

Austin German

305 E. 23rd Street STOP B5100. Austin, TX 78712

Email: ag68349@utexas.edu

Website: <https://austin-german.github.io/>

Research Interests

homesign & emerging sign languages, sign language typology, language socialization, multimodality

Academic Appointments

2024-present NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago. Faculty sponsor: Diane Brentari.

Education

- 2024 PhD in Linguistics. The University of Texas at Austin. Thesis: *The emergence of linguistic structure in Zinacantec Family Homesign*. Supervised by Richard Meier and David Quinto-Pozos.
- 2021 MA in Linguistics. The University of Texas at Austin. Thesis: *The emergence of combinatorial structure in Zinacantec Family Homesign*. Supervised by Jenny Singleton and David Quinto-Pozos.
- 2018 BA in Linguistics (with Distinction) & BS in Cognitive Science. University of California, San Diego. Thesis: *Constructing space in Zinacantec Family Homesign*. Supervised by Gabriela Caballero and John B. Haviland.

Journal Publications

- 2024 **Austin German**. Metalinguistic discourse in an emerging sign language. *Languages* 9(7):240. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages9070240> [Part of special issue “Coexpressivity, Gesture, and Language Emergence: Modality, Composition, and Creation”]
- 2023 **Austin German**. Abrupt grammatical change in an emergent sign language: the expression of motion in Zinacantec Family Homesign. *Diachronica*. <https://doi.org/10.1075/dia.22039.ger> <https://doi.org/10.1075/dia.22039.ger> [Part of thematic issue “The historical linguistics of signed languages”]
- 2023 Laura Horton, Lynn Hou, **Austin German**, & Jenny Singleton. Sign language socialization and participant frameworks in three indigenous Mesoamerican communities: A qualitative comparative study. *Research on Children and Social Interaction*. <https://doi.org/10.1558/rcsi.24314>
- 2022 Cornelia Loos, **Austin German**, Richard P. Meier. Simultaneous structures in sign languages: acquisition and emergence. *Frontiers in Psychology* 13:992589. doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.992589.

2021 Gabriela Caballero & **Austin German**. Grammatical tone patterns in Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara). *International Journal of American Linguistics* 87:2, pp. 149-178. doi.org/10.1086/712980.

Book chapters

accepted **Austin German**. Serial verb constructions in Zinacantec Family Homesign.

Conference & Workshop Presentations

Paper Presentations

2024 **Austin German**. Birth order effects on argument structure devices in Zinacantec Family Homesign. Paper to be presented at SIGN10. University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago. December 9-12. [Abstract in international sign: <https://youtu.be/bPMtBx2BS7s?si=jW8XA3hioUR49bo->].

2023 **Austin German**. Convencionalización léxica en una lengua de señas emergente de Zinacantán. Tenth Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA-X). The University of Texas at Austin. November 9-11.

2022 **Austin German**. Evidence of an emergent classifier system in Zinacantec Family Homesign. Cognitive and Cultural Influences on Language Emergence. May 25-27. Virtual workshop. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.35673.39523.

2022 **Austin German**. The emergence of combinatorial structure in Zinacantec Family Homesign. Paper presentation at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America. January 6-9. Washington, D.C.
doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24768.20485

2021 **Austin German**. The emergence of segmentation in Zinacantec Family Homesign. Paper presentation at the 20th meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society. March 5-6. The University of Texas at Austin.

2019 **Austin German**. Grammatical development in a Mayan sign language. Paper presentation at the Ninth Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America (CILLA-IX). The University of Texas at Austin. October 10-12.

2019 Gabriela Caballero & **Austin German**. Grammatical tone patterns in Choguita Rarámuri (Tarahumara). Paper presentation at the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA). January 6-12. New York, NY.

Posters

2022 **Austin German**. Evidence of an emergent classifier system in Zinacantec Family Homesign. 14th conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR14). National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU). Osaka, Japan. September 27-29. [doi.org.10.13140/RG.2.2.13434.36804](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.13434.36804)

- 2022 **Austin German.** The roots of spatial grammar in Zinacantec Family Homesign. 14th conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR14). National Museum of Ethnology (MINPAKU). Osaka, Japan. September 27-29. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.16789.81123
- 2021 Lynn Y.S. Hou, Laura Horton, **Austin German**, & Jenny Singleton. (2021). Sign Language Socialization in Three Indigenous Mesoamerican Communities: A Qualitative Comparative Study. 46th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development. Virtual Conference. November 4-7.
- 2019 **Austin German.** Emerging functions of manual holds in Zinacantec Family Homesign. 13th conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR13). Universität Hamburg. Hamburg, Germany. September 26-28.
- 2018 **Austin German.** Eye gaze and simultaneous constructions in Zinacantec Family Homesign. 8th annual meeting of the International Society for Gesture Studies (ISGS8). Cape Town, South Africa. July 4-8.

Other projects

- 2020 David Quinto-Pozos, Jenny Singleton, Richard Meier, Donna Altuna, Susie Tiggs, Caitie Coons, **Austin German**, Eric Hale, & Adam Sales. *86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature; Senate Bill 54: Evaluating the performance of RDSPD students*. Report to the Texas Education Agency. University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas.
- 2020 David Quinto-Pozos, Jenny Singleton, Richard Meier, Donna Altuna, Susie Tiggs, Caitie Coons, **Austin German**, Eric Hale, & Adam Sales. *86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature; Senate Bill 54: Evaluating the performance of RDSPD students*. Report to the Legislative Budget Board. University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas.
- 2017 Gabriela Caballero, Lucien Carroll, Patrick Mullen, Sean Stein, **Austin German**, Klaus Kim & Andres Aguilar (compilation, analysis). Choguita Rarámuri annotated corpus and lexical database. [Web interface designed by Russell Horton, and further developed by Lucien Carroll]. <http://field.ucsd.edu/raramuri/> (documentation available at <https://github.com/ucsd-field-lab/kwaras>).

Grants

- 2024- National Science Foundation Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (NSF-SPRF). *The emergence of phonological structure in a family homesign system* (BCS 2404654). PI: **Austin German**; Co-PI: Diane Brentari. \$170,000
- 2022- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (NSF-DDRIG).
2024 *The emergence of linguistic structure in a family homesign language* (BCS 2141436). PI: Richard P. Meier; Co-PIs: **Austin German**, David Quinto-Pozos. \$15,741.

Fellowships

- 2023 Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin.
- 2022 College of Liberal Arts Provost's Competitive Continuing Fellowship
- 2020 Carl J and Tamari M. Tricoli Fellowship
- 2020 Carlota S. Smith Fellowship, Dept. of Linguistics, UT Austin.
- 2020 Joel Sherzer Award, Center for Indigenous Languages of Latin America, UT Austin
- 2019 Carlota S. Smith Fellowship and Meier/Sutherland-Meier Fellowship, Dept. of Linguistics, UT Austin.
- 2018 Graduate recruitment fellowship, UT Austin.

Awards

- 2024 College of Liberal Arts Dean's Distinguished PhD Graduate Award

Research Experience

- 2020-2021 Graduate research assistant. Child Language Lab, Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin. P.I.: Jenny Singleton.
- 2020 Graduate research assistant. Department of Linguistics, The University of Texas at Austin. *Examining methods and standards for evaluating certain Texas regional day school program for the deaf (RDSPD) students*. P.I.: David Quinto-Pozos.
- 2017-2018 Undergraduate research assistant. Department of Linguistics, University of California, San Diego. *A Reference Grammar of Choguitta Raramuri (Tarahumara) [ISO 639-3: tar]*. P.I.: Gabriela Caballero Hernández.
- 2016-2017 Undergraduate research assistant. Center for Research in Language, University of California, San Diego. *Zinacantec Family Home Sign: Structure and Socialization in the First and Second Generations of a Spontaneous Emerging Sign Language*. P.I.: John B. Haviland.

Supervision Experience

- 2024 Alredo Tuz Baas. *Preferencias en el uso de marcos de referencia espaciales entre los usuarios sordos y bilingües de la Lengua de Señas Maya Yucateca*. [Preferences in the use of spatial frames of references between deaf and bilingual users of Yucatec Maya Sign Language]. BA Thesis. Universidad de Oriente, Valladolid, Mexico. Supervisor: Olivier Le Guen. Readers: **Austin German**
- 2022-2023 Undergraduate research assistant (for credit, *ASL 357: Undergraduate Research*). Trained in sign language transcription using ELAN, with a focus on segmentation of utterances into clauses and coding word order.
- 2022-2023 Undergraduate research assistant (paid). Trained in sign language transcription using ELAN, with a focus on annotating classifier handshapes.
- 2021 Uicab, Ana Rocío. (2021). *Estudio comparativo del léxico de la Lengua de señas Maya Yucateca en tres comunidades de la Península de Yucatán: Chemax, Chicán y Trascorral*. [Comparative study of the lexicon of Yucatec Maya Sign

Language in three communities of the Yucatán Peninsula: Chemax, Chicán, and Trascorral]. BA Thesis. Universidad de Oriente, Valladolid, Mexico. Supervisor: Olivier Le Guen. Readers: **Austin German** & Josefina Safar.

Teaching Experience

- 2024 Teaching Assistant. American Sign Language Program. UT Austin.
- 2022 Instructor of record. Introduction to the study of language. UT Austin.
- 2021 Teaching Assistant. American Sign Language Program. UT Austin.
- 2020 Teaching Assistant. Dying languages: what world linguistic diversity means for us. Instructor: Anthony Woodbury. UT Austin.
- 2019 Teaching Assistant. Introduction to the study of language. Instructor: David Quinto-Pozos. UT Austin.
- 2017 Teaching Assistant. English conversation and fluency. UCSD Extension English Language Institute.

Fieldwork experience

- 2023 Zinacantán, Chiapas, Mexico. 6 weeks.
- 2022 Zinacantán, Chiapas, Mexico. 6 weeks.
- 2019 Zinacantán, Chiapas, Mexico. 6 weeks.
- 2017 Zinacantán, Chiapas, Mexico. 1 week.

Service

- 2022-2024 College of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Advisory Council, UT Austin
- 2022-2023 Search committee for Assistant Professor in sign language linguistics. Department of Linguistics, UT Austin.
- 2020-2021 Co-organizer, Friends of Uto-Aztecan Conference.
- 2020-2021 Alternate Graduate Student Assembly Representative for the Department of Linguistics, UT Austin.
- 2020 Reviewer. 20th Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society, UT Austin.
- 2020 Reviewer. 19th Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society, UT Austin.
- 2019-2020 Primary Graduate Student Assembly Representative for the Department of Linguistics, UT Austin.
- 2018-2019 Alternate Graduate Student Assembly Representative for the Department of Linguistics, UT Austin.

2018-2019 Co-organizer. Symposium About Language and Society, Austin (SALSA)
XXVII. UT Austin.

Professional Memberships

Linguistic Society of America (LSA).

Sign Language & Linguistics Society (SLLS).

Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA).

Technical Skills

Extensive experience with ELAN.

Elementary knowledge of R/RStudio.

Languages

English (native), American Sign Language (proficient), Spanish (proficient), Zinacantec Family
Homesign (conversational), Tsotsil (elementary), Mexican Sign Language (elementary), Tagalog
(heritage).