

Melody Ann Ross

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OVERVIEW

Sociolinguist with training and experience in a variety of linguistic fields: language documentation, linguistics education, language attitudes, linguistic landscapes, linguistic analysis (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, CDA), language policy and planning, archiving and data management, and public-facing linguistics communication. Special skills in events organization, project management, and student support.

AT A GLANCE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Linguistics, 2017

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Dissertation Title: Attitudes toward Tetun Dili, A Language of East Timor

TESOL Advanced Certification, 2015

American TESOL Institute

80-hour course on teaching English to speakers of other languages

M.A. Linguistics, 2012

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Track: Language Documentation and Conservation;

Thesis Topic: Documentation of Waima'a, an Endangered Language of East Timor

B.A. Linguistics, 2007

University of Texas, Austin, TX

Major: Linguistics; Minors: Geology, Classical History

FELLOWSHIPS

William J. Fulbright-Hillary Rodham Clinton Fellowship in Public Policy

East Timor, Ministry of Education

2014 – 2015, \$37,223

East-West Center Education Program Student Affiliate

Honolulu, HI

2015 – 2016, 2016 – 2017

AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS

Universität Duisburg-Essen Erstantragsvorschuss des DFG-Anreizsystems

Financial support for incidental costs accrued in the preparation of a DFG Individual Grant
2023-2024, €10,000

Universität Duisburg-Essen Qualitätsverbesserung Projekt

Supervising two RAs in the production of curricular and professional development materials
2021, €5,207

Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Award

For the dissertation titled: Attitudes toward Tetun Dili: A Language of East Timor
2016 – 2017, \$25,000

University of Hawai'i Department of Linguistics Endowment Fund

Transcription Assistant for the dissertation titled: Attitudes toward Tetun Dili: A Language of
East Timor
2016, \$100

University of Hawai'i Department of Linguistics Travel Grant

To Orlando, FL: Annual Conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics
2016, \$1,033

University of Hawai'i Department of Linguistics Travel Grant

To Honolulu, HI: 4th International Conference Language Documentation and Conservation
2015, \$1,800

University of Hawai'i Department of Linguistics Travel Grant

To Bangkok, Thailand: 4th International Conference on Language and Education
2013, \$1,750

Bilinski Educational Foundation Research Grant

Educational Policy and Language Attitudes; Preliminary Investigation into Language Attitudes
of Baikeno, Galolen and Fataluku Speakers in Dili
2013, \$3,264

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant

Waima'a Documentation Project
2012, \$2,500

University of Hawai'i Graduate Student Organization Award

Waima'a Documentation Project
2012, \$521

SUPERVISION

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiterin

PI: Dr. Isabelle Buchstaller, *Political aspects of the urban linguistic landscape*
2020-2023, Essen, Germany (UDE)

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Rosie Billington, *Sound Systems of the Languages of Vanuatu*
2020, Melbourne, Australia (UoM)

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Alan Rumsey, *Ku Waru Child Language Acquisition Documentation Project*
2018-2020, Canberra, Australia (ANU)

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Julia Miller, data manager, *Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language*
2018-2020, Canberra, Australia (ANU)

Research Assistant

Dr. Ralph Lawton, Dr. Andrew Pawley, *Kiriwinan-English Dictionary*
2018-2020, Canberra, Australia (ANU)

Primary Investigator

Attitudes toward Tetun Dili,
2015 – 2017, Dili, Timor-Leste (UHM)

Research Assistant

PI: Dr. Andrea Berez, *Pilot Project to Assess the Impact of Language Documentation Technologies in Papua New Guinea: Perspectives from Family, Village, and University*
2013, Goroka, Papua New Guinea (UHM)

Primary Investigator

Educational Policy and Language Attitudes; Preliminary Investigation into Language Attitudes of Baikeno, Galolen and Fataluku Speakers in Dili
2013, Dili, Timor-Leste (UHM)

Primary Investigator

Phoneme Acquisition in Waima'a, an Endangered Language of Baucau, Timor-Leste
2012, Baucau, Timor-Leste (UHM)

Research Assistant

Dr. Patience Epps, *The Dynamics of Hunter-Gatherer Language Change in NW Amazonia*
2008 – 2010, Austin, TX (UT)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Universität Duisburg-Essen

Department of Anglophone Studies
*Language Ideologies in a Galaxy Far, Far
Away**†
2026-current, Lecturer

*Research Methods in Language
Attitudes**†
2025-current, Lecturer

*Research Methods in Linguistic
Landscapes**†
2025-current, Lecturer

*Areas and Approaches II: Phonetics &
Phonology**
2021-current, Lecturer

*Language Policy and Planning**†
2021-current, Lecturer

*Language Attitudes and Ideologies**†
2021-current, Lecturer

*Areas and Approaches II: Morphology &
Syntax**
2020-current, Lecturer

Ruhr-Universität Bochum

*Reading the City: Linguistic Landscapes**†
2022-2023, Lecturer

*Language and Education**†
2021-2022, Lecturer

University of Sydney (Australia)

*Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme:
Master of Indigenous Languages
Education*
2018-2020, Tutor (all courses)

Australian National University

School of Literature, Language and
Linguistics
2017-2018, Marker, Tutor
Language and Social Interaction

Cross-Cultural Communication

Language and Society

Structure of English

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Department of Linguistics
*Language in Hawai'i and the Pacific**
2014, Lecturer

*Introduction to the Study of Language**
2011 – 2015, Lecturer

National University of Timor-Leste

Center for Peace and Conflict Studies
Conversational English: All Levels
2014 – 2016, Coordinating Teacher

*Practice Makes Perfect: Advanced English
Writing Course**†
2014 – 2015, Instructor

University of Texas at Austin

Department of Undergraduate Studies
*Freshman Interest Group Seminar**
2009, Facilitator

† denotes an original course

* denotes a solo-taught course

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Volumes

Ross, Melody Ann (Ed.). (In prep). *Reflection and Reflexivity in Linguistic Landscape Studies*.

Ross, Melody Ann. (Under review). *Jalan Avenida: Ideologies and Attitudes in Timor-Leste's Street Names*.

Buchstaller, Isabelle, Małgorzata Fabiszak, & Melody Ann Ross (Eds). 2024. *Time-space (dis-) continuities in the linguistic landscape: Studies in the symbolic (re-)appropriation of public space*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003311621-11>

Book Chapters

Ross, Melody Ann & Kerry Taylor-Leech. (In Press). The revolving door of agentive spaces for change; Timescales and trajectories of Timor-Leste's mother-tongue pilot program. In: *Non-dominant languages in education policy change: Exploring agents and agency*, Eds. Kimmo Kosonen & Carol Benson. Multilingual Matters.

Glass, Maggie, Ingeborg Birnie, & Melody Ann Ross. (In Press). Language Diversity, Vitality, and Endangerment in the Human-Machine Era. In: *Language in the Human-Machine Era; New Technologies and the Coming Transformation of Language*. Eds. Dave Sayers, Maggie Glass, Helen Kelly-Holmes, & Robert Fuchs. MIT Press.

Ross, Melody Ann. 2024. Politics in the Linguistic Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste. In: *Time-space (dis-)continuities in the linguistic landscape: Studies in the symbolic (re-)appropriation of public space*, Eds. Isabelle Buchstaller, Małgorzata Fabiszak, & Melody Ann Ross. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003311621-8>

OA Buchstaller, Isabelle, Małgorzata Fabiszak, & Melody Ann Ross. 2024. Introduction: Expanding LL Studies to space-time (dis)continuities. In: *Time-space (dis-)continuities in the linguistic landscape: Studies in the symbolic (re-)appropriation of public space*, Eds. Isabelle Buchstaller, Małgorzata Fabiszak, & Melody Ann Ross. Routledge. 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003311621-1>

Articles

OA Ross, Melody Ann. 2025. Documentação das Línguas Nacionais de Timor-Leste: Uma Revisão da Literatura 1998-2024. *Diálogos*, 10, 239- 278. <https://doi.org/10.53930/27892182.dialogos.10.185>

OA Kosatica, Maida & Melody Ann Ross. 2024. On the Skids: Mediating Anguish, Visibilizing Abusive Places. *Linguistic Landscapes* 11(2): 172-197. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ll.24018.kos>

OA Grama, James, Tyler Heston, & Melody Ann Ross. 2024. Regional variation in the Fataluku voiced coronal. *Asia-Pacific Language Variation* 9(2):125-155. <https://doi.org/10.1075/aplv.00017.gra>

OA Ross, Melody. 2018. Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili. *New Research on Timor-Leste: Proceedings of the 5th Timor-Leste Studies Association Conference 2017*, Hawthorn: Swinburne Press.

OA Ross, Melody. 2015. Perceptions of Language Use in East Timor. *University of Hawai'i Working Papers in Linguistics*. Vol. 46:4. Honolulu: HI.

Ross, Melody. 2013. A Preliminary Look at Education and Language Attitudes in Timor-Leste. *The 17th Annual Graduate Student Conference of the College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature – Engaged Research: Language and Society, University of Hawai'i*. Ed. Jennifer Holdway & Brittany Wilson. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013.

Outreach/Other

Birnie, Ingeborg, Maggie Glass, & Melody Ann Ross. In prep (2025) *Reducing the friction, removing the barriers – minority and regional languages in the human machine era*. White Paper for presentation to the Council of Europe.

Ross, Melody. 2017. New Research in East Timorese Sociolinguistics. *DOTG Newsletter*, Ed. Janina Pawelz & Christian Wollnik. 02/2017. Köln: Deutsche Osttimor Gesellschaft e.V.

Publications/projects currently side-lined or otherwise queued-up

Ross, Melody. In prep. Privilege and Peripherality; Place-making in the graffscape of two neighborhoods in Honolulu, Hawai'i. For submission to: *Linguistic Landscapes* (special issue).

Ross, Melody, James Grama, & Felix Maia. In prep. Illustrations of the IPA: Tetun Dili. For submission to: *Journal of the IPA*.

Ross, Melody. In prep. "Disempowering": Global development ideologies and the expression of attitudes toward Timor-Leste's language situation. *Language Policy, Multilingualism, and Social Justice in Asia-Pacific: Inequalities, Ideologies, and Transformative Practices*. Eds. Prem Phyak, Michelle Gu, & Angel Lin. Springer.

Ross, Melody. Data in prep. Stranger Kings have happened: The past and future of Chinese language(s) in the Linguistic Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste. For submission to: *Journal of Cultural Interaction in East Asia*.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker

Lab for the Ethnographic Study of Language Summer Seminar Series

University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Greece

2026 – *Villains, Heroes, Bureaucrats; The evolution of media discourses on street name change in post-occupation Timor-Leste*

Linguistics Lounge Speaker Series

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

2026 – *On the Importance of Revisiting Old Data, Or, Extracting Scholarly Value from Spectacular Failure*

Linguistics Seminar Series

The Australia National University, Canberra, Australia

2024 – *Jalan Avenida: The (f)utility of a critical toponymy study spanning 400 years* ([link](#))

Comparative Oceanic Linguistics Group, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution

Max Plank Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

2023 – *Jalan Avenida: Ideas, Ideologies, and Issues in Indonesian Investigations* ([link](#))

LinguisTisch Speaker Series, Sociolinguistics Lab

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

2022 – *Subverting Silence, Contriving Community: Competing ideologies of place-making in the graffiti-scape of two neighborhoods in Hawai'i*

Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language Friday Seminar Series

The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

2018 – *Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili*

Uma Amerika Coffee Chats

Universidade Nasional Timor-Lorosa'e, Dili, Timor-Leste

2017 – *Social Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili*

Wednesday Evening Seminar Series: The Migration of Languages

The East-West Center for Policy Research, Honolulu, USA

2016 – *What is a Linguist? Asking the Right Questions in Research*

2015 Seminar for English Language Teachers in Timor-Leste: "Active Learning"

Universidade Nasional Timor-Lorosa'e, Dili, Timor-Leste

2015 – *Developing Critical Thinking Skills in English Language Learners*

Conference Presentations

The 16th Linguistic Landscape Workshop, Essen, Germany

2025 – *Privilege and Peripherality; Place-making in the graffscape of two neighborhoods in Honolulu, Hawai'i*

Political Studies Association Conference 24, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

2024 - *Protecting regional and minority languages in the Human Machine Era*
with Ingeborg Birnie (Strathclyde) and Maggie Glass (TU-Dortmund)

Research Group Economics and Language Symposium 5, Universitat Rovira i Virgili,
Taragona

2024 - *Regional and Minority Languages in the Human Machine Era - removing the friction,
reducing the burden*
with Ingeborg Birnie (Strathclyde) and Maggie Glass (TU-Dortmund)

The 15th Linguistic Landscape Workshop, Victoria University of Wellington

2024 – *National language representation and Timor-Leste's exclave* ([link](#))

Sociolinguistic Symposium 25, Curtin University, Perth

2024 – *Legitimizing culture; The case of Timor-Leste's street names* ([link](#))
with Pelagio Doutel (Lund University)

Sociolinguistic Symposium 25, Curtin University, Perth

2024 – *Connecting Public Policy-Making Models to Critical Discourse Studies* ([link](#))

Language Policy Forum, SOAS-London

2023 – *The revolving door of agentive spaces for change; Timescales and trajectories of
Timor-Leste's mother-tongue pilot program* ([link](#))

The 13th Linguistic Landscape Workshop, University of Hamburg

2022 – *"Who?!" Street Naming Practices in Dili, Timor-Leste from Colony, to Occupied
Territory, to Independent Nation, and Beyond* ([link](#))

Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, University of Ghent

2022 – *Politics in the Linguistic Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste* ([link](#))

Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, University of Ghent

2022 – *"Disempowering": Global development ideologies and the expression of attitudes
toward Timor-Leste's language situation* ([link](#))

Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, University of Ghent

2022 – *Talking about ourselves; Self-referential location information in the linguistic
landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste*, with Hannah Sawall and Pascal Nabers

The Linguistic Landscape of Tourism Workshop, Universität Duisburg-Essen

2022 – *The Commodification of Tetun in the Tourist Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste*

Sociolinguistic Symposium 22, University of Auckland
2018 – *“Not constitutionalised... or whatever” Situating Language Attitudes and Language Ideologies*

Timor-Leste Studies Association Conference 2017, Dili, Timor-Leste
2017 – *Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili*

Annual Conference of the American Association of Applied Linguistics, Orlando, FL
2016 – *MTB-MLE in East Timor and Its Bidirectional Relationship with Language Ideologies*

4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu, HI
2015 – *Planning for Assessment in Language Programs: A Practical Tool*

14th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology, Honolulu, HI
2014 – *Portuguese Word Choice in Tetun Dili, a creole language of East Timor*

2nd International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages, UCLA
2014 – *Multilingualism and Mother Tongues in Dili, East Timor*

13th Annual East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region, Honolulu, HI
2014 – *Mapping and Metalinguistic Knowledge in Dili, Timor-Leste*

4th International Conference on Language and Education: Multilingual Education for All in Asia and the Pacific – Policies, Practices and Processes, Bangkok, Thailand
2013 – *Language Attitudes and Multilingual Education in Timor-Leste*

Workshop on the Languages of Melanesia 2013, Canberra, Australia
2013 – *Investigation of Phoneme Loss in Waima'a*

The 17th Annual Graduate Student Conference of the College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature – Engaged Research: Language and Society, University of Hawai'i
2013 – *A Preliminary Look at Education and Language Attitudes in Timor-Leste*

Undergraduate Research Week, The University of Texas
2010 – *The Dynamics of Hunter-Gatherer Language Change in NW Amazonia*, with Kelsey Neeley

Workshops

Resource Development Workshops

Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO and the Alola Foundation, Dili, Timor-Leste
2015 – *How to Describe Your Mother Tongue; A 3-Day Course in Basic Linguistics*

Language Analysis and Experimentation Laboratory Workshop Series

2014, Presenter

Workshop title: *Choosing Field Equipment*

Language Documentation Training Center – *Basic Course*

2011 – 2013, Mentor

Languages: Naueti, Waima'a, Tetun Dili (East Timor), Fijian

Language Documentation Training Center – *Advanced Course*

2012, Mentor

Languages: Samawa (Indonesia)

Linguistic Landscape Workshop 16

2025

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

General organizer: reviewer-abstract assignment, results review, programming and personal communications, online registration portal setup, payment portal setup, budgetary monitoring, financial revisions, team meeting organization, programming creation, materials planning, conference website, student staff hires, staff and volunteer coordination, room planning, tech management, session moderator and room monitor assignment, internal and external communications, visa and invitation letter distribution, dinner ticket wrangling, receipt and certificate of participation creation; (here is what I did *not* do: order the catering or dinner, write one of the 3 grants, book the university's rooms, order the merchandise, or arrange the social outing).

LinguistTisch Speaker Series

2021 – Current

Sociolinguistics Lab, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

Organized, advertised, and administered a semesterly speaker series featuring local and international researchers in variationist sociolinguistics.

Semioticizing Products towards Sustainability: New G/localizations of Consumer Experience

2023

Anglophone Studies Department, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

Co-organized (with Prof. Dr. Maida Kosatica) the UDE's second workshop on linguistic landscapes. The theme invited international participants and two plenaryists to discuss the role of the semiotic landscape in co-creating notions of sustainability within consumer experiences.

Workshop on the Linguistic Landscape of Tourism

2022

Anglophone Studies Department, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany

Co-organized (with Prof. Dr. Maida Kosatica and Prof. Dr. Florian Freitag) the UDE's first workshop on linguistic landscapes. The theme invited participants from UDE and nearby universities to discuss the role of the linguistic landscape in co-creating tourist experiences, strengthening regional academic collegiality.

16th Annual Language, Literature & Linguistics Conference

2012

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Co-organized (with Amanda Chin, Brandon Narasaki, and Mateo Nelson) the College of Language, Literature, and Linguistics' annual graduate student conference, featuring current research within the college and culminating in a peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

Program Sheet Assistant

2011 – 2015

Office of the Catalog, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI

Created and maintained degree checksheets and sample four-year plans for every major at the university; these documents were later used to program an automated degree auditing service.

Freshman Interest Group Facilitator

2009

Office of the Dean of Students, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Convened a discussion and leadership-building group of first-year university students focused on international studies. Organized relevant educational activities and provided personalized academic plans for a diverse group of students.

Graduation and Advising Coordinator (Administrative Associate)

2007 – 2010

Office of the Dean, College of Education, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Advised undergraduates in the final semester; certified final audits for each semesters' graduates; created and maintained the College of Education newsletter and listserv; served as the public face of the Office of the Dean by giving presentations and serving on inter-college committees; maintained advising schedule for multiple advisors; fielded phone and email enquiries from parents, students, and members of the public.

COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

Language in the Human-Machine Era (LITHME) COST Action Network
Working Group 4: Language Diversity, Vitality, and Endangerment
2023 - Current – Independent Consultant

European Cooperation in Science and Technology
2023 - Current – Participant-Consultant

Linguistic Landscape 15 Conference, Universität Duisburg-Essen
2023 - 2025 – Co-organizer (see above)

National Tertiary Education Union
2019 - 2020 – Delegate, College of Arts & Social Sciences, Australia National University

Timor-Leste Studies Association
2017 – Conference Proceedings Paper Reviewer

Timor-Leste Studies Association Conference 2017, Dili, Timor-Leste
2017 – Session Moderator

East-West Center 17th International Graduate Student Conference, Honolulu
2017 – Abstract Reviewer

United States Timor-Leste Scholarship Semi-Finalist Selection Committee; in
association with American Councils for International Education and the United States
Embassy
2016, 2015 – Independent International Expert

4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu
2015 – Session Moderator

3rd International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu
2013 – Student Steering Committee Member

Linguistics Society of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
2011 – 2017, Member
2012 – 2013, President

15th Annual Language, Literature & Linguistics Conference, Honolulu
2011 – Session Moderator

2nd International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation, Honolulu
2011 – Volunteer

7th International Conference and Workshops on Technology and Chinese Language
Teaching in the 21st Century, Honolulu
2011 – Volunteer

LANGUAGES

English *Native*

German *B1*

Spanish *B2*

Tetun Dili *Proficient*

Portuguese *A2*

Tok Pisin *A2*

Bahasa Indonesia *A1*

Italian *A2*

Latin *Studied*

REFERENCES
