Community-Oriented Linguistic Fieldwork at UC Santa Cruz

Linguistics at UC Santa Cruz is renowned for its long tradition of community-oriented fieldwork. Inspired by founding faculty member Bill Shipley and emeriti faculty Judith Aissen and Sandy Chung, today’s graduate students continue this tradition. They are currently working with language communities around the world, some quite distant (in Brazil or the Caucasus) and others closer to home (Oaxacan immigrants in California).

Over the past summer, second-year PhD student Jérémie Beauchamp (right) spent six weeks in Kawêrêtxikê, a village in the Amazon, studying the two Jê languages Kĩsêdjê and Kajkwaxhrattxi. In addition to investigating the phonological systems of these languages, he facilitated several workshops for community members to discuss and reform their writing system. Jérémie plans on returning next summer to continue his work with these speakers.

The department aims to guarantee each PhD student in the program with $3,100 in summer funding. This is critical support for students like Jérémie as they work with language communities around the world.

As 2018 comes to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support linguistics graduate students at UCSC. Your gift of any size will help move us closer toward our goal of providing all our PhD students with full summer research funding.

If you have difficulties making a donation from outside the US, please contact Maria Zimmer at mjzimmer@ucsc.edu to make alternate arrangements.

Donations of all sizes to the linguistics general funds are also welcome. These are used to support the department’s ongoing activities and maintenance of laboratory spaces and other important research infrastructure. Give to this fund here.

Warmest regards,

Junko Ito
Chair and Professor of Linguistics

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