

SONYA RAO

Department of Anthropology | University of California, Los Angeles
375 Portola Plaza | 341 Haines Hall | Box 951553
sonyarao@ucla.edu

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Degree Objective, Doctorate, Department of Anthropology

Enrolled Fall 2013

Dissertation Title: *The Effects of Lesser Spoken Language Access in Immigration Court*

Current GPA: 3.925

Dissertation Committee:

Paul Kroskrity, Department of Anthropology

Norma Mendoza-Denton, Department of Anthropology

Jessica Cattellino, Department of Anthropology

Ingrid Eagly, UCLA Law School

M.A. University of California, Los Angeles

Spring 2015

Department of Anthropology

Thesis Title: *Language Futures from Uprooted Pasts: Emergent Language Activism in the Mayan Diaspora of the United States*

B.A. Connecticut College

Spring 2013

Self-Design Major: Post-Colonial Studies and Linguistic Anthropology

Minor: Sociology

Honors Thesis: *Halq'eméylem Language Revitalization: Tracing Ideologies in Hybridity*

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant,

Law and Social Sciences Program

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

UCLA Department of Anthropology Student Research Grant

Summer 2016 – Fall 2016

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA

Summer 2015 – Fall 2015

UCLA Department of Anthropology Student Research Grant

Summer 2015 – Fall 2015

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA

Summer 2014 – Fall 2014

Oakes and Louise Ames Prize for Outstanding Honors Study, Finalist, Connecticut College

Selected Spring 2013

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

Selected Spring 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UCLA Department of Anthropology, Lecturer

Culture and Communication

Summer 2016

Undergraduate Research Center, Graduate Mentor

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Intensive Writing and Research Training Program

Summer 2016

UCLA Department of Anthropology, Teaching Associate

Language and Culture

Culture in Society

Culture and Communication

Fall 2015- Spring 2016

UCLA Department of Anthropology, Teaching Assistant

Culture and Communication

Human Evolution

Culture and Communication

Fall 2014- Spring 2015

UCLA Department of Anthropology, Reader

Culture and Communication

Language in Culture

Citizenship and Migration

Fall 2014- Summer 2015

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

"For All Other Languages Press 0 for Operator Assistance": An Investigation into Lesser Language Access in U.S. Immigration Courts.

Invited Speaker

UCLA Center for Language, Interaction and Culture, Los Angeles, CA.

Fall 2015

"Building Lasting Partnerships with Native Communities of Southern New England."

Guest Speaker

Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut

Fall 2015

"Language Rights in the Here and Now."

Guest Speaker

UCLA Department of Anthropology, Los Angeles, CA

Summer 2015

"Preparing for the Graduate Experience."

Invited Panelist

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Orientation, Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Summer 2015

"Transformations in Education."

Invited Panelist

Mellon Mays Fellowship Professional Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Fall 2014

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE SERVICE

Department of Anthropology Eight Year Review Committee, University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Student Representative

Winter 2015- Spring 2016

Department of Anthropology Diversity Committee, University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Student Representative

Fall 2014- Spring 2015

Council on the Anthropology of Education of the American Anthropological Association

Webmaster

Fall 2013- Present

Center for Language, Interaction and Culture Conference

Graduate Student Organizer

Fall 2013- Spring 2014