

# Dr. Lewis C. Lawyer

Linguistics,  
Language reclamation and revitalization,  
Language technologies

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## Education

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### Max-Planck-Institut für Menschheitsgeschichte, Jena

Postdoctoral research with Paul Heggarty, 2015

### University of California, Davis

PhD in Linguistics, 2015

Advisors: Martha Macri and Patrick Farrell

MA in Linguistics, 2012

Advisor: John A. Hawkins

### University of Cambridge

MPhil (with distinction) in English and Applied Linguistics, 2006

### University of Southern California

BAs (with honors) in Linguistics and Music, 2005

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## Publications

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Lawyer, Lewis C. (submitted) Stories told by Captain Thomas Odock. Submitted for publication in the *International Journal of American Linguistics IJAL Texts Online*.

Nichols, Wendalyn and Lewis C. Lawyer. 2021. Identifying emergent meanings via the Word of the Year process: A case study. *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* 42(2), 57–69.

*Patwin Language Dictionary*. 2021. Written by Lewis C. Lawyer in consultation with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Privately published by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2021. *A Grammar of Patwin*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press.

McIntosh, Colin, Kory Stamper, Jessica Rundell, Laura Wedgeworth and Lewis C. Lawyer. 2020. *Cambridge English Thesaurus*. Cambridge University Press.  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/thesaurus/>

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. A Description of the Patwin Language. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Davis.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. Patwin phonemics, phonetics, and phonotactics. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 81(2), 221–260.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. The oblique phrase and the order of the relative construction. *STUF: Language Typology and Universals* 68(4), 515–550.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2010. Walman *and*-verbs and the nature of Walman serialization. In Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King, eds. *Proceedings of the LFG10 Conference*. Stanford, California: CSLI Publications.

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## Presentations

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Lawyer, Lewis C. 2021. Philology, grammar, reclamation: Translating Wintun T’ewe at a distance. ARRCIMS Research Seminar, Anglia Ruskin Research Centre for Intercultural and Multilingual Studies, Cambridge.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2021. Grass and clover: Grammatical animacy in Patwin. Virtual poster presentation at SSILA 2021 (the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas), online.

Heggarty, Paul, Aviva Shimelman, Giovanni Abete, Cormac Anderson, Scott Sadowsky, Ludger Paschen, Warren Maguire, Lechoslaw Jocz, María José Aninao A., Laura Wägerle, Darja Appelgan, Ariel Pheula do Couto e Silva, Lewis C. Lawyer, Ana Suely Arruda Câmara Cabral, Mary Walworth, Jan Michalsky, Ezequiel Koile, Jakob Runge and Hans-Jörg Bibiko. 2019. Sound Comparisons: A new online database and resource for research in phonetic diversity. Presentation at the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences ICPhS 2019, Melbourne, Australia.

Lawyer, Lewis C. and Philippe Climent. 2019. Dynamic Corpus at the Cambridge Dictionary: Automatically extracting publishable example sentences from corpora at scale. Presentation at AsiaLex 2019, Istanbul, Turkey.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2017. One language or many? Patwin dialect variation in historical and social context. Presentation at LSA 2017 (Linguistic Society of America), Austin, Texas.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2016. Voice, valency, and the fluidity of transitivity in Patwin. Presentation at LSA 2016, Washington DC.

Lawyer, Lewis C. 2016. Layers in Patwin: Double case marking and the Miwok substrate. Presentation at SSILA 2016, Washington DC.

- Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. Action philology: Deep access to language archives in the digital age. Invited talk at the Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma, and UC Davis Department of Native American Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series.
- Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. What “we” can be: Patwin pronouns in the archive and the community. Invited talk at the University of Oklahoma Department of Anthropology.
- Lawyer, Lewis C. 2015. Documenting Patwin phonetics from the archival record. Presentation at SSILA 2015, Portland.
- Lawyer, Lewis C., James Sarmiento and Lajos Szoboszlai. 2015. Relying on the past: Quests for knowledge using language archives. Poster to be presented at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland. In organized session: Utilization of language archives in endangered language research, revitalization, and documentation. Session organized by the LSA Committee for Endangered Languages and their Preservation (CELP).
- Lawyer, Lewis C. 2014. Patwin pronouns and archival research. Part of a panel discussion “Native Languages of California: Past, Present, and Future,” with Justin Spence (chair), Todd Gettleman, D.J. Worley, and Joanne Torres. Native American Culture Days: UC Davis, April 2014.
- Lawyer, Lewis C. 2014. *This-ing* through the archive: An investigation of Patwin pronouns. Invited talk for the First Nations Language Program at the University of British Columbia.
- Lawyer, Lewis C. and Raúl Aranovich. 2013. Free affixes in Patwin subordinate clauses. Paper delivered at the Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Grammatical Word: UC Davis, May 2013.
- von Schneidemesser, Luanne, Lewis C. Lawyer, Kenneth W. Whistler, and Deborah Anderson. 2012. Proposal for two phonetic characters. To the Unicode Technical Committee.

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## Fellowships and Grants

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- NEH Documenting Endangered Languages, with the Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Association) “Resources for the Konkow Language.” (PD-255911-17), 2016–2019. Project Director, 2016–2017. Handed off to Kate Hedges, Todd Gettleman and Leanne Hinton in 2017.
- NSF DDRIG, Documenting Endangered Languages program (with Patrick Farrell and Martha Macri). “A description of the Patwin language.” (BCS-1264305), 2013–2014.
- UC Davis & Humanities Graduate Research Award in Linguistics, 2013–2014.
- Graduate Scholars Fellowship, UC Davis Office of Graduate Studies, 2008–2009.

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# Carreer Summary

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## Cambridge University Press

Reference Systems Manager, Cambridge Dictionaries, 2017–present

Maintaining and developing dictionary databases, corpora, website content, user interfaces, workflows, and documentation. Selected projects:

- *Cambridge English Thesaurus*: A combination production dictionary and online thesaurus, interlinked with Cambridge’s primary English dictionary content. I was the content architect and lead developer.
- Pronunciation pages: Pronunciation content automatically extracted from Cambridge’s primary English dictionary content and divided by part of speech or by meaning, as necessary. Individual sounds are parsed and listed for learners.
- Dynamic bilingual dictionary database ecosystem: A configurable update process pulls Cambridge’s primary English dictionary content into bilingual databases, where it can be translated sense by sense.

## Freelance language reclamation and revitalization

Hill Patwin Dictionary, 2015–2021

Researching and writing the first dictionary of Hill Patwin, for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

River Patwin Revitalization, 2016–2017

Researching, teaching, and resource-building for the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians

Mojave Language Revitalization, 2016–2017

Grammatical training for language teachers at the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

## Max-Planck-Institut für Menschheitsgeschichte, Jena

Postdoctoral research with Paul Heggarty, 2015

Phonetic transcription of Andean language phonetics for the “Sound Comparisons” project

## University of California, Davis

Graduate Student Researcher, Linguistics, 2009–2014

MA research, PhD research, etc.

Graduate Student Researcher, Native American Studies, 2014

J. P. Harrington Project: database conversion and standardization

## Ask.com search engine

Researcher, Data Mining and Engineering group, 2007–2008

Research Assistant, Ask.com Vertical Search Information Retrieval Labs, 2006–2007

## **University of Southern California**

Research Assistant for Toben Mintz, USC Language Development Lab, 2003–2005

Research Assistant for Shrikanth Narayanan and Elaine Andersen, 2003–2004

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## **Language Reclamation and Revitalization Work**

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Translating Tom Odock's texts in consultation with Pam Gonzales, 2020–2023

Patwin [pwi]

Grant-funded revitalization with the Konkow Maidu Cultural Preservation Association, 2016–2017

Konkow [mjd]

Teaching language and resource-building for the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, 2016–2017

Patwin [pwi]

Linguist contractor with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, 2016–2017

Mojave [mov]

Linguistics consultation with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, 2011–present

Patwin [pwi]

Writing a dictionary for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, 2011–2021

Patwin [pwi]

2016 Breath of Life Language Restoration Workshop, UC Berkeley

Patwin [pwi]

2014 Breath of Life Language Restoration Workshop, UC Berkeley

Nomlaki, Konkow and Kawaiisu [nol, mjd, xaw]

2013 Breath of Life Archival Institute, Washington DC

Northern Sierra Miwok and Plains Miwok [nsq, pmw]

2012 Breath of Life Workshop, UC Berkeley

Konkow [mjd]

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## **Committees**

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Steering Committee for the Cambridge University Press Consumer Group “D2L”, 2023–present

Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA) Awards Committee, 2022–present

Steering Committee for the Cambridge Dictionary website, 2017–present

Linguistics Graduate Student Association phonetics equipment committee, 2014

UCD Graduate Group in Linguistics Executive Committee, 2012–2014

Linguistics Graduate Student Association Steering Committee, 2012

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## Teaching Experience

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### Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians

Language teacher, 2016–2017

- Community Language Classes
- “Geek Squad” Grammar Classes
- Elders’ Group Language Classes

### University of California, Davis

Instructor

- Linguistic Analysis I: Phonoetics, Phonology, Morphology (upper division)
- Linguistic Analysis II: Morphology, Syntax Semantics (upper division)
- Digitization for Indigenous Languages, Co-Instructor (freshman seminar)
- Introduction to Linguistics (lower division)

Teaching Assistant

- Linguistic Analysis I: Phonoetics, Phonology, Morphology (upper division)
- Linguistic Analysis II: Morphology, Syntax Semantics (upper division)
- English Grammar (upper division)
- Historical Linguistics, Reader (upper division)
- Biological Basis of Language, Reader (upper division)

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## Media

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Margaret Crable, “Bringing an Indigenous language back from the brink of extinction.” *USC Dornsife News*. August 2022.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/alumnus-helps-save-a-vanishing-language/>

Podcast interview with Soterios Johnson: “Lewis Lawyer on Documenting Patwin, One of California’s Indigenous Languages.” On *The Backdrop – A UC Davis Podcast Exploring the World of Ideas*. August 2021.

<https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-bk26h-10a465a>

Kathleen Holder, “‘A Monumental Step’ in Reclaiming a California Indigenous Language.” *UC Davis Magazine*. July 2021.

<https://magazine.ucdavis.edu/linguistics-alum-writes-first-grammar-of-patwin/>

Radio interview with Kenny Dulock. On *Self-Determined*, KDVS Davis. June 2014.

<https://kdvs.org/playlist-details/26811/>