

Joshua Lieberstein

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Education

University of California, Santa Cruz (2021–Present)
MA, Linguistics, Expected June 2027
BA, Linguistics *cum laude*, June 2025

Non-Degree Education

Mayan Language Institute, *Advanced K'iche'*, Organized by Tulane University, Summer 2025
CreteLing Summer School, University of Crete, Summer 2026

Awards & Honors

2026-2031 Graduate Research Fellowship (National Science Foundation)
2026 Fulbright Foundation (Semi-Finalist)
2025 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Summer), Vanderbilt University (\$8500)
2025 The Humanities Institute Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz (\$1000)
2022-2024 Dean's Honors, UC Santa Cruz

Publications

Conference Proceedings

(to appear) Lieberstein, Joshua. *Reportatives and Quotatives in K'iche' (Mayan)*, in Proceedings of the 28th Workshop on American Indigenous Languages.

Working Papers

2026 Lieberstein, Joshua. *Ambiguity Advantage Effect in Wh-Questions*, in UGA Working Papers Vol. 9.

Presentations

Talks at conferences

Upcoming Lieberstein, Joshua. *The Syntax of Negation in Chichicastenango K'iche'*, Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi VIII). Upcoming.
Upcoming Lieberstein, Joshua* & Elizabeth Wood*. *Are consonant sequences clusters? An acoustic experiment of Chichicastenango K'iche'*, Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA XI). Upcoming.

* = Co-first authors

- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Reportatives and Quotatives in K'iche' (Mayan)*, Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL28). May 2, 2026.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Cláusulas sin verbo en el k'iche' chichicasteco: un enfoque (no) copulativo* ["Verbless Clauses in Chichicastenango K'iche': A (Non)-Copular Focus"], Guatemalan Scholars Network (GSN). July 10, 2025.

Invited talks

- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Negation and Irreality in K'iche' (Mayan)*, American Indian Seminar (AIS), UCLA. Sept. 22, 2026.
- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verb Stranding Ellipsis: The view from Mayan*, Syntax and Morphology Circle (SMircle), Stanford. June 9, 2026.
- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Reportatives and Quotatives in K'iche' (Mayan)*, American Indian Seminar (AIS), UCLA. Apr. 21, 2026.
- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Polarity, Ellipsis and Verb-Initial Order in K'iche' (Mayan)*, Linguistics at Santa Cruz 40 (LASC40), UC Santa Cruz. Apr. 17, 2026.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Specific Subjects and the Ergative Extraction Constraint in K'iche'*, American Indian Seminar (AIS): Word Order Fest, UCLA. Oct. 14, 2025.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Polarity, Ellipsis and Verb-Initial Order in K'iche' (Mayan)*, American Indian Seminar (AIS), UCLA. Oct. 7, 2025.

Other talks

- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Polarity, Ellipsis and Verb-Initial Order in K'iche' (Mayan)*, Syntax and Semantics Circle (S-Circle), UC Santa Cruz. Oct. 31, 2025.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verbless Clauses in Mayan K'iche': A Copular Investigation*, Syntax and Semantics Circle (S-Circle), UC Santa Cruz. Feb. 7, 2025.
- 2024 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Ambiguity Advantage Effect in Wh-Questions*, Speech and Sentence Processing Lab (s/lab), UC Santa Cruz. Nov. 4, 2024.

Posters

- 2026 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *The Syntax of Negation in Chichicastenango K'iche'*, CreteLing 7 Poster Session. July 23, 2026.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verbless Clauses in K'iche' (Mayan): A (Non)-Copular Investigation*, Linguistics Undergraduate Research Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz. May 30, 2025.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua.** *Verbless Clauses in K'iche' (Mayan): A (Non)-Copular Investigation*, Celebrating the Humanities, The Humanities Institute @ UC Santa Cruz. May 28, 2025.
- 2025 **Lieberstein, Joshua & Matt Wagers.** *Ambiguity Advantage in Wh-Questions*, Human Sentence Processing (HSP38), University of Maryland. Mar. 29, 2025.
- 2023 Green, Sophie*, Shaya Karasso* & **Joshua Lieberstein***. *Ambiguity Advantage in Wh-Questions*, Linguistics Undergraduate Research Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz. June 2, 2023.

Research Experience

- 2024- Fieldwork, Chichicastenango K'iche' (Guatemala, Eastern Mayan)
- Initial Assessment (Summer 2024, 2 weeks)
 - Field visit (Summer 2025, 3 weeks)
 - Field visit (Fall 2026-Summer 2027, 9 months)
- 2022-2024 Research Assistant, [IntERPrET Lab](#), UC Santa Cruz, (Advisor: Dr. Liv Hoversten)
- 2022-2023 Research Assistant, Sentence Processing Lab, UC Santa Cruz, (Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Rich)

Teaching @ UC Santa Cruz

Teaching Assistant

- Spring 2026 **LING171: Psycholinguistics 1**
Instructor: *Amanda Rysling*
- Winter 2026 **LING53: Semantics 1**
Instructor: *Pranav Anand*
- Fall 2025 **LING50: Intro to Linguistics**
Instructor: *Matt Wagers*

Tutor

- LING112: Syntax 1**
- Fall 2024 Instructor: *Roumyana Pancheva*
- Winter 2024 Instructor: *Maziar Toosarvandani*
- Winter 2023 Instructor: *Ivy Sichel*
- Fall 2022 **Independent Writing Tutor**

Academic Service

- 2024-2026 Linguistics Events Planning Committee, *UC Santa Cruz*
Chair, Transportation Subcommittee
Member, Transportation Subcommittee
- 2024 **Volunteer/Student**, [INEPAS](#), Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Spanish Language School/Social Work

Skills

Languages Spoken: English (native); Spanish (advanced); K'iche' (research)

Technical Skills: $\text{\LaTeX}$, R, Python, PCibex

Last updated: September 22, 2026