropology, Philadelphia, 8–10 March.
- Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Child-anchored kinship terms in child-directed speech in Datooga. Poster presentation at 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, 4–7 January.
- 2017 Erika Bellingham, Stephanie Evers, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Alice Mitchell, and Jürgen Bohnemeyer. An experimental approach to the semantic typology of causative constructions. Poster presentation at the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, Canberra, 10–15 December.
- 2016 The long hello: Greeting routines in Datooga. Sociolinguistics Symposium 21, University of Murcia, 15–18 June.
- Degrees of name avoidance in Datooga: A usage-based study of an African avoidance register. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC, 7–10 January.
- Documenting taboo-motivated lexical variation in an avoidance register of Datooga. Poster presentation at 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC, 7–10 January.
- 2015 Documenting difference: Interactional approaches to the documentation of special registers. 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, 18–22 November.

- 2014 Avoidance language and the limits of register. Sociolinguistics Symposium 20, University of Jyväskylä, 15–18 June.
- 2013 Extra-ordinary morphology in an avoidance register of Datooga. 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Georgetown University, 7–10 March.
- Tucker Childs, Jeff Good, and Alice Mitchell. Beyond the ancestral code: Advancing sociolinguistic language documentation in sub-Saharan Africa. 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Georgetown University, 7–10 March.

### Invited Talks and Other Presentations

- 2020 Sociolinguistic language documentation in the Rift Valley: Current practices and future prospects. Rift Valley Network Webinar Series, 8 April.
- 2019 Negotiating knowledge in Datooga interaction. East Africa Day, Leiden University, 27 September.
- 2018 Name avoidance and taboo across cultures. University of Flensburg, 21 November.
- Phasal polarity items in Datooga (Nilotic): Interactions with tense, aspect, and participant expectation. Conference on the Expression of Phasal Polarity in sub-Saharan African languages, University of Hamburg, 2–4 February.
- Learning about kinship among Datooga of Tanzania. Workshop on Children’s Acquisition of Kinship Knowledge: Theory & Method, University of Bristol, 25–26 January.
- 2017 The social dynamics of in-law name avoidance among Datooga of Tanzania. Language and Anthropology Seminar, University of Oxford, 23 February.
- “The father of the wife of what’s his name”: Aspects of person reference in Datooga. Linguistics Departmental Seminar Series, SOAS, 7 February.
- 2016 Language and kinship among Datooga of Tanzania. Bristol Archaeology and Anthropology Research Seminar Series, University of Bristol, 14 December.
- Person reference in Datooga. Hamburg Afrikanistik Colloquium, University of Hamburg, 8 June.
- 2014 A first look at avoidance language in interaction. Workshop on Social & Cultural Approaches to Language, University at Buffalo, USA, 8 March.
- 2013 Alice Mitchell, Tucker Childs, and Jeff Good. Goals, tools, and techniques for the sociolinguistic documentation of minority languages. Workshop on African fieldwork in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Georgetown University, USA, 7 March.
- 2012 Morphological irregularity in an avoidance register of Datooga. Qualifying Paper presentations, Dept. of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, USA, 11 December.

2010 | Chain reactions in language revitalisation: Contact and exchange between minority language preschools in Europe. MA presentations, Dept. of Linguistics, SOAS, UK, 10 June.

## Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN

### *Anthropological Linguistics*

- Postgraduate seminar for MA Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Bildung, MA Afrikanistik, and MA Culture and Environment in Africa. Summer 2020.

### *Ethnographie der Kommunikation*

- (In German.) Advanced undergraduate seminar for BA Sprachen und Kulturen Afrikas and BA Geographie. Winter 2019.

### *Language and Kinship in Africa*

- Postgraduate seminar for MA Culture and Environment in Africa and MA Afrikanistik. Winter 2019.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

### Courses taught:

#### *Sociolinguistic Anthropology*

- Final-year module for BA Anthropology and BA Modern Languages. I co-taught this module with colleagues in 2018 and 2019. I took one of the weekly seminar groups and gave three lectures (“Ethnography of communication”; “Language, gender and sexuality”; “Language, race, and ethnicity”).

### Guest lectures:

- “Ethnographic and linguistic research methods” for *Black Humanities Research Skills* module on MA Black Humanities; 2019.
- “Language and migration” for *People on the Move*, second-year BA Anthropology module; 2019.
- “Language and gender” for *Big Ideas in Anthropology*, first-year BA Anthropology module; 2018 and 2019.
- “Linguistic anthropology” for *Peoples, Culture, Language*, first-year module on BA Anthropology module; 2018.
- “Language socialization” for *Anthropology of Childhood*, second-year module on BA Anthropology; 2018.

## UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

### Courses taught:

- *Language, Society, and the Individual* (15-week course; 3 contact hours per week; co-taught with one other postgraduate student; 2015)
- German 101 (15-week course; 5 contact hours per week; 2011, 2012, 2013)
- German 102 (15-week course; 5 contact hours per week; 2010, 2011, 2012)

### Teaching assistant:

- Language in Its Social Setting (2014)
- Structure of English: Sound System (2013)

## Academic Service

### CONSULTANCY

- Oxford English Dictionary, Nilotic languages (2020–)

### EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- Berghahn Studies in Linguistic Anthropology series, Editorial Board (2016–)
- *Sociolinguistic Studies* (Equinox), Editorial Board (2020–)
- *Linguistique et Langues Africaines*, Editorial Board (2020–)

### JOURNAL REVIEWING

- *Language Documentation & Conservation* (2016)
- *Language Dynamics and Change* (2017)
- *Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics* (2019)
- *Africa: Rivista di Studi e Ricerche* (2019)
- *Multilingual Margins* (2019)
- *Sociolinguistics Studies* (2020)
- *Journal of Postcolonial Linguistics* (2020)

### BOOK PROPOSALS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND MANUSCRIPT REVIEWING

- Berghahn (2018)
- Bloomsbury (2018)
- Routledge (2019)
- University of the West Indies Press (2020)

### GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEWING

- Endangered Languages Fund (2016, 2017)
- Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (2018)

### CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWING

- Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

### WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

- Co-organiser (with Fiona Jordan), ‘Children’s Acquisition of Kinship Knowledge: Theory and Methods,’ University of Bristol, 25-26 January 2018.
- Co-organiser (with Cala Zubair), ‘Social and Cultural Approaches to Language,’ University at Buffalo, March 12, 2014.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

- *Exploring Cross-Cultural Diversity* stall, FUTURES 2018 Research Fair, We The Curious, Bristol, September 29 2018.
- *Lugha za Tanzania / Languages of Tanzania* stall, Haydom Four Corners Cultural Festival, Haydom (Tanzania), 26 September 2017.

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- Webmaster, Graduate Linguistics Association, University at Buffalo, 2012–2013.
- President, Graduate Linguistics Association, University at Buffalo, 2012–2013.
- Secretary, Graduate Linguistics Association, University at Buffalo, 2010–2012.

**Professional Development**

2018 | Three-day ‘Cultivating Leadership’ course, University of Bristol.

**Languages (spoken)**

Native	English
Fluent	German, Swahili
Intermediate	French, Spanish, Datooga

**Professional Membership**

- Linguistic Society of America (since 2010)
- The Philological Society (since 2010)
- American Anthropological Association (2015–2018)
- British Institute in Eastern Africa (since 2015)
- Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (since 2016)
- International Society for Conversation Analysis (2017–2018)
- International Pragmatics Association (since 2018)