Victoria Y. Chen

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Appointments

2021–present **Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand**
Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Linguistics
School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

2018–2020 **Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand**
Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Linguistics
School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

2020–present **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA**
Adjunct Faculty, Department of Linguistics

2015–2017 **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA**
Instructor of record, Department of Linguistics

2015–2016 **Academia Sinica, Taiwan**
Pre-dissertation Scholarship Fellow, Institute of Linguistics

Areas of specialization

Syntax; historical linguistics; typology; Austronesian languages; Philippine-type languages; Austronesian comparative linguistics.

Education

2013–2017 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Dissertation: A reexamination of the Philippine-type voice system and its implications for Austronesian primary-level subgrouping
Co-chairs: Robert Blust and Shin Fukuda

2011–2012 **MA in Linguistics**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

2011 **BA in Chinese**, National Taiwan University

Grants & awards

External grants: PI or co-PI

2024–2027 **Marsden Standard Grant**, Royal Society of New Zealand
From root to branches: language evolution in the Austronesian family tree [Co-PI with Mary Walworth; AI Miriam Meyerhoff]; $653,000

2021–2024 **Marsden Fast Start Grant**, Royal Society of New Zealand
Mountain or coast? Solving the Austronesian homeland puzzle; $300,000

2022–2023 **National Science Foundation Grant**
Variation in Exceptive Structures [Co-PIs Maria Polinsky and Eric Potsdam] Subaward PI: Exceptive structures in Austronesian languages; $12,247

2019–2021 **Endangered Language Documentation Programme**, the Arcadia Fund
A Grammar of O'roha; [Co-PIs with Darren Flavelle and Miriam Meyerhoff]; £30,053

2015–2016 **Academia Sinica Research Fellowships for Doctoral Candidate**, Academia Sinica
A reexamination of the Philippine-type voice system and its implications for Austronesian higher- order subgrouping; USD$14,440

External grants: co-investigator

2017–2021 **Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Research Grant**
Investigation of the argument and topic marking systems in Formosan languages; USD$11,400. [PI Shin Fukuda]

2016–2017 **Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Research Grant**
Constituency in Formosan languages; USD$9,740. [PI Daniel Kaufman]

2012–2013 **Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research**
Nyagrong Minyag: Collection and Annotation of Oral Traditions; £5,500. [Co-PIs Bkrashis Bzang and John Van Way]

Other external grants

2026 **Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori**
Funding to support the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA 33), including a special session on te reo Māori: $5,000.

Internal grants and awards

2025 **Large Faculty Grant**
Victoria University of Wellington, $3,000

2025 **University Strategic Research Fund-Cross Disciplinary Fund**
Victoria University of Wellington, $49,278 [Co-PI with Neil Dodgson and Tia Neha]

2022 **Early Career Research Excellence Award**
Victoria University of Wellington, $5,000

2022 **Summer Research Scholarship**
The evolution of basic colour terms in Austronesian; $8,000

2022 **Faculty Research Establishment Grant**
Towards a syntactic typology of Austronesian languages; $10,000

2022 **Large Faculty Research Grant**
Towards a syntactic typology of Oceanic languages; $4,960

2021–2023 **Faculty Strategic Research Grant**
Constructions across space and time: A cross-linguistic exploration of English, Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian; $79,650 [Co-PI, PI Stephen Skalicky]

2020 **Joint Research Committee Large Grant**
Abstract syntactic pattern may transfer: Insights from L2 comprehension; $6,630 [Co-PI with Stephen Skalicky]

2017 **Excellence in Doctoral Dissertation Research Award**
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Publications

Journal articles

To appear **Chen, Victoria**. Retention or drift? Reassessing the Nuclear Austronesian hypothesis and its implication for Austronesian higher-order phylogeny. *Oceanic Linguistics*.

2026 **Chen, Victoria*** and Christina Truong*. Towards a typology of pseudo antipassives: An Austronesian perspective. *Linguistic Typology*. [*co-first authors]

2026 **Chen, Victoria**,* Kristina Gallego,* Jonathan Kuo,* Isaac Stead,* and Benjamin van der Voorn* Contact or inheritance? New evidence on the Proto-Philippines debate. *Oceanic Linguistics* 65(1): 58–93.

2026 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. When "passives" involve no A-movement: Rethinking Indonesian-type passives via East Javanese. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 11(1): 1–34.

2026 Skalicky, Stephen and **Victoria Chen**. Does syntax go by? L1 and L2 misinterpretation effects of implausible English passives. *Applied Psycholinguistics* 47 e8: 1–26.

2025 **Chen, Victoria**. The syntax of Philippine-type alignment: Insights from case-marking. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 43: 1839–1898.

2024 Dodgson, Neil*, **Chen, Victoria***, and Meimuna Zahido. The colonisation of the colour pink: Variation and change in Māori's colour lexicon. *Linguistics: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences* 63(3): 815–850. [*co-first authors]

2023 **Chen, Victoria**. When sound change obscures morphosyntax: Insights from Seediq. *Oceanic Linguistics* 62(2): 289–303.

2022 **Chen, Victoria**. When Philippine-type voice meets Indo-European-type voice: Insights from Puyuma. *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* 31: 517–550.

2022 **Chen, Victoria**, Jonathan Kuo, Kristina Gallego, and Isaac Stead. Is Malayo-Polynesian a primary branch of Austronesian? A view from morphosyntax. *Diachronica* 39(4): 449–489.

2020 **Chen, Victoria**. The derived intransitive in Formosan and its implication for Proto-Austronesian Actor Voice. *Oceanic Linguistics* 59(1/2): 59–90.

2019 **Chen, Victoria*** and Bradley McDonnell*. Western Austronesian voice. *Annual Review of Linguistics* (5), 173–195. [*co-first authors].

2018 **Chen, Victoria**. The Raising-to-object construction in Puyuma and its implications for a typology of RTO. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 3(1), 111: 1–34.

2017 Blust, Robert and **Victoria Chen**. The pitfalls of negative evidence: Ergative Austronesian, Nuclear Austronesian, and their progeny. *Language and Linguistics* 18(4): 579–623.

2016 **Chen, Victoria.** When synthetic meets analytic: A note on structural borrowing in Kaxabu Pazeh. *Oceanic Linguistics* 55(2): 669–677.

Invited reviews

2020 Skalicky, Stephan and **Victoria Chen**. Forward and backward transfer of sentence processing cues in English and Mandarin Chinese: A call for approximate replication of Liu, Bates, and Li (1992) and Su (2001). *Language Teaching* (2020), 1–9.

2016 **Chen, Victoria**. To see a world in a grain of sand: Review of Legate (2014) "Voice and little *v*: Lessons from Acehnese". Review Article. *Oceanic Linguistics* 55(1), 290–297.

Refereed book chapters

Submitted **Chen, Victoria**. The typological landscape of voice and voice systems in Formosan languages. In A. Sahoo, S. Kittilä, & FH Yap (eds.), *All about 'Voice': Exploring languages across Asia and Europe*. Studies in Language Companion Series. John Benjamin.

To appear **Chen, Victoria***, Maria Polinsky*, and Eric Potsdam*. Austronesian syntax. In B. Palmer (ed.), *Oceania*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. [*authors listed in alphabetical order]

To appear **Chen, Victoria**. Voice morphology as the spell-out of parallel chains: Insights from Austronesian and beyond. In H. Keupdjio (ed.), *Move & Agree: The State of the Art*.

2026 Kaufman, Daniel, **Victoria Chen**, Bradley McDonnell, Nathan Adamson, and Olivia Waring. Conversion in Austronesian languages. In L. Bauer and S. Valera (eds.), *Oxford Handbook on Conversion and Zero Derivation*. Oxford University Press.

[2026] **Chen, Victoria*** and Maria Polinsky*. Grammatical gender distinctions and classifiers in Austronesian languages In T. Kupisch, N. Schiller, and A. Besler (eds.), *Oxford Handbook on Gender and Classifiers*. [*co-first authors]

2024 Kuo, Jonathan and **Victoria Chen**. Onomatopoeias in Puyuma. In E. Moravcsik and A. Malchukov (eds.), *Comparative Handbooks of Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

2023 Skalicky, Stephen and **Victoria Chen**. Leaving this unsaid: A case study of empty *this* in North American satirical newspaper headlines. In L. Gardelle, L. Vincent-Durroux, and H. VinckelRoisin (eds.), *Reference: From Conventions to Pragmatics*. John Benjamins.

2022 Bradley McDonnell* and **Chen, Victoria***. The evolution of syntax in Western Austronesian. *The Routledge Handbook of Asian Linguistics*. [*co-first authors]

2018 Camp, Amber, Lyle Campbell, **Victoria Chen**, Nala Huiying Lee, and Samantha Rarrick. Writing grammars of endangered languages. *Oxford Handbook of Endangered Languages*, 281–304. Oxford University Press.

Conference proceedings

To appear — Luané Lennox, **Victoria Chen**, and Eric Potsdam. The Javanese free exceptive and its implications for ellipsis constraints in Austronesian. *Proceedings of the 30th Meeting of Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association* (AFLA 30).

2024 — **Chen, Victoria.** What agrees, why and how? Austronesian-type voice and its variation beyond Austronesian. *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* (NELS 54).

2023 — Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Rethinking Indonesian-type passives: Lessons from Javanese. *Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* (NELS 53). Amherst, MA: GSLA.

2023 — Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Two sides to the same coin: Reappraising Indonesian-type passive and OV in Javanese. *Proceedings of the 29th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association* (AFLA 29), 59–74.

2021 — **Chen, Victoria.** Tagalog voice as four bundles of Agree relations: Insights from binding. *Proceedings of the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* (WCCFL 38), 94–104. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

2021 — **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. One language, two voice systems: Insights from Puyuma. *Proceedings of the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* (WCCFL 38), 105–115. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

2017 — **Chen, Victoria.** Philippine-type "voice" affixes as Ā-agreement markers: Evidence from causatives and ditransitives. *Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association* (AFLA 23), 35–49. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics.

2017 — **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Re-labeling "Ergative": Evidence from Formosan. *Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association* (AFLA 23), 50–64. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics.

2016 — **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. "Absolutive" marks agreement, not case: Against the syntactic ergative analysis for the Austronesian-type voice system. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society* (NELS 46), Vol.1, 201–211. Amherst, MA: GSLA.

2016 — **Chen, Victoria.** Pivot ≠ Absolutive: Evidence from Formosan. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society* (BLS 42), 253–272.

2016 — **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Raising to object out of CP as embedded left dislocations: Evidence from three Formosan languages. *Proceedings of the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* (WCCFL 33), 88–98. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

2016 — Claire Stabile, Liu Nian, **Victoria Chen** and Kamil Deen. Cross linguistic priming of the passive in Mandarin and English. *Proceedings of the 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition* (GASLA 13), 223–232. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

2016 — **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Three ways to steal an element from a CP: Evidence from Formosan. *Proceedings of the 22nd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association* (AFLA 22), 31–48. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics.

Working papers

2016 — **Chen, Victoria.** Split inversion in Nyagron Minyag and its implications for the evolution of the rGyalrongic direct/inverse system. *Working Paper in Linguistics* 46(2), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Media and news

2026 — Interview: Using the stars and paddles, indigenous Taiwanese recreate risky sea journey of Great Pacific Migration. CNN World. June 17.

2024 Interview: How colour was understood in pre-colonial New Zealand? Radio New Zealand. April 7. With Neil Dodgson.

2022 Linguistics locates the beginnings of the Austronesian expansion – with Indigenous seafaring people in eastern Taiwan. The Conversation, August 16.

2022 Interview: How does Linguistics tell us about the beginnings of the Austronesian expansion? 95bFM. August, 19.

Other publications

2022 Lobel, Jason, **Victoria Chen**, and Lani Blust. In Memoriam: Robert Andrew Blust. *Oceanic Linguistics*.

2022 **Chen, Victoria**. In Memoriam: Robert Andrew Blust. *Taiwan Insights*.

Presentations

Keynote and plenary presentations

2024 What agrees, why and how? Austronesian-type voice and its variation beyond Austronesian. Keynote presentation. The 54th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54). MIT: January 26–27, 2024.

2023 The Javanese free exceptive and its implications for ellipsis constraints in Austronesian. Keynote presentation. With Luané Lennox and Eric Potsdam. The 30th Meeting of Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 30). Lund University: October 19–22, 2023. [Merit-based invitation]

2021 The design of Philippine-type syntax, with special reference to Formosan. Keynote presentation. The 28th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA 28). National University of Singapore and McGill University: May 28–30, 2021.

2021 Is Malayo-Polynesian a primary branch of Austronesian? A view from morphosyntax. Invited Early Career Plenary. The 15th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 15). Palacký University Olomouc: June 11, 2021.

Invited conference, workshop and series talks

2024 Towards a typology of person indexing in western Austronesian, with special reference to Tagalog. With Daniel Kaufman and Bradley McDonnell. Tagalog Lecture Series: Exploring Tagalog Linguistics. University of Zurich and De La Salle Manila. October 21, 2024.

2024 Illuminating Māori prehistory and Austronesian expansion through Language Science/Linguistics. The 2024 Hudson Lecture. Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi Wellington Branch. September 25, 2024.

2024 Austronesian syntax. Summer Institute in Formal Linguistics. Linguistic Society of Taiwan. July 15–26, 2024.

2021 What agrees, why and how: A view from Austronesian. Invited speaker; as representative of Austronesian. Move & Agree: Workshop on the Formal Typology of Ā-agreement. The University of British Columbia and McGill University. June 4, 2021.

2023 The Austronesian homeland and primary diaspora: The Linguistic evidence revisited. Invited talk. The International Symposium on Archaeology of Prehistoric Maritime Pingtan and the Pacific. Pingtan International Institute of Austronesian Research: August 17–20, 2023. (cancelled due to time conflict)

2023 Malayo-Polynesian and its origin: Insights and puzzles from morphosyntax. Invited talk. University of the Philippines Diliman: The 15th Philippine Linguistics Congress. August 23–25, 2023.

2022 Coastal Formosan, Nuclear Austronesian, and beyond: How do Formosan languages inform theories of Austronesian expansion? Invited talk. University of California, Santa Barbara. March 4, 2022.

2021 The nature of Philippine-type voice: Insights from inside and outside Austronesian. Invited talk. The Researches, Insights, & Perspectives on the Philippine linguistics enterprise talk series. Linguistic Society of the Philippines. November 27, 2021.

Other invited talks, colloquia and guest lectures

2026 Three ways to highlight a peripheral role: Dimensions of the western Austronesian applicative alternations. The 2nd Workshop of the Applicative Alternations across Languages Network. With Christina Truong. February 19, 2026.

2024 The colonisation of colour: Evolution and change in te reo's colour lexicon. With Neil Dodgson. Psychology Colloquium, Victoria University of Wellington. September 13, 2024.

2024 Subgrouping, contact, and the Proto-Philippine hypothesis revisited. Department of Linguistics, University of the Philippines Diliman. Guest lecture. August 3, 2024.

2024 A big, bright future for Austronesian comparative linguistics. Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. April 24, 2024.

2024 The colonization of the colour pink: colour names and colour categories in te reo Māori. Departmental seminar. School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Victoria University of Wellington. With Neil Dodgson. March 23, 2024.

2024 A big, bright future for Austronesian comparative linguistics. Department of Linguistics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. March 7, 2024.

2023 Indonesian-type voice as a continuum in flux: Insights from four languages. The Austronesian Circle. Department of Linguistics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. September 13, 2023. With Hero Patrianto.

2023 Atayalic languages and their morphosyntax. Invited pre-conference seminar. Department of Linguistics, University of the Philippines Diliman. August 18, 2023.

2023 The evolution of basic colour terms in Formosan languages. Guest lecture. Institute of Taiwan Languages and Language Teaching. National Tsing Hua University. June 4, 2023.

2023 Rethinking Indonesian-type passives: Lessons from Javanese. The Austronesian Circle. Department of Linguistics, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. March 31, 2023. With Hero Patrianto.

2022 Eliciting morphology and syntax: Future directions in Austronesian comparative linguistics. Guest lecture. Department of Linguistics, University of the Philippines Diliman. November 12, 2022.

2022 How do Formosan languages inform theories of Austronesian dispersal? Invited lecture series on historical linguistics. Department of Linguistics, National Taiwan University. April, 2022.

2021 Notes on Formosan infinitives and voice-marking constraints. The Restructuring Workshop. Western University (University of Western Ontario). April 9, 2021.

2021 When Austronesian-type voice meets Indo-European-type voice: Insights from Puyuma. Fieldwork Lab, McGill University. February 15, 2021.

2020 Toward a new account of Philippine-type voice. The Restructuring Workshop. Western University (University of Western Ontario). December 15, 2020.

2018 Austronesian nominalizer-voice affix homophony: Another look. The Austronesian Circle series, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. December 9, 2018.

2018 Transitivity, valency, and grammatical relations. National Taipei University of Technology. October 20, 2018.

2017 Comparative Formosan morphosyntax and its implications for big-picture Austronesian linguistics. National Ching-hua University. March 31, 2017.

2016 A reexamination of the Philippine-type voice system and its implication for Austronesian primary-level subgrouping. Academia Sinica. June 27, 2016.

Presentations by refereed abstract

[2026] **Chen, Victoria**, Christina Truong, Bradley McDonnell, Nathan Adamson, and Hannah Woodfield. Tracing the pasts of passives: Five sources of detransitive constructions in Western Austronesian. Talk to be given at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. December 7–8.

[2026] **Chen, Victoria**, Christina Truong, Nathan Adamson, Hannah Woodfield, and Bradley McDonnell. How far apart are the grammars of Austronesian languages? Quantifying grammatical distance to trace evolutionary trajectories. Talk to be given at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. December 7–8.

[2026] Stansfield, Craig and **Victoria Chen**.What defines Proto-Malayo-Polynesian?: Rethinking the ancestral language of Māori and most Austronesian languages. Talk to be given at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. December 7–8.

[2026] Dodgson. Neil, **Victoria Chen**, Tia Neha, Merekara Below, Kirimātao Paipa, Maira Pihema. The colour of change: A cross-generational study of te reo Māori. Talk to be given at the 2026 Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. December 7–8.

2026 Troung, Christina and **Victoria Chen**. A typology of applicative and applicative-like constructions in Western Austronesian languages. Talk given at the 16th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT 16). Lyon: July 1–3.

2026 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. What Javanese-internal variation reveals about the Western Austronesian voice transition. Talk given at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 33). Wellington: June 23–25.

2026 Wu, Chunming, Mengzhu Yan, and **Victoria Chen**. Prosody speaks louder than syntax: Rhetoricality in Mayrinax Atayal wh-clefts. Talk given at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 33). Wellington: June 23–25.

2026 Stansfield, Craig and **Victoria Chen**. When correspondences get messy: Re-thinking the Proto-Austronesian phoneme inventory. Talk given at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 35). Singapore: June 3–5.

2026 **Chen, Victoria**, Christina Truong, Nathan Adamson, Hannah Woodfield, and Bradley McDonnell. Five ways to become a passive: sources of detransitive(-like) constructions in Western Austronesian. Talk given at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 35). Singapore: June 3–5.

2026 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. How Javanese dialectal variation informs the evolution of Western Austronesian Syntax. Talk to be given at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 35). Singapore: June 3–5.

2026 Wu, Chunming, Mengzhu Yan, and **Victoria Chen**. When prosody speaks: Encoding rhetoricality in Mayrinax Atayal wh-Clefts. Talk given at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 35). Singapore: June 3–5.

2025 **Chen, Victoria**. Through the Formosan lens: Rethinking language evolution from the heart of Austronesia. Talk given at 26th New Zealand Asian Studies Society International Conference. University of Auckland: December 1–3.

2025 **Chen, Victoria**, Geographical typology as a window into the evolution of a language family: a Western Austronesian case study. Talk given at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. Massey University: November 27–28.

2025 **Chen, Victoria**. Priska Pramastiwi, Tia Neha, & Neil Dodgson Colour in flux: evolution in the Polynesian colour lexicons through migration and colonisation. Talk given at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. Massey University: November 27–28.

2025 Dodgson, Neil, **Victoria Chen**, & Tia Neha. Changes to colour terms in te reo Māori: a crossgenerational study. Talk given at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. Massey University: November 27–28.

2025 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Extraction as a window into multiple loci of Agree: Insights from Acehnese. Talk given at the 32nd Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 32). Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia: June 2–4.

2025 Christina, Troung* and **Victoria Chen***. Towards a typology of pseudo antipassives: An Austronesian perspective. Talk given at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistic Society (SEALS 34). Bali: June 11–13.

2025 Skirgård, Hedvig, Sam Passmore, Dinnage Russell, **Victoria Chen**, and Mary Walworth. Estimating Proto-Polynesian case system alignment using spatiophylogenetic ancestral state reconstruction. Talk given at the 13th Conference on Oceanic Linguistics (COOL 13). Canberra: June 23–27.

2024 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Pivot lowering yielding split ergativity: Insights from Nusantara voices. Talk given at the 27th International Symposium on Malay and Indonesian Linguistics (ISMIL 27). The National University of Singapore: June 5–6.

2024 **Chen, Victoria**, Daniel Kaufman, and Bradley McDonnell. Clitic positioning patterns in western Austronesian languages. In Panel: Geographical typology as a window into the evolution of the Austronesian family. The 16th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 16). De La Salle University: June 20–24. [Co-organised with Daniel Kaufman and Bradley McDonnell; authors listed in alphabetical order.]

2024 Stead, Isaac and **Victoria Chen**. Voice syncretism in western Austronesia. In Panel: Geographical typology as a window into the evolution of the Austronesian family. The 16th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 16). De La Salle University: June 20–24. [Co-organised with Daniel Kaufman and Bradley McDonnell.]

2024 **Chen, Victoria**, Kristina Gallego, Jonathan Kuo, Isaac Stead, and Benjamin van der Voorn. Proto-Philippines: Facts and fictions revisited. In Panel: New approaches to contact issues in the subgrouping of Austronesian linguistic relations, with Alexander Smith, Emily Gasser, and Owen Edwards. The 16th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 16). De La Salle University: June 20–24. [Authors listed in alphabetical order.]

2024 **Chen, Victoria***, Neil Dodgson* and Meimuna Zahido Colonization-induced change in color lexicon: Insights from Māori. The 16th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 16). De La Salle University: June 20–24. [*Co-first authors.]

2024 Tanaka, Nozomi* and **Victoria Chen***. What drives an Ā-extraction constraint'? Tagalog *kung* relativization reexamined. The 16th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 16). De La Salle University: June 20–24. [*Co-first authors.]

2024 Dodgson, Neil, **Victoria Chen**, and Meimuna Zahido. The Colonisation of Colour: Berlin and Kay's colour categories in Pacific languages. The 29th International Symposium on Electronic Art. The Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre: June 21–29.

2023 Skalicky, Stephen, **Victoria Chen**. L1 and L2 processing of plausible and implausible English passives. Talk given at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Linguistic Society. Auckland: November 28–30.

2023 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. A cline of Indonesian-type voice: Insights from four languages. Talk given at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Linguistic Society. Auckland: November 28–30.

2023 Neil Dodgson, **Victoria Chen**, and Meimuna Zahido. The colonisation of the colour pink: Berlin and Kay's basic colour terms in historic and modern Māori. Talk given at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Linguistic Society - The Māori Language Research Symposium. Auckland: November 28–30.

2023 Patrianto, Hero, and **Victoria Chen**. A cline of Indonesian-type voice as in transition from Ā- to A-syntax. Talk given at the 30th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 30). Lund: October 19–22.

2023 Patrianto, Hero, and **Victoria Chen**. Crossed control as an illusion: Insights from Javanese. Talk given at the 30th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 30). Lund: October 19–22.

2023 **Chen, Victoria**, Jonathan Kuo, and Meimuna Zahido. The evolution of basic color terms in higher-order Austronesian subgroups . Talk given at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 32). May 10, 2023.

2023 Kuo, Jonathan and **Victoria Chen**. Onomatopoeias in Puyuma. Talk given at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 32). May 10, 2023.

2023 Skalicky, Stephen and **Victoria Chen**. Agent or location? Exploring the processing of the passivized by-phrase in monolingual and L2 speakers. Talk given at the 2023 American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL 2023). Portland: March, 2023.

2023 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Rethinking Indonesian-type passives: Lessons from Javanese. Talk given at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 53). Göttingen: January, 2023.

2022 Patrianto, Hero and **Victoria Chen**. Two sides to the same coin: Reappraising Indonesian-type 'passive' and OV in Javanese. Talk given at the 29th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 29/Triple AFLA).

2022 **Chen, Victoria**, Daniel Kaufman, and Bradley McDonnell. Clitic positioning patterns in western Austronesian languages. Talk given at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 31). (Authors listed in alphabetical orders). May 19, 2022.

2022 **Chen, Victoria**, Kristina Gallego, Jonathan Kuo, Isaac Stead, and Benjamin van der Voorn. Contact or inheritance? New evidence on the Proto-Philippine debate. Talk given at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 31). (Authors listed in alphabetical orders). May 20, 2022.

2022 Skalicky, Stephen and **Victoria Chen**. L1 transfer effects in thematic role mapping: A case study of *by*-phrase selection. Poster presented at the 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP (CUNY) 2022), Virtual Conference. March, 2022.

2021 **Chen, Victoria**, Jonathan Kuo, Kristina Gallego, and Isaac Stead. Tracing the root of Malayo-Polynesian: A view from morphosyntax. Talk given at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS 2021). Virtual Conference. April 9.

2021 **Chen, Victoria**, Jonathan Kuo, Kristina Gallego, and Isaac Stead. The origin of Malayo-Polynesian: Insights from morphosyntax. Talk given at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Linguistic Society. Virtual Conference. February 10.

2020 **Chen, Victoria**. Tagalog voice revisited. Talk given at the 27th Meeting of Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 27). Virtual Conference. August 20–22.

2020 **Chen, Victoria**. When Philippine-type voice meets Indo-European-type voice: Insights from Puyuma. Talk given at the 27th Meeting of Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 27). Virtual Conference. August 20–22.

2020 **Chen, Victoria**. Tagalog voice as four bundles of Agree relations: Insights from binding. Talk given at the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 38). Vancouver, March 6–8.

2020 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. One language, two 'voice' systems: Insights from binding. Talk given at the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 38). Vancouver, March 6–8.

2020 **Chen, Victoria**. Tagalog voice does not mark Case or valency: Lessons from picture NP reflexives. Talk accepted at the 26th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA 26). London, May 24–26. [withdrawn]

2018 **Chen, Victoria**. The Raising-to-object construction in Puyuma and its implications for a typology RTO. Talk given at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of New Zealand. Wellington, November 15–16.

2018 **Chen, Victoria** and Robert Blust. Austronesian "nominalizer-voice affix homophony:" Another look. Talk given at the 25th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 25). Taipei, May 10–12.

2018 **Chen, Victoria** and Cheng-chuen Kuo. Binding parameters in "symmetrical voice" languages: Austronesian vs. Dinka. Talk accepted at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 92). Salt Lake City, January 7–10. [withdrawn]

2018 **Chen, Victoria**. The embedded topic construction in Puyuma and its implication for a typology of RTO. Talk accepted at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 92). Salt Lake City, January 7–10. [withdrawn]

2017 **Chen, Victoria**. The transitivity of Philippine-type Actor voice: Evidence from de-transitivization. Talk given at the 24th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 24). Seattle, April 7.

2017 Kaufman, Daniel and **Victoria Chen**. Clausal constituency and historical Austronesian. Talk given at the 24th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 24). Seattle, April 7.

2017 **Chen, Victoria.** The nature of Austronesian-type Actor voice: Evidence from detransitivization. Poster accepted at the 35th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 35). Calgary, April 27–29. [withdrawn].

2016 **Chen, Victoria.** Philippine-type voice affixes as Ā-agreement markers: Evidence from causatives. Talk given at the 23rd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 23). Tokyo, June 10-12.

2016 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Re-labeling "Ergative": Evidence from Formosan. Talk given at the 23rd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 23). Tokyo, June 10–12.

2016 **Chen, Victoria**. Pivot ≠ Absolutive: evidence from Formosan. Talk given at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society (BLS 42). Berkeley, February 5–7.

2015 **Chen, Victoria**. Actor voice ≠ Antipassive: against the syntactic ergative analysis for Formosan languages. Talk given at the 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 90). Washington, DC. January 7–10.

2015 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. "Absolutive" marks agreement, not case: against the syntactic ergative analysis for Austronesian-type voice system. Poster presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 46). Montreal, October 16.

2015 **Chen, Victoria**. A reexamination of recent Austronesian higher-level subgroupings and the "Nominalization-into-Verb" hypothesis. Talk given at the 13th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 13). Taipei, July 18–23.

2015 Kuo, Jonathan and **Victoria Chen**. Causal-noncausal voice alternations in Formosan languages. Talk given at the 13th International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics (ICAL 13). Taipei, July 18–23.

2015 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Restructuring in Formosan languages and their implications for object Case-licensing. Talk given at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 22). Montreal, May 21–24.

2015 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Three ways to "steal" an element from a CP: Evidence from Formosan. Talk given at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 22). Montreal, May 21–24.

2015 **Chen, Victoria** and Shin Fukuda. Raising to object out of CP as embedded left dislocations: Evidence from three Formosan languages. Talk given at the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 33). Vancouver, March 27–29.

2015 Stabile, Claire, Liu Nian, **Victoria Chen**, and Kamil Deen. Cross-linguistic priming of the passive in Mandarin and English. Talk given at the 13th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA 13). Bloomington, March 4–6.

2014 **Chen, Victoria**. Raising-out-of-CP construction in Puyuma. Talk given at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 21). Honolulu, May 24.

2013 Stabile, Claire, **Victoria Chen**, and Kamil Deen. Cross-linguistic priming of passive structure in Mandarin and English. Poster presented at the 11th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA 11). Oldenburg, September 14.

Teaching

Syntax and Morphology
2018–2024

Advanced Syntax
2018, 2020, 2023

Introduction to Linguistics
2018–2019, 2021–2022, 2025–2026

Historical Linguistics
2019, 2022, 2024

Languages in the Life of Aotearoa New Zealand and Asia-Pacific
2026

Topics in Theoretical and Cognitive Linguistics (Advanced Syntax II)
2018, 2020, 2023

Topics in Linguistics at the Interfaces (Advanced Historical Linguistics)
2019, 2022, 2026

Foundations of Cognitive Science
2026

Supervision

PhD supervision

2026–present **Craig Standfield**, PhD dissertation, primary supervisor.
Dissertation: Patterns of metathesis in the Austronesian language family

2025–present **Valentino Pamolango**, PhD dissertation, primary supervisor.
Dissertation: Morphosyntactic variation in Indonesian-type languages: Insights from Sulawesi

2020–present **Hero Patrianto**, PhD dissertation, primary supervisor.
Dissertation: Variation in Indonesian-type voice, with special reference to Javanese (invited for AFLA 31 keynote)

2019–2023 **Brittany Hoback**, PhD dissertation, secondary supervisor.
Dissertation: The Denggan Language Project: A collaborative language documentation project in Banam Bay, Malekula, Vanuatu (funded by ELDP #IGS0329)

2018–2021 **Darren Flavelle**, PhD dissertation, secondary supervisor.
Dissertation: A grammar of O'roha (suspended) (funded by ELDP #IGS0361)

MA and Honours supervision

2026 **Izza Armand**, Honours thesis supervisor.
Dissertation: Repair strategies of English consonant clusters in Bahasa Indonesia: Synchronic variation and diachronic change

2024–2025 **Jessica Coates**, MA thesis supervisor.
Dissertation: A typological study of kinship systems across the Austronesian language family

2024–2025 **Craig Standfield**, MA thesis supervisor.
Dissertation: Accessing primary-order phylogeny: A reanalysis of Austronesian

2024–2025 **Benjamin Fowler**, MA paper supervisor.
Dissertation: Towards a typology of raising to object, with special reference to Austronesian.

2024	**Charlotte Shirreffs**, MA paper supervisor. *Dissertation:* Towards a typology of grammatical politeness
2023	**Craig Standfield**, Honours paper supervisor. *Dissertation:* Te reo Māori Lehnwörter: Strategies for conforming English consonant clusters to Māori syllable structure
2021–2022	**Stephanie Kibblewhite**, MA paper co-supervisor. *Dissertation:* L1 transfer effects on Spanish transitivity encoding: A case study of *se*
2020–2021	**Luané Lennox**, MA paper supervisor. (currently PhD student in McGill Linguistics) *Dissertation:* The left and right peripheries in Afrikaans
2019–2020	**Isaac Stead**, MA paper supervisor. (currently PhD student in Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology) *Dissertation:* Language contact and the decay of Austronesian voice

PhD examination

December 2025	**Li He**, PhD thesis internal examiner. Victoria University of Wellington.
November 2025	**Jiahan Xu**, PhD thesis internal examiner. Victoria University of Wellington.
October 2025	**Aarin Sirima**, PhD thesis external examiner. The Australian National University.
February 2020	**Xia Liu**, PhD thesis external examiner. University of Auckland.
May 2020	**Mengzhu Yan**, internal examiner. Victoria University of Wellington.
July 2020	**Ahmad Naveed Sharif**, external examiner. The University of Otago.

MA examination

April 2020	**Megan Lake**, external examiner. University of Auckland.
February 2020	**Alexandra Birchfield**, internal examiner. Victoria University of Wellington.

Service

School and university

2026–present	Human ethics committee.
2024	Faculty Academic Committee representative.
2021–2023	Linguistics Programme Director (undergraduate and postgraduate).
2025	Language Sciences Programme Director.
2021–2023	Linguistics Programme Director (postgraduate).
2021–present	Bachelor of Communication/Master of Communication steering committee.
2022–present	Linguistics in Schools project steering committee.
2022	Mentor. The Academic Staff Mentoring programme.
2021	Presentation at Marsden workshop - tips and tricks.
2021–present	Bachelor/Master of Communication Steering Group Committee.
2019–present	Māori & Pasifika liaison, School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies.
2020	Faculty Academic Committee representative, LALS.
2020	LALS Seminar coordinator, LALS.

Profession

	Organizer, the 33rd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association (AFLA 33).
2023–present	Editor-in-Chief, *Te Reo* (Journal of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand).
2025	Co-editor, three Special Issues of *Te Reo* (Journal of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand): Special Issues on Vanuatu languages.
2023–present	Executive committee, the Linguistic Society of New Zealand.
2022–present	Editorial Review Board, *Oceanic Linguistics*, Special Publication series & the PALI Language text series.

Co-organizer, The 21st Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA21). University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Mentoring

Pop-up mentor, The 27th Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association

Pop-up mentor, The 28th Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistic Association

Pop-up mentor, The 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society

Journal review

Journal of Linguistics (2024); *Language* (2023); *Diachronica* (2023, 2023, 2025); *Linguistics: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Language Sciences* (2021, 2022, 2026); *Open Linguistics* (2022); *Journal of East Asian Linguistics* (2021); *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* (2019, 2020, 2021); *Glossa: A journal of General Linguistics* (2016, 2018, 2021 (2), 2025); *Oceanic Linguistics* (2015 (2), 2018, 2019, 2020 (2), 2021 (2), 2022 (1), 2026); *Studies in Language* (2018); *Lingua* (2015).

Abstract review

TripleA 10: 2023

Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA): 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS): 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Annual Meeting of the Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC): 2023

Annual Meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL): 2024

Linguistics Society of America (LSA): 2018

Grant proposal review

Endangered Language Documentation Programme (ELDP): 2020, 2025

Fieldwork

Paiwan (Austronesian)	2025–present	Puyuma (Austronesian)	2013–present
Rukai (Austronesian)	2025–present	Tagalog (Austronesian)	2016–present
Kanakanavu (Austronesian)	2025–present	Seediq (Austronesian)	2012–present
Tsou (Austronesian)	2024	Amis (Austronesian)	2014–2020
Cook Island Māori (Austronesian)	2022	Fataluku (Papuan)	2013
Tok Pisin	2022	Eastern Cham (Austronesian)	2013
Javanese (Austronesian)	2020–2023	Nyagrong Minyag (Tibeto-Burman)	2012–2013