

# *Thomas R. Wier*

University of Chicago  
Current as of: April 2008

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## **Personal**

Addresses:

Department of Linguistics  
University of Chicago  
1010 E. 59th St.  
Chicago, IL 60637  
phone: (773) 702-8957  
fax: (773) 834-0924

*As of Sept. 2007:*  
Dept. of Linguistics  
Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary  
Anthropology  
Deutscher Platz 6  
04103 Leipzig, Germany

email: [trwier@uchicago.edu](mailto:trwier@uchicago.edu)  
webpage: [home.uchicago.edu/~trwier](http://home.uchicago.edu/~trwier)

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## **Professional Areas**

Broad: syntax, morphology, the morphology-syntax interface, language typology

Narrow: case-assignment, grammatical relations, argument structure, ergativity, valency, Georgian, Caucasian linguistics (Kartvelian, Northeast Caucasian, Northwest Caucasian), Meskwaki, Native American linguistics (Algonquian, Uto-Aztecan)

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## **Education**

Sept. 2001-present	University of Chicago
August 1997 - May 2001	B. A. in Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin, with Honors. B. A. in History, University of Texas at Austin. B. A. in Ancient History*, University of Texas at Austin. Thesis title: <i>Methodological Issues in the Search for the Indo-European Urheimat.</i> Advisor: Robert D. King
June 1999 - August 1999	German Summer School of the University of New Mexico at Taos

\*Ancient History constituted a cross-disciplinary major between Classics and history, the course work for which consisted mostly of the study of classical languages.

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## Conference presentations and proceedings

- 8 Dec 2007 “Parameterization and Polysynthesis in Georgian”, at the Caucasological Conference at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig.
- 24 Nov 2007 “The Typology of Tavization in Georgian Ditransitive Constructions”, at the Typology of Ditransitives Conference at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig.
- 4 Jan 2007 “Hierarchies, Feature Geometry and the Morphosyntax of Algonquian Languages”, at the Eighty-first Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Anaheim, CA,
- 18 February 2006 “Feature Geometry and the Morphosyntax of Algonquian Languages”, at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in General Linguistics, Madison, Wisconsin, 17-18 February 2006.
- 7 January 2006 “Meskwaki and Georgian: Test Cases for the Polysynthesis Parameter”, at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 5-8 January 2006.
- 5 Nov 2005 “The morphological status of subject markers in Nahuatl and the Omnipredicativity Hypothesis”, At the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Linguistic Society, Austin, Texas, 4-6 November 2005.
- 23 Oct 2005 “Polysynthesis in Meskwaki”, at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Algonquian Conference. Ottawa, Ontario, 21-23 October 2005
- 21 July 2005 “Pivots and Subjecthood in Georgian: a question for monostratal representations”, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual LFG conference, Bergen, Norway
- 20 May 2005 “Georgian Case-assignment and the Typology of Split-S Languages”, to be held at the Stative-Active Languages Conference, at Leipzig, Germany
- 18 February 2005 “(Non)Antipassivization and Grammatical Relations in Georgian”, presented at the 31st annual gather of the Berkeley Linguistic Society
- 16 February 2004 “Comparative Markedness and Opacity in Meskwaki Palatalization”, presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual gathering of the Berkeley Linguistic Society. Berkeley, California, 13-16 February 2004.
- 27 October 2002 “The Effects of Prosodic Constraints on Reduplication in Luiseño Plural Nouns”, presented at the Eighth Midcontinental Workshop on Phonology (MCWOP 8). Bloomington, Indiana, 25-27 October 2002.

\*\* = denotes forthcoming talks

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## Books

- March 2008 *CLS 40: The Main Session. Papers from the 40th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. Vol. 1.* Chicago: [Chicago Linguistic Society](#).
- March 2008 *CLS 40: The Panels. Papers from the 40th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. Vol. 2.* Chicago: [Chicago Linguistic Society](#).
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## Selected Research and Publications

- “Georgian and Polysynthesis”, in *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* (in publication)
  - “Modularity and the Role of Phonology in Autolexical Grammar” (Ms.)
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## Selected Book Reviews and Notices

- review *The Phonology of Standard Chinese* by San Duanmu; *The Phonology of Hungarian* by Siptár and Törkenczy; *The Phonology of Portuguese* by Mateus and d’Andrade; *Phonological Knowledge: Conceptual and Empirical Issues* ed. by Burton-Roberts et al. In: [General Linguistics](#)
- booknotice Papers of the Thirty-Fourth Algonquian Conference, ed. by H. C. Wolfahrt in *Language* 83.1 (March 2007)
- booknotice *Current Trends in Caucasian, East European and Inner Asian Linguistics: Papers in honor of Howard I. Aronson* ed. by Kevin Tuite and Dee Holisky, in [Language](#)
- booknotice *A Grammar of Kalaallisut (West Greenlandic Inuttut)* by Jerrold Sadock, in [Language](#) 82.1 (March 2006)
- booknotice *Introduction to Classical Nahuatl* by J. Richard Andrews, in [Language](#) 81.4 (December 2005)
- booknotice *An Introduction to the Shoshoni Language* by Drusilla Gould and Christopher Loether, in [Language](#). 81.4 (December 2005)
- booknotice *Abkhaz* by Viacheslav I. Chirikba, in [Language](#) 81.2 (June 2005)
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## Honors and Awards

- 2006 Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, for Georgian (\$6,000.00)
- 2006 Summer Foreign Language Enrichment Program (FLEP) Fellowship, for Georgian (\$6,000.00)

2005	Doolittle-Harrison Travel fellowship (\$500.00)
2004	Documentation of Endangered Languages (DoBeS) fellowship, Volkswagen-Stiftung (€ 550.00)
2004	Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Nahuatl, 2004-2005, University of Chicago (Full tuition + \$14,000 stipend)
2004	Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Korean, University of Chicago (\$6,000.00) [Declined.]
2003	Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Russian, University of Chicago (\$6,000.00)
2000	Cline Research Fellowship in the Humanities, University of Texas at Austin. (\$500.00)
1999	Zertifikat Deutsch from the Goethe Institut, Houston, Texas

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### **Invited Guest Lectures**

2006, Spring	“Parameterization and Language Change”, Introduction to Linguistics III, (Sociolinguistics and Historical Linguistics).
2005, Spring	“Alignment systems in the indigenous languages of North America”, in Languages of the World, University of Chicago, Ilya Yakubovich
2003, Fall	“Autolexical Syntax and other nonderivational theories of grammar” in Introduction to Syntax, University of Chicago, Amy Dahlstrom
2002, Fall	"Language replacement in the Ancient Mediterranean" in Seminar on the Ecology and Evolution of Language, University of Chicago, Salikoko Mufwene

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### **Teaching and Research Experience**

March/April, 2008	Lecturer, ‘Feature Hierarchies in Natural Language; Or, How (Not) to Linguisticize with a Hammer’ at the Leipzig Spring School on Language Diversity, 31 March – 4 April 2008.
January-present 2008	Language trainer, English conversation. ICC-Sprachinstitut, Leipzig, Germany
Spring, 2007	Lecturer, Advanced Georgian-III
Winter, 2007	Teaching Assistant, Introductory Georgian-II. Lecturer: Tamra Wysocki.
Fall, 2006	Teaching Assistant, Introductory Georgian-I. Lecturer: Tamra Wysocki.
Fall 2005	Teaching Assistant, Linguistics 204/304: Introduction to Linguistics: Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics. Professor: Salikoko Mufwene
Fall 2003	Teaching Assistant, Linguistics 204/304: Introduction to Linguistics: Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics. Professor: Amy Dahlstrom.
Summer 2002	Research Assistant, Chicago Maya Project.

January 1998 - May 2001 House of Tutors, Learning Centers, USA, Inc.  
Positions: individual and group tutor, standardized test preparation (TASS, PSAT, SAT, GRE, TOEFL), elementary school mentoring.  
Subjects tutored: introductory linguistics, phonetics, English language, British literature, American literature, German language, Latin language, US history, European history, Texas history, world philosophy.

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### Membership in Professional Societies

2003-2004	Officer, <a href="#">Chicago Linguistic Society</a>
2003-present	Linguistic Society of America
1998-2001	Mimung Society for Indo-European Language and Culture

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### Language Proficiency

Length of coursework in parentheses.

German	Good speaking fluency and excellent reading fluency (8 years)
Georgian	Good reading and speaking fluency (3 years)
Ancient Greek	Good reading knowledge (3 years)
Latin	Good reading knowledge (2 years)
Meskwaki (Algonquian)	Fair reading knowledge (1 year)
Nahuatl, Oapan and Ameyaltepec	Fair reading knowledge (1 year)
Old Georgian	Fair reading knowledge (2 quarters)
Akkadian	Fair reading knowledge (2 quarters)
Russian	Fair reading and speaking fluency (1 quarter)
French	Fair reading knowledge (1 quarter)
Lak (NE Caucasian)	Fair reading knowledge (1 quarter)