Melissa Gomes

magomes@fhsu.edu | (678)-628-7667
Website

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis
Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2026
Dissertation: *Subject and Object Case Marking in Konkani*
Advisor: Dr. Raul Aranovich
L3 Lab at UC Davis - Dr. Masoud Jasbi (PI)

Institute of Collaborative Language Research (COLANG)
Workshops + Practicum on South Bolivian Quechua, Summer 2022

UC Davis Center for Educational Effectiveness
Graduate Teaching Community Micro-Credential, Fall 2023
Seminar on College Teaching Certificate, Fall 2025

University of Georgia
M.A. in Linguistics, May 2018
Primary Area of Concentration: Syntax
Secondary Area(s) of Concentration: Sociolinguistics, Historical Linguistics
Advisor: Dr. Vera Lee-Schoenfeld

The University of Georgia
B.A. in Linguistics, B.A. in Latin, B.A. in Classical Culture, May 2016

TEACHING

Assistant Professor, Department of English & Modern Languages, Fort Hays State University
ENG 101: English Composition I - Fall 2026 (4 sections)
ENG 102: English Composition II - Spring 2027 (3 sections)
ENG 680: Introduction to Linguistic Science - Spring 2027
ENG 681: Studies in Language and Linguistics: Language and the Body - Summer 2027

Associate Instructor (Instructor of Record), Departments of Linguistics, English, and the University Writing Program (UWP) UC Davis
UWP1: Introduction to Academic Literacies, Fall 2025-Spring 2026
ENG/LIN/UWP 106: English Grammar, Winter 2025

Teaching Assistant, Departments of Linguistics, English, and the University Writing Program (UWP) UC Davis
LIN 1: Introduction to Linguistics, Spring 2024

LIN1Y: Introduction to Linguistics (Hybrid), Winter 2022, Fall 2022
ENG/LIN/UWP 106: English Grammar, Fall 2021
LIN 103B: Linguistic Analysis II: Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Winter 2023, Fall 2023
LIN 131: Introduction to Syntactic Theory, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant/Writing Coach, Department of Linguistics and Writing Intensive Program, University of Georgia
LIN 3150: Generative Syntax, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
LING 3160: Advanced Generative Syntax, Spring 2018

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

UC Davis Professors for the Future Fellowship
Leadership-development program to develop leadership prowess, refine problem solving skills, and acquire an advanced understanding of the university system, 2025-2026

Nancy M. Webb Scholarship
Awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the department through teaching, 2024-2025.

UC Davis Graduate Student Association Travel Award
To fund travel to present research at the 2025 LSA Annual Meeting, Spring 2025

UC Davis Public Scholars for the Future Fellowship
Program and grant to support doctoral students who are developing community engaged research with non-university partners, 2024-2025

Steven G. Lapointe Award
Research award to enable Linguistics graduate students to support their research activities or present their results at scholarly meetings, 2024-2025

UC Davis Provost's Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Awarded in recognition of an outstanding academic record and promise of productive scholarship, 2020-2021.

Linguistic Society of UGA Travel Grant
To fund travel to present research at the 85th Southeastern Conference on Linguistics at the University of Virginia, 2018.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Founder of the Konkani Language Learning Project 2024-
Founded and leads a team that creates free, digital Konkani language learning resources

Co-Chair of Cluster on Language Research at UC Davis 2023-2024

Mentor-Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies, and Social Science 2024
Completed mentor training and served as a graduate mentor - Winter & Spring 2024

Symposium on Language Research at UC Davis Planning Committee 2021-2024
General Committee Member, Moderator 2022-2023
Volunteer Coordinator, Financial Committee, Moderator 2021-2022

UCD Linguistics Graduate Student Association
2021-2023
President 2024-2025
PhD Representative 2022-2023
Graduate Student Association Representative 2021-2022

Guest Speaker at Black History Event Feb. 8, 2020
Screening & Discussion of the film "Talking Black in America"
Kemp Memorial Library in Marietta, GA.

Linguistics Conference at UGA Committee Member
2017

Linguistics Society at UGA 2016-2018
General Body Member

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, & *INVITED TALKS

Melissa Gomes. "Person First or Identity First? Professional Language Practices in Autism Services Across Cultural Contexts in the United States and India". Oral Presentation at the 12th Annual Symposium on Language Research at UC Davis. Davis, CA. May 22-23, 2026.

***Gomes, Melissa.** "Konkani Transmission in First Generation Goan-Americans: Colonial Influence on Language Attitudes & Ideologies". Oral Presentation at the Sixteenth Heritage Language Research Institute. Madison, Wisconsin. June 19, 2025.

Gomes, Melissa. "Effects of Portuguese Colonialism on Konkani Heritage Language Maintenance & Transmission in First Generation Goan-Americans". Oral Presentation at the 2025 Middle East/South Asia Research Symposium at the University of California, Davis. Davis, CA. April 17, 2025.

Gomes, Melissa. "Identifying Factors for Maintenance of Konkani as a Heritage Language in Goan Americans". Poster Presentation at the 2025 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. January 12, 2025.

***Gomes, Melissa.** "Konkani in America: Understanding Heritage Language Maintenance". Oral Presentation at Ganpat Parsekar College of Education. Goa, India. August 2024.

***Gomes, Melissa.** "Konkani in America: Understanding Heritage Language Maintenance". Oral Presentation at Rosary College of Commerce & Arts. Goa, India. August 2023.

***Gomes, Melissa**. "Konkani in America: A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding Heritage Language Maintenance". Oral Presentation at Fieldwork Forum at University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. January 19, 2023.

Melissa Gomes, Jeremy Rud, Skyler Reese. "Methodological Tips & Tricks for Language Research". Panel at the 8th Annual Symposium on Language Research at UC Davis. Davis, CA. May 27, 2022.

Gomes, Melissa. "Konkani in America: A qualitative analysis of transmission among Goan-Americans". Oral Presentation at the 89th Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL). Hosted Virtually by Louisiana State University. April 1, 2022.

Gomes, Melissa. "Formalizing the Grammaticalization of Get". Oral Presentation at the 5th Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (LCUGA5). Athens, GA. October 13, 2018.

Gomes, Melissa. "Crossing Semantic Boundaries: A Syntactic Analysis of English Get Constructions". Oral presentation at the 85th Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL). Blacksburg, VA. April 21, 2018.

Gomes, Melissa. "A Study of the Effectiveness of People-First Language". Poster Presentation at the 2017 GRADNASFLA Symposium: Demystifying Systemic Functional Linguistics. Athens, GA. October 21, 2017.

Gomes, Melissa. "A Study of the Effectiveness of People-First Language". Oral presentation at the 4th Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (LCUGA4). Athens, GA. October 7, 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

Gomes, Melissa. (2025). *Factors for Konkani Heritage Language Transmission in the Goan Diaspora of America*. Heritage Language Journal.

Gomes, Melissa. (2018). *A Study of the Effectiveness of People-First Language*. Proceedings of the 4th Annual Linguistics Conference at UGA: 1-19.

Gomes, Melissa. (2017). *Coming Full Circle: My WIP Experience.* The Writing Intensive Program Blog. < https://wip.uga.edu/coming-full-circle-my-wip-experience/>

MENTORSHIP & ADVISING

Alejandra Mercado, B.A. in Linguistics at UCD (Graduated Spring 2025)
Mentor-Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies, and Social Science, 2024

Konkani Language Learning Project, 2025

Karoly Virag, B.A. in Linguistics at UCD (Graduated Spring 2025)
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2024-2025

Simona Kamat, B.S. in Cognitive Science at UCD (Graduated Spring 2025)
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2024-2025

Veda Nayak, B.S. in Biotechnology at UCD (Graduated Spring 2025)
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2024-2025

Ravi Kini, B.S. in Physics, B.A. in Linguistics at UCD
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2024-2025

Audrey Marrero, UC Davis B.A. in Anthropology
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2025

Kaysey Baysa, B.S. in Cognitive Science, B.A. in Linguistics at UCD (Graduated Spring 2025)
Konkani Language Learning Project, 2024