

## Chris Corcoran

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Linguistics  
University of Chicago  
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### Education

Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Major Field: Pragmatics; Minor Field: Language Contact, 1994–present.  
Graduate work, Department of African Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 1991–1994.  
Certificate in Advanced Yoruba, Institute of Cultural Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 1993.  
Fulbright, Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1988–1989.  
B.A., English. Senior thesis: *The Power of the Oral Word: Oral Narratives and Nationalism in Sierra Leone*, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1988.

### Publications

with Sorie Yillah. Krio English. In *Comparative Creole Syntax: Parallel Outlines of 18 Creole Grammars*, eds. John A Holm and Peter L Patrick. London: Westminster Creolistics Series, 2007.  
edited with Patrick Muana. *Representations of Violence: Art about the Sierra Leone Civil War*. Madison, WI: 21st Century African Youth Movement, 2005.  
A critical examination of the use of language analysis interviews in asylum proceedings: a case study of a West African seeking asylum in the Netherlands. *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law: Forensic Linguistics* 11(2):200–221, 2004.  
Creoles and the Creation Myth: a report on some problems with the linguistic use of “creole.” John Boyle and Arika Okrent, eds. *Chicago Linguistic Society* 36(2): the panels, 2001.  
with Salikoko Mufwene. Sam Mathews' Kittitian: What is it evidence of? *St Kitts and the Atlantic Creoles: The texts of Samuel Augustus Mathews in perspective*. Baker, Philip & Bruyn, Adrienne, eds. London: University of Westminster Press, 1999.

### Presentations and Reports

Expert reports: Linguistic analysis of interviews of West African refugees seeking asylum status in the Netherlands through Taalstudio, 2001–present.  
Talk of the 1922 Wedding of Kathleen Easmon and Kamba Simango: Shadow Conversations. Paper presented on the panel of Temporalities in Text: From the "Historical Present" to Dialogic Time at the 104th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 2005.  
The place of language-analysis interviews in asylum procedures: the case of a Sierra Leonean refugee in the Netherlands. Paper presented at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Atlanta, 2004.

Expert reports: Linguistic analysis of interviews of West African refugees seeking asylum status, German Government's Federal Agency: Bundesamt für die Anerkennung ausländischer Flüchtlinge, Nürnberg, 2000–2002.

Being Thrown out of the Garden of Eden: A report on the status of Creole Languages within the field of linguistics. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting for the Society for Caribbean Linguistics, Kingston, Jamaica, 2000.

The Creole Prototype Debates: A Report on Linguistically Defining Sierra Leonean Refugees. Paper presented at the Mestizaje/Créolité: Topologies of Race in the Circum-Caribbean conference held at the Frank Institute for the Humanities, Chicago, 1999.

“How should linguists deal with race?” response to “Demographic change and the evolution of vernacular languages: the development of African American Vernacular English and White Vernaculars in the American South,” Guy Bailey (University of Texas at San Antonio), Language and Diachrony Initiative held at the University of Chicago, February 19–20, 1999.

An examination of Hancock's proposals on African genesis. Paper presented at the Language in Society Workshop, University of Chicago, 1998.

The place of Guinea Coast Creole English (GCCE) and Sierra Leone Krio (SLK) in the Afro-genesis debate. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held in New York, January 8–11, 1998.

Caribbean-Hawaiian contact. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, held in Chicago, January 3–4, 1997.

Caribbean migration to Hawaii and the potential impact on the genesis of Hawaiian Creole English. Paper presented at the Language in Society Workshop, University of Chicago, 1996.

Staged drama in Sierra Leone from the 1940s to the late 1980s. Paper presented at the Symposium on African Theatre and Film held at the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama held at the University of Toronto, April 28–May 2, 1993.

Contemporary Sierra Leonean drama. Paper presented for the Department of African Languages and Literature's Colloquium Series, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 1992.

Sengbe Pieh: a dramatic monologue performed by Abu-Hassan Koroma, South Madison Neighborhood Center and Madison Public Schools, 1992.

New directions in Sierra Leonean Theatre: The Krio-Language plays. Paper presented at the African Literature Association Conference held at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, April 4–7, 1990.

Fulbright report to Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. Investigation of KiKaKu Mende syllabary: information gathered from KiKaKu t-shirt distribution, interview with Saffa Koroma, Gbaima, Kailahun District and reports confirming existence of 1968 court cases and tax records kept in Segbwema, 1989.

Interviewed playwrights and collected 214 unpublished manuscripts from 80 Sierra Leonean playwrights for an archive, documented the existence of 64 active drama groups, 108 playwrights, and 355 plays performed in Sierra Leone/Fulbright funded research, 1988–89.

## **Work Experience**

### **Courses Taught**

2000, Linguistics 301/401: Introduction to Linguistics: Pragmatics, Semantics, and Syntax, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

1998, Introduction to Sociolinguistics and Cultural Differences, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois

1987 & 1988, Introduction to Sierra Leone Krio, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan

#### Teaching Assistantships

- 2000, Introduction to Linguistics: Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology, University of Chicago, John Goldsmith  
1999, Syntax 1 (graduate level), University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene  
1999, Syntax 2 (graduate level), University of Chicago, Amy Dahlstrom  
1998, Introduction to Linguistics: Pragmatics, Semantics, and Syntax, University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene  
1998, Introduction to Linguistics: Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology, University of Chicago, Robert Pensalfini  
1997, Syntax I (graduate level), University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene  
1997, African Civilization III, University of Chicago, Ralph Austen  
1992, First Year Yoruba, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Antonia Y. F. Schleicher  
1987, Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry, Kalamazoo College, Conrad Hilberry  
1986, Modern Poetry, Kalamazoo College, Conrad Hilberry

#### Class Lectures

- 1999, Spring, “How Passive is treated in the Autolexical Framework,” Linguistics 305: Syntax 2 (graduate level), University of Chicago, Amy Dahlstrom  
1998, Fall, “Introduction to Lexical Semantics,” Linguistics 301: Introduction to Linguistics: Pragmatics, Semantics, and Syntax, University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene  
1998, Fall, “Phrase Structure Rules,” Linguistics 301: Introduction to Linguistics: Pragmatics, Semantics, and Syntax, University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene  
1997, Fall, “Constituency Tests for Deep Structure and Surface Structure,” Linguistics 304: Syntax 1 (graduate level), University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene

#### Editorial Work and Assistantships

- 2001–present, Senior Production Editor, Journals Division, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois  
1998–99, Student Advisor for MA thesis, The ellipsis of nominative case markers in Korean and Japanese, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago  
1998, Proofreader for Laila Sakshaug. 1999. Norwegian Compound Deverbal Nouns: An Autolexical Analysis in Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics, dissertation, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway  
1993, Project and Editorial Assistant, *Je K’A So Yoruba* a Yoruba language text book published by Yale University Press  
1986–1987, Contributor and Editor, *The Index*, Kalamazoo College's newspaper  
1985, Editorial Intern, *Parnassus: Poetry in Review* (editor: Herbert Leibowitz), 41 Union Square W, Rm 804, New York, New York  
1985–1987, Editor, *Cauldron*, Kalamazoo College's literary magazine, Kalamazoo College  
1984, Editorial Intern, Persea Books (publisher: Michael Braziller), 171 Madison Avenue, New York, New York

#### Awards & Fellowships

- 1994–present, Tuition Award, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago  
1995–1998, Brown Scholarship, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago

1998, Summer, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Portuguese, University of Chicago  
1993–1994, Academic Year, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Yoruba, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1993, Summer, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
1993, U.S. Group Project Abroad Award, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
1993, Manuscript Preparation Grant, African Languages and Literature Scholarship Fund, Department of African Languages and Literatures, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1992, Nominated for the Jordan Prize: Best Paper in African Studies, by Hazel Carter, Department of African Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1988–89, Fulbright, Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone

### **Languages of Interest and Study**

Sherbro, Mende, Sierra Leone Krio, Yoruba, Hawaiian Creole English, Kittitian, Crioulo de Cabo Verde, Brazilian Portuguese

### **Workshop and Conference Committees**

1999–2000, coordinator, Language in Society Workshop, University of Chicago  
2000, coordinator, symposium on the question “Do creoles represent a linguistically definable class?” with Michel DeGraff (MIT) and John McWhorter (UC–Berkeley), Language in Society Workshop, University of Chicago  
2000, co-coordinator, Anthropologies and Histories of Language, Michigan Graduate Student Conference in Linguistic Anthropology to be held at the Franke Institute of the Humanities, April 14–15, 2000  
1994–2000, member, Chicago Linguistic Society, abstract reading committee and conference organizational work  
1992–1993, founding member, Department of African Languages and Literature Colloquium Series Committee, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1993, selection committee member, Study Abroad Program (Sierra Leone), International Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1992, orientation program presenter, Study Abroad Program (Sierra Leone), International Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1987–88, orientation program presenter, Study Abroad Program (Sierra Leone), Kalamazoo College

### **Membership in Professional Societies**

African Studies Association  
American Anthropological Association: Association for Africanist Anthropology and Society of Linguistic Anthropology  
Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics  
Society of Caribbean Linguistics  
Linguistic Society of America