

CHRISTIAN D. BRENDEL

[LinkedIn](#) • cdbrendel@gmail.com • christianbrendel.net

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara

PhD (2025) and MA (2018) in **Linguistics**

- Combined digitized language data, computational methods, and historical analysis to explore and explain systems of irregular language change
- Dissertation: *(In)stability under pressure: Constraints on function, form, and diachrony*
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (15% accepted, \$160,000 award)
- UC Regents Fellowship

Pennsylvania State University

BA (2014) in **Communication** Arts and Sciences, summa cum laude

- Beinecke Scholarship (<15% accepted, \$34,000 award)
- Schreyer Honors College graduate (<20% accepted)

CORE COMPETENCIES

Research Areas: Language evolution, cognitive pressures on language change, lexical recognition, stability of dynamical systems, phylogenetic classification, literary criticism/analysis

Natural Languages: English (native), Spanish (limited working proficiency), Mandarin (elementary), Icelandic (literate), Latin (literate)

Programming Languages: Python, Rust, SQL, JavaScript/TypeScript, Bash, R, Julia, Java, C, C#, C++, PHP, Perl

Database Management: SQLite, PostgreSQL, MySQL/MariaDB, Access, MongoDB, XML, Redis

Systems Administration: GNU/Linux (Archlinux, Ubuntu) servers/workstations, shell scripting, Docker, TCP/IP networking, cloud/VPS management, web architecture (e.g. Apache, Nginx, OpenSSH, Postfix, dnsmasq), hardware installation & maintenance

Software Development: Web development, client- & server-side cross-platform application development, command-line & graphical interfaces, legacy data migration, scientific programming

Statistical Analysis: Data visualization (e.g. D3.js, Plotly, Seaborn), Pandas/GeoPandas/Polars, regression modeling, machine learning, natural language processing (e.g. data pre-processing, word embeddings), CUDA, transformer model training and inference, Granger causality

Development Tools: Version control systems (Git, Mercurial), vim, VS Code, Jupyter, PyCharm, Tesseract (OCR)

Technical Communication: Technical writing (LaTeX, Word, LibreOffice), website design (HTML, CSS, Wordpress), audio narration, grant writing

EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon / Smithsonian Institution

8–10 hr/week (currently) • Jun 2013–present

Data Management and Analysis Specialist

- Managed decade-long data conversion project for indigenous language dictionary (Juchitán Zapotec), transforming legacy proprietary data into modern SQLite relational database for long-term preservation

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- Developed Python and Rust applications for data validation, transliteration, error detection, and referential integrity preservation across 10,000+ entries
- Created cross-platform applications for stakeholders to manage dictionary data mid- and post-migration on both Windows and OS X platforms
- Translated complex relational data into user-friendly views (e.g. Access, Excel) for language specialists to improve accessibility and adoption
- Collaborated with Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany to publish two dictionaries in an open-access online format
- Began work under highly-competitive National History Research Experience (NHRE) at the National Museum of Natural History (NSF-REU site EAR-2244445)

University of California, Santa Barbara

Instructor and Research Manager

20–40 hr/week • Sep 2015–Mar 2025

- Designed and delivered curriculum for 135+ undergraduate students as instructor-of-record for introductory linguistics courses
- Managed 4 graduate teaching assistants, creating lesson plans and incorporating team feedback
- Led undergraduate research teams across 3 major projects, training students from diverse academic backgrounds (linguistics, computer science, physics)
- Served as teaching assistant for 15 undergraduate courses, demonstrating consistent pedagogical excellence

Academic Narrator and Interpreter

5–10 hr/week • Sep 2020–Dec 2023

- Provided specialized narration services for ASL interpreter, translating complex academic linguistics content into simple and digestible recordings
- Supplemented verbatim text with expert explanations and examples for non-specialist audiences

Linguistic Society of America

2–5 hr/week • Jan 2023–Jun 2025

Copyeditor

- Copyedited academic articles for *Phonological Data Analysis* journal, ensuring consistency with publication standards
- Transformed complex manuscripts into production-ready format using LaTeX typesetting system
- Collaborated with authors to resolve technical formatting issues and maintain editorial deadlines
- Managed editorial workflow from article acceptance to final publication

Education Testing Service (ETS)

Assessment Specialist

40 hr/week • Sep 2014–Aug 2015

- Developed test questions to comprehensively assess English language proficiency for international business (TOEIC) and education (TOEFL)
- Led the migration of sensitive data and proprietary software systems supporting millions of test-takers annually
- Served as multimedia copyeditor for TOEFL iBT digital test preparation materials, ensuring quality control across physical-to-digital conversion
- Mentored interns in the English Language Learning division, providing performance evaluations and developmental feedback

Content Development Contractor

4–6 hr/week • Jul 2022–Mar 2024

- Collaborated with ETS employees and other contractors to produce, revise, and evaluate test material for speaking and writing assessments of business English

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- Created bespoke client-side web applications (JavaScript) to facilitate and automate the team's workflow

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Brendel, Christian D. 2023. Translation-induced interrogative relativizers and stability in Icelandic. *Transactions of the Philological Society* 121(1), pp. 1–32.

Auderset, S., **Christian D. Brendel**, E. W. Campbell, S. L. Peters, K. Schaefer, & A. Ventayol-Boada 2019. “Advancing the diachronic & typological study of tone with comparative lexical databases: A case study of 5 Mixtec varieties”, presentation, *52nd Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea*, University of Leipzig.

Moscoso del Prado Martín, Fermín & **Christian Brendel**. 2016. Case and cause in Icelandic: Reconstructing causal networks of cascaded language changes. *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pp. 2421–2430.

Brendel, Christian, G. Pérez Báez, & I. Goddard. 2013. “The influence of Spanish loanwords on Juchitán Zapotec”, poster presentation, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.