

# BLAINE T. BILLINGS

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## AREAS OF RESEARCH AND INTEREST

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Language documentation; Documentary lexicography; Community-based research methods;  
Language contact; Historical linguistics; Computational linguistics; Sumatran languages

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI</b>	<b>Fall 2020 – Spring 2026 (exp.)</b>
Ph.D., Linguistics	Spring 2026 (exp.)
Dissertation: <i>Documentary lexicography: A case study of building the Nasal dictionary</i>	
Advisor: Dr. Bradley McDonnell	
M.A., Linguistics	Fall 2023
<b>College of Charleston, Charleston, SC</b>	<b>Fall 2016 – Spring 2020</b>
B.S., Computer Science and Pure Mathematics	Spring 2020
B.A., Spanish	Spring 2020
Minors in Linguistics and Religious Studies	Spring 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Linguistics / Computational Linguistics

- curr.** Bradley McDonnell, Blaine Billings, & Yanti. in revision. The languages of Sumatra and the Barrier Islands. In Bill Palmer & Ellen Smith-Dennis (eds.), *The languages and linguistics of Island Southeast Asia and the Pacific*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- 2025** Blaine Billings. 2025. Building a comparative lexical database for the Sumatran languages. In Alessa Farinella & Jed Sam Pizarro-Guevarra (eds.), *Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association*, 123–134. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Bradley McDonnell & Blaine Billings. 2025. Choosing fillers. In Brigitte Pakendorf & Françoise Rose (eds.), *Fillers: Hesitatives and placeholders*, 169–209. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2025. Fillers in the grey: Indeterminacy in their use in everyday conversation. In Brigitte Pakendorf & Françoise Rose (eds.), *Fillers: Hesitatives and placeholders*, 211–250. Berlin: Language Science Press.
- Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2025. Connecting automated speech recognition to transcription practices. In *Proceedings of the Eighth Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages*, 128–132. Remote: Association for Computational Linguistics.
- 2024** Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2024. Sumatran. *Oceanic Linguistics* 63(1), 112–174.
- 2023** Nay San, Martijn Bartelds, Blaine Billings, Ella del Falco, Hendi Feriza, Johan Safri, Wawan Sahrozi, Ben Foley, Bradley McDonnell, & Dan Jurafsky. 2023. Leveraging supplementary text data to kick-start automatic speech recognition system development with limited transcriptions. In *Proceedings of the Sixth Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages*, 1–6. Remote: Association for Computational Linguistics. (arXiv:2302.04975v1)

**2020** Blaine Billings. 2020. Review of *Bola Grammar Sketch* (Data Papers on Papua New Guinea Languages 63) by Brent Wiebe & René van den Berg. *Languages & Linguistics in Melanesia* 38.

Blaine Billings. 2020. *Modality and what should would be acceptable: Syntactic promiscuity in Spanish and English double modal constructions*. Charleston, SC: College of Charleston. (Bachelor's thesis.)

### Mathematics / Computer Science

**2020** Blaine Billings, Kasifa Namyalo, & Dinesh G. Sarvate. 2020.  $GDD(n_1 + n_2, 3; \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  for  $n_1 = 2$  and  $n_2 = 5$ . *Ars Combinatoria* 149, 123–135; *Ars Combinatoria* 150, 281–293.

**2019** Blaine Billings. 2019.  $GDD(n, 2, 4; \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  with equal number of blocks of three configurations. *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing* 110, 9–18.

Xenia Mountrouidou, Blaine Billings, & Luis Mejía-Ricart. 2019. Not just another internet of things taxonomy: A method for validation of taxonomies. *Internet of Things* 6, 10.1016/j.iot.2019.03.003.

**2018** Blaine Billings, Xenia Mountrouidou. 2018. Modeling correct operation of webcams for security purposes. In *Proceedings of the 49th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education, SIGCSE 2018*.

**2017** Blaine Billings, Kasifa Namyalo, & Dinesh G. Sarvate. 2017.  $GDD(n_1 + n_2, 3; \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  with equal number of blocks of two configurations. *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing* 102, 19–44.

## REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

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### Linguistics / Computational Linguistics

**2025** Blaine Billings. 2025. Historical linguistics data citation and reusability: With a case study of the Sumatran comparative database. Paper presented at the *27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL27)*, Santiago, Chile, 18–22 August.

Bradley McDonnell & Blaine Billings. 2025. Variation and change in Nasal function words. Paper presented at the *17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Austronesian and Papuan Languages and Linguistics (APLL17)*, Cologne, Germany, 21–23 July.

Blaine Billings. 2025. DATAR: Making level ground for future linguistic work to stand on. Paper presented at the *2025 AIFIS-MSU Conference on Indonesian Studies: Indonesia in Motion*, Remote, 17–21 June.

Blaine Billings. 2025. Embedding dictionary development in the documentary workflow. Poster presented at the *NINJAL 2025 Language Revitalization Synergy Symposium (LRSS)*, Tokyo, Japan, 13–16 June.

Blaine Billings. 2025. The state of Sumatran lexicography: Ongoing projects and prospects for lexical documentation. Paper presented at the *25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Dictionary Society of North America Conference (DSNA25)*, Buffalo, NY, USA, 29–31 May.

Blaine Billings. 2025. Metalexicography for the documentary linguist: Informing internal documentation with external materials. Paper presented at the *Southeastern Conference on Linguistics 2025 (SECOL 2025)*, Boca Raton, FL, USA, 10–12 April.

Blaine Billings. 2025. Documentary lexicography: The need for a field. Paper presented at the *9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC9)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 6–9 March.

- Blaine Billings, Jacob Hakim, Johan Safri, Wawan Sahrozi, Bradley McDonnell, & Yanti. 2025. Collaborative documentation as a catalyst for language maintenance. Paper presented at the *9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC9)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 6–9 March.
- Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2025. Connecting automated speech recognition to transcription practices. Paper presented at the *8<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Use of Computational Methods in the Study of Endangered Languages (ComputEL-8)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 4–5 March.
- 2024** Shelece Easterday, Blaine Billings, & Clemens Mayer. 2024. Emergence of divergent phonotactics in Austronesian: A distributional typological approach. Panel paper presented at the *16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL16)*, Manila, Philippines, 20–24 June.
- Bradley McDonnell, Blaine Billings, Jacob Hakim, Dendi Wijaya, & Yanti. 2024. A window into the early history of language contact in Sumatra. Paper presented at the *16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL16)*, Manila, Philippines, 20–24 June.
- Blaine Billings. 2024. Building a comparative lexical database for the Sumatran languages. Paper presented at the *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA31)*, Amherst, MA, USA, 18–20 June.
- Blaine Billings. 2024. Do you \*c what I \*c?: Proto-Batak palatals and what they (don't) say about PMP. Paper presented at the *33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Linguistics Society Conference (SEALS33)*, Taipei, Taiwan, 15–17 June.
- 2023** Blaine Billings. 2023. Contact-induced phonological change in the Sumatran languages. Poster presented at the *Sixth Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 4–5 December.
- Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2023. On the use of Malay function words in Nasal. Paper presented at the *26<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Malay and Indonesian Linguistics (ISMIL)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 18–20 May.
- Nay San, Martijn Bartelds, Blaine Billings, Ella del Falco, Hendi Feriza, Johan Safri, Wawan Sahrozi, Ben Foley, Bradley McDonnell, & Dan Jurafsky. 2023. Leveraging supplementary text data to kick-start automatic speech recognition system development with limited transcriptions. Paper presented at the *6<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Computational Methods for Endangered Languages (ComputEL-6)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 5–6 March.
- Laura Griffin & Blaine Billings. 2023. A sketch of modality in Chuukic languages. Paper presented at the *22<sup>nd</sup> East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 16–18 February.
- 2022** Bradley McDonnell, Yanti, Blaine Billings, & Jacob Hakim. 2022. Constructing a multilingual corpus of everyday conversations. Paper presented at the *14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology*, Austin, TX, USA, 15–17 December.
- Blaine Billings & Bradley McDonnell. 2022. Subgrouping Malayo-Polynesian languages of Sumatra and the Barrier Islands. Paper presented at the *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS)*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 18–20 May.

## Mathematics / Computer Science

- 2019** Blaine Billings, Terence Carey, Xandre Clementsmith, & Lancie Affonso. 2019. Integrating STEAM education in classroom living learning communities. Poster presented at *College of*

*Charleston School of Sciences and Mathematics 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Poster Session*, Charleston, SC, USA, 28 April.

**2018** Blaine Billings & Xenia Mountrouidou. 2018. Modelling correct operation of webcams for security purposes. Paper and poster presented at *Special Interest Group for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) 2018 Undergraduate Student Research Competition*, Baltimore, MD, USA, 21–24 February.

**2017** Blaine Billings & Dinesh Sarvate. 2017.  $GDD(n,2,4;\lambda_1,\lambda_2)$  with equal number of blocks of three configurations. Paper presented at *31<sup>st</sup> Midwestern Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing (MCCCC)*, Carrollton, GA, USA, 20–22 October.

Xenia Mountrouidou, Blaine Billings, & Luis Mejía-Ricart. 2017. An internet of things taxonomy: Characterizing and classifying modern devices. Poster presented at *College of Charleston School of Sciences and Mathematics 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Session*, Charleston, SC, USA, 20 April.

**2015** Blaine Billings, Kasifa Namyalo, & Dinesh G Sarvate. 2015.  $GDD(n_1 + n_2,3;\lambda_1,\lambda_2)$  with equal number of blocks of two configurations. Paper presented at *29<sup>th</sup> Midwestern Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing (MCCCC)*, Charleston, SC, USA, 17–19 October.

## INVITED TALKS

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**2025** Bradley, McDonnell & Blaine Billings. 2025. Divergence and convergence in Sumatra and the Barrier Islands. Invited talk at *The Enggano Language Documentation and Lexicography: A Reflection*, Udayana University, Denpasar, Indonesia, 9 January.

**2023** Bradley McDonnell, Yanti, Dendi Wijaya, Jacob Hakim, & Blaine Billings. 2023. The changing face of language documentation: An example from Indonesia. Invited talk at *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Center for Southeast Asian Studies*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 8 November.

**2021** Blaine Billings. 2021. Historical phonology of the languages of Northwest Sumatra and the Barrier Islands. Presentation at *University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Austronesian Circle*, Honolulu, HI, USA, 26 October.

Blaine Billings. 2021. Reconsidering modal stacking in a generative framework. Invited talk at *LING 320: Fundamentals of generative syntax*, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA, 13 April.

Blaine Billings. 2021. The languages of Alor regency: Assessing language endangerment. Invited talk at *Webinar Bahasa-Bahasa yang Hampir Punah 3* [3<sup>rd</sup> Webinar on Endangered Languages], Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timor, Indonesia, 30 March.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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**Nasal Language Documentation** Fall 2021 – Present  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI  
Project Title: *Investigating language use in a multilingual community*  
NSF Award #1911641

**Sumatran Historical Linguistics** Fall 2021 – Present  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI  
Project Title: *Subgrouping and internal reconstruction of the Sumatran language family*  
Website: <https://www.e-hsl.com> (very early in development)

## Revitalization Language Technology

Summer 2019

Dallas International University, Dallas, TX

Project Title: *Prestige: A software solution for harnessing a language documentation corpus to promote language and culture revitalization*

## COURSES TAUGHT

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**LING 102:** Introduction to the Study of Language

Summer 2024

Instructor of Record, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## LANGUAGES

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### Natural Languages (*glottocode*)

**English** (*stan1293*): Native

**Spanish** (*stan1288*): Fluent

**Indonesian** (*indo1316*): Conversational

**Nasal** (*nasa1239*): Conversational

**Ancient Greek** (*koin1234*): Intermediate

**Latin** (*lati1261*): Intermediate

**Japanese** (*nucl1643*): Beginner

### Computer Languages (*type*)

**Python** (*programming*): Advanced

**Julia** (*programming*): Advanced

**Java** (*programming*): Advanced

**SQL** (*query*): Intermediate

**Javascript** (*programming*): Intermediate

**C++** (*programming*): Intermediate

**HTML** (*markup*): Intermediate

## HONORS & AWARDS

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**Dictionary Society of North America Project Grant** (\$2,500) 2025

Awarding Institution: Dictionary Society of North America

**Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Fellowship** (\$75,000) 2024–2025

Awarding Institution: UH Mānoa

**Research Enrichment Grant** (\$917) 2024

Awarding Institution: UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization

**Research Fellowship** (\$6,000) 2023

Awarding Institution: AIFIS, CAORC

**Bilinski Educational Foundation Summer Research Award** (\$4,851) 2022

Awarding Institution: UH Mānoa

**Research Enrichment Grant** (\$430) 2022

Awarding Institution: UH Mānoa Graduate Student Organization

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship** (\$6,865) 2021

Awarding Institution: UW-Madison

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Language Documentation & Conservation Journal** Fall 2024

*Reviewer*

**Linguistics Society of Mānoa** Fall 2021 – Spring 2024

*Web director*

**Language Documentation & Conservation Journal** Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

*Copy editor*

**ICLDC7 Steering Committee** Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation

*Co-Chair*, Zoom Planning Committee

*Member*, Schedule Planning & Presentation Planning Committees

**IYIL at the College of Charleston** Fall 2019

Raising Awareness on Indigenous Language of the Americas

*Organizer*