

James C. Wamsley
Curriculum Vitae ~ Spring 2026

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EDUCATION

- 2016-2023 PhD. in General Linguistics, Indiana University Bloomington
Dissertation: *Topics in Hakha Lai Nominal Marking*
Committee Chair: Dr. Kelly Berkson
- 2013-2015 M.A. in General Linguistics, Indiana University Bloomington
- 2006-2010 B.A. in Specialized Studies, Ohio University Athens

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broad: language documentation, semantics, pragmatics, syntax, morphology, sociolinguistics, Sino-Tibetan languages

Narrow: information structure, topic, focus, definiteness, deixis, reference, semantics-pragmatics interface, demonstratives, discourse particles

PUBLICATIONS

- Submitted Wamsley, J. Personal pronouns in Falam Chin: A pragmatic analysis. Submitted to *Himalayan Linguistics*.
- 2024 Wamsley, J. Two Types of Definiteness: A Case Study from Hakha Lai. *Proceedings of TripleA 10 (2023)*. eds. Mira Grubic, Jeanne Lecavelier, Prarthanaa Manjunath Bharadwaj and Malte Zimmermann. 18-32.
- 2023 Wamsley, J. 2023. *Topics in Hakha Lai Nominal Marking*. Bloomington: Indiana University doctoral dissertation
- Berkson, K, **J. Wamsley**, S. Lotven, S. Chelliah, K. Van Bik, S. Champlin, K. Sakhong, S. H. Par, A. Matthews, A. Bohnert. 2023. A developing community of collaboration in Indiana. In B. Murray, M. Brill-Carlat & M. Höhn, (eds.) *Migration, Displacement, and Higher Education: Now What?* (Political Pedagogies). Palgrave Macmillan. 23-35

- 2022 Wamsley, J. 2022. Hakha Lai Definites. *Proceedings of (F)ASAL 10*. eds. Ishani Guha, Sana Kidwai and Martha Schwarz. available at:
<https://ojs.ub.unikonstanz.de/jsal/index.php/fasal/article/view/248/142>
- 2020 Matthews, A. & **Wamsley, J.** 2020. A Brief Report on the Demonstrative System of Hnaring Lutuv. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages & Cultures (IWPSALC)* 2(1).
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc/article/view/31104>
- Wamsley, J.**, Sakhong, K., Lotven, S. 2020. Nuitah Zophei Swadesh List. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages & Cultures (IWPSALC)* 2(1).
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc/article/view/31160>
- Lotven, S., Berkson, K., **Wamsley, J. C.**, Danaher, J., Van Bik, K., & Davis, S. 2020. The syllable in Kuki-Chin. *Journal of South Asian Languages and Linguistics*, 6 (2), 281-308.
- 2019 Berkson, K., S. Lotven, P.H. Thang, T. Thawngza, Z. Sung, **J. Wamsley**, F. Tyers, K. Van Bik, S. Kübler, D. Williamson, and M. Anderson. 2019. Building a Common Voice Corpus for Laiholh (Hakha Chin). *Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Computational Methods for Endangered Languages: Vol. 2, Article 2*. Available at:
<https://scholar.colorado.edu/scil-cmel/vol2/iss1/2>
- Lotven, S., Par, S. H., **Wamsley, J. C.**, & Berkson, K. 2019. Hnaring Lutuv Swadesh list. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures (IWPSALC)*, 1(1).
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc/article/view/27747>
- Lotven, S., Sung, Z., **Wamsley, J.C.**, & Berkson, K. 2019. Lawngtlang Zophei Swadesh list. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures (IWPSALC)*, 1(1).
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc/article/view/27461>
- Wamsley, J. 2019. Demonstratives and the Noun Phrase Structure of Hakha Chin. *Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages & Cultures (IWPSALC)* 1(1).
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iwpsalc/article/view/27454>
- Wamsley, J. 2019. Gendered Usage of Sentence-Final Particles in Mandarin Chinese. *IULC Working Papers*. Indiana University Bloomington.
<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/iulcwp/article/view/27100>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2026 **J. Wamsley** & R. Fischman. “The Hakha Lai Discourse Particle *ko*”. To be presented at Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages (F)ASAL 16

2025 **J. Wamsley**, M. Hooda, G. Randula, R. Fischman, A. Lakharam, M. Abtahian. “A Comparative Analysis of Discourse Particles in South Asian Languages: The Case of *Na/Ne*”. Presented at Discourse Particles in South Asian Languages (DiPSAL25)

J. Wamsley & R. Fischman. “The Hakha Lai Discourse Particle *ko*”. Presented at Discourse Particles in South Asian Languages (DiPSAL25)

2025 Wamsley, J.C. 2025. “The Pragmatic Distribution of Personal Pronouns in Falam Chin”. Poster presented at the 19th International Pragmatics Conference at the University of Queensland. June 22, 2025.

Wamsley, J.C. 2025. “The Pragmatic Distribution of Personal Pronouns in Falam Chin”. Paper presented at the 34th meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society. June 12, 2025.

Wamsley, J.C. 2025. “The Pragmatic Distribution of Personal Pronouns in Falam Chin”. Poster presented at the 24th meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society 2025. February 21, 2025.

Wamsley, J.C. 2025. “The Distribution of Personal Pronouns in Falam Chin: A Pragmatic Analysis”. Paper presented at the 13th International Conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society. February 7, 2025.

2024 Smith, D., **J. Wamsley**, G. Ziegler, A. Robinson, A Bohnert, E. Em, S. Par., V. Par, E. Hnem, N. Nuam, E. Singleton, H. Hunt, E. Hanink, K. Berkson. “The Indianapolis Chin Community Language Survey”. Poster presented at *HLS Global & Area Perspectives (GAP) Symposium*, IU Bloomington. Nov. 2024.

Wamsley, J.C. 2024. “Two Types of Definite Expressions: A Case Study from Hakha Lai”. Paper presented at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society. June 15, 2024.

Wamsley, J.C. 2024. “Investigating Chin Discourse Markers through Collaborative Fieldwork”. Presented at the University of Rochester Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series. March 22, 2024.

2023 Wamsley, J.C. 2023. “Two Types of Definite Expressions: A Case Study from Hakha Lai”. Paper presented at TripleA 10. June 7, 2023.

- Zathang, R., Iang, D., Em E., Par, S.T., Sung, B., Tial, A., Vang, R., Gray, R., Berkson, K., Kay, J., Bohnert, A., Par, S.H., Smith, D., **Wamsley, J.C.**, & Ziegler, G. 2023. "Speaker-Led Research: A Novel Methodology of the Chin Languages Research Project" Paper presented at The 8th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC 8) (presented online). March 2, 2023.
- 2022 Wamsley, J. 2022. "An investigation of polyfunctional discourse particle *cu* in Hakha Lai" Paper presented at the Interaction of Means and Functions in the Coding of Reference Workshop at the University of Sonora in Hermosillo (presented online). November 14, 2022.
- Wamsley, J. 2022. "An investigation of polyfunctional discourse particle *cu* in Hakha Lai" Paper presented at The 31st Conference of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (presented online). May 19, 2022.
- 2021 Wamsley, J. 2021. "Conducting Semantic Fieldwork on Hakha Lai". Presented at the California State University Fullerton Linguistic Colloquium Series. (presented online). December 3, 2021.
- Wamsley, J. 2021. "Definite Expressions in Hakha Lai". Presented at the 9th Central Kentucky Linguistics Conference. (presented online). April 10, 2021.
- 2020 Wamsley, J. 2020. "Definite Expressions in Hakha Lai." Paper presented at International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics (ICSTLL) 53, University of North Texas on October 2, 2020.
- Wamsley, J. 2020. "Definite Expressions in Hakha Lai." Paper to be presented at (Formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL) 10, Ohio State University on March 21, 2020. [cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic]
- 2019 Wamsley, J. 2019. "Researching Sichuanese Mandarin". Invited Talk in Introduction to Chinese Linguistics on October 22, 2019.
- Thawngza, T., **Wamsley, J.**, and Berkson, K. 2019. "Hakha Lai acquisition and attitudes." Poster presented at IU's Summer 2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium, Indiana University Bloomington on July 25, 2019.
- 2018 **Wamsley, J.** & Botne, R. "Effects of Nasal Deletion in Nyere Kikuyu." Paper presented at New Interdepartmental Conference on Linguistics Area Studies, Indiana University on April 13, 2018.

Wamsley, J. & Botne, R. “Effects of Nasal Deletion in Nyere Kikuyu.” Paper presented at Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL) 49, Michigan State University on March 23, 2018.

2017 **Wamsley, J. & Botne, R.** “Effects of Nasal Deletion in Nyere Kikuyu.” Paper presented at 22nd Mid-continental Phonetics & Phonology Conference, Ohio State University on September 30, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023-present Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Rochester, Department of Linguistics

2025 Abstract reviewer, International Conference of Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics 58

2024-2025 Reviewer, *Himalayan Linguistics*

2023 Associate Editor, Proceedings of the 34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics

2020-2022 Research Assistant, Linguistically Underserved Communities and Health project (NSF Grant #2031060)

2019-2023 Assistant Editor, Indiana Working Papers in South Asian Languages and Cultures

2016-2018 Program Assistant, Indiana University East Asian Studies Center

2014-2015 Grants Assistant, Indiana University East Asian Studies Center

2013-2014 Administrative Assistant, Indiana University East Asian Studies Center

AWARDS AND FUNDING

2023 Linguistics Department Travel Award (\$1,300)

2022-2023 College of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$22,000)

2021 Graduate School Grant-in-Aid of Doctoral Research (\$1000)

2020-2021 Research Assistant Fellowship with IU Department of Linguistics

2017 SGIS Fellowship with the IU East Asian Studies Center

2013 FLAS Fellowship for Mandarin Chinese with the IU East Asian Studies Center

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Rochester

2026 LING 110 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
LING 104 *Language and Culture*

LING 110 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
LING 389 *Fieldwork for Language Documentation*

2025 LING 110 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
LING 104 *Language and Culture*

LING 110 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
LING 389 *Fieldwork for Language Documentation*

2024 LING 104 *Language and Culture*
LING 225/425 *Introduction to Semantic Analysis*

LING 110 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
LING 389 *Fieldwork for Language Documentation*

2023 LING 226/426 *Morphology*
LING 104 *Language and Culture*

2019-2020 English instructor, VIPKid

2019-2020 Associate Instructor, P-155 *Public Oral Communication*

2018 Graduate instructor (instructor of record)
Linguistics L-203 *Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*

2016-2017 Graduate instructor (instructor of record)
Second Language Studies T-101 *Speaking Fluency*
Second Language Studies T-101 *Pronunciation*

2015-2016 Foreign instructor, METEN English

2012-2013 Substitute teacher, Xenia, Jamestown, Kettering school districts

2011-2012 Oral English teacher, Naxi Junior High School

2010-2011 Foreign instructor, Linkman Foreign Language School

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Language Documentation

FLEx
SayMore
ELAN

Editing and Design

Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
Adobe InDesign, Premiere Pro
Squarespace
LaTeX

Languages

English (native)
Spanish (reading fluency)
Mandarin Chinese (TOCFL Level 3)
Hakha Lai (research, beginner speaking ability)
Lutuv (research)
Nyere Kikuyu (research)
Amazigh (research)

REFERENCES

Dr. Kelly Berkson
Associate Prof. of Linguistics, Indiana University

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Dr. Thomas Grano
Associate Prof. of Linguistics, Indiana University

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Dr. Emily Hanink
Assistant Prof. of Linguistics, Indiana University

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Dr. Maya Ravindranath Abtahian
Associate Prof. of Linguistics, University of
Rochester

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