

# Melody Ann Ross

## 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 and student advising.

## 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 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

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## SUPERVISION

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### **Universität Duisburg-Essen**

*German noun plural formation in first language acquisition*  
Elena Bruckmann, BA, 2021

### **Universität Duisburg-Essen**

*Pre-service teachers' attitudes toward varieties of English*  
Hendricka Geffroy, M.Ed., 2021

## Universität Duisburg-Essen

*Sound Symbolism and its Use in the EFL Classroom – A Cognitive Linguistic Approach*  
Jenna Keung, BA, 2022

## Universität Duisburg-Essen

*“Patwa’ limited; English an asset” A Language Attitude Study in a Creole Context*  
Lara Turck, MA, 2023 (pending)

## Universität Duisburg-Essen

*The Gap on the Map: Investigating Gender Imbalances in Street Names in Germany & the UK*  
Hannah Sawall, BA, 2023 (pending)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin

PI: Dr. Isabella Buchstaller, *Political aspects of the urban linguistic landscape*  
2020-current, 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, a Creole Language of East Timor*  
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)

## CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

### Ruhr-Universität Bochum

#### Englisches Seminar

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

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

### University of Sydney (Australia)

#### Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme

*Master of Indigenous Languages Education*  
2018-2020, Tutor  
Coordinator: Denise Angelo

### Australian National University

#### School of Literature, Language and Linguistics

*Language and Social Interaction*  
2018, Marker, Tutor  
Course convener: Dr. Suzanne Eggins  
Lecturer: Dr. Diana Slade

*Cross-Cultural Communication*  
2018, Marker  
Course convener and Lecturer: Dr. Carmel O'Shannessy

*Language and Society*  
2017, Marker, Tutor  
Course convener and Lecturer: Dr. Carmel O'Shannessy

*Structure of English*  
2017, Marker  
Course convener: Dr. Jane Simpson;  
Lecturer: Denise Angelo

### University of Texas at Austin

#### Department of Undergraduate Studies

*Freshman Interest Group Seminar*†  
2009, Facilitator

### Universität Duisburg-Essen

#### Department of Anglophone Studies

*Areas and Approaches II: Phonetics & Phonology*†  
2021-2022, 2022, 2023, Lecturer

*Language Policy and Planning*\*†  
2021-2022, Lecturer

*Language Attitudes and Ideologies*\*†  
2021, 2022-2023, Lecturer

*Areas and Approaches II: Morphology & Syntax*†  
2020-2021, Lecturer

### 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

### Navitas English

#### Adult Migrant English Program

*Everyday English: All Levels*  
2018, Tutor  
Coordinator: Shirley Singh

### 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

\*Denotes a solo-designed course

†Denotes a solo-delivered course

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Ross, Melody Ann. To appear (for publication in late 2024). *Jalan Avenida: Ideologies and Attitudes in Timor-Leste's Street Names*. Lexington Press.

Grama, James, Tyler Heston, and Melody Ross. In prep. Regional variation in the Fataluku voiced coronal. For submission to: *Asia-Pacific Language Variation* March 2023.

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

Buchstaller, Isabelle, Małgorzata Fabiszak, & Melody Ann Ross, eds. To appear. *Time-space (dis-)continuities in the linguistic landscape: Studies in the symbolic (re-)appropriation of public space*. Routledge.

Ross, Melody. To appear. Politics in the Linguistic Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste. *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.

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.

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

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.

### **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) June 2023.

Ross, Melody, James Grama, & Felix Maia. In prep. Illustrations of the IPA: Tetun Dili. For submission to: *Journal of the IPA* May 2023.

Kosatika, Maida & Melody Ross. Data in prep. On the Skids: Mediating Anguish, Visibilizing Abusive Places. For submission to: *Linguistic Landscapes* (special issue) November 2022.

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. The State of Language Documentation in Timor-Leste. For submission to: *Language Documentation and Conservation*.

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*.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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### **Conference Presentations**

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*

Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, University of Ghent  
2022 – *Politics in the Linguistic Landscape of Dili, Timor-Leste*

Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, University of Ghent  
2022 – "Disempowering": *Global development ideologies and the expression of attitudes toward Timor-Leste's language situation*

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**

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)

### **Invited Speaker**

Max Plank Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution  
2023 – *Jalan Avenida: Ideas, Ideologies, and Issues in Indonesian Investigations*

LinguisTisch Speaker Series, Sociolinguistics Lab, Universität Duisburg-Essen  
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  
2018 – *Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili*

Uma Amerika at UNTL Coffee Chats  
2017 – *Social Attitudes Toward Tetun Dili*

East-West Center Wednesday Evening Seminar Series: The Migration of Languages  
2016 – *What is a Linguist? Asking the Right Questions in Research*

"Using Active Learning in the English Language Classroom," A Seminar for English Language Teachers in Timor-Leste; hosted by the National University of Timor Lorosa'e in association with the Timor-Leste English Language Program  
2015 – *Developing Critical Thinking Skills in English Language Learners*

Resource Development Workshops; co-hosted by the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO and the Aloa Foundation  
2015 – *How to Describe Your Mother Tongue; A 3-Day Course in Basic Linguistics*

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## COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

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

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## LANGUAGES

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English *Native*  
German *B1*  
Spanish *B2*  
Tetun Dili *Proficient*  
Portuguese *A2*

Tok Pisin *A2*  
Bahasa Indonesia *A1*  
Italian *A2*  
Latin *Studied*

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## REFERENCES

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Upon request.

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