

Patrick Das

PHD CANDIDATE · LINGUISTICS

Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA

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Education

University of Colorado Boulder

PHD, LINGUISTICS

Boulder, CO

2022 – present

- Dissertation: *The Structure of Linguistic Diversity: Dialectal and Grammatical Variation in Tikhir*
- Committee: Hannah Haynie (chair), Ambrocio Gutiérrez Lorenzo, Laura Michaelis, Jerry Jacka (Anthropology), Kellen Parker van Dam (Universität Passau, external)

University of Colorado Boulder

MA, LINGUISTICS

Boulder, CO

2025

Monash University

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MAJOR IN LINGUISTICS, WITH HIGH DISTINCTION

Melbourne, Australia

2019 – 2022

Fellowships and Awards

2025	Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship , American Council of Learned Societies Funded a year of documentary fieldwork (2025–26) on Tikhir, a previously undocumented language of eastern Nagaland; supported dissertation research integrating language documentation, spatial analysis and community engagement	\$50,000
2023	Linguistics Department Summer Research Award , University of Colorado Boulder Funded initial meetings and relationship-building with the Tikhir community in Nagaland, ahead of securing ethics approval for documentation fieldwork	\$1,500
2023	Linguistics Department Travel Award , University of Colorado Boulder	\$2,000

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Das, Patrick. Minor revisions. Tracing the areality of numeral classifier constructions in the Eastern Himalayan Region. *Himalayan Linguistics*.

Das, Patrick. Under review. Beyond Hill and Valley: A sociogeographic analysis of argument coding complexity in the Eastern Himalayan Region. *Journal of Linguistic Geography*.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Bisnath, Felicia* & **Patrick Das***. Forthcoming. Decolonising typology. In Rajendra Chetty, Hannah Gibson, Savithry Namboodiripad & Colin Reilly (eds.), *Decolonising linguistics: A textbook*. Routledge.

*Equal contribution

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Das, Patrick. From ‘agentivity’ to ‘identifying’: Optional ergative marking in Tikhir. For submission to *STUF: Language Typology and Universals*.

Das, Patrick. Dialect differentiation in Tikhir. For submission to *Language Variation and Change*.

Das, Patrick. Split demonstratives in Tikhir and a typology of multiple demonstratives. For submission to *Linguistic Typology*.

Das, Patrick & Kellen Parker van Dam. A Bayesian phylogenetic analysis of Central Naga. For submission to *Folia Linguistica Historica*.

Das, Patrick[†] & Grace Ephraums. A coevolutionary study of case-marking in Australian languages. For submission to *Language Dynamics and Change*.

[†]Lead author

Presentations

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 **Das, Patrick.** Split demonstratives in Tikhir. High Desert Linguistics Society 17 (HDLS 17), University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, November 15–17. (Accepted)
- 2026 **Das, Patrick**^{*} & Sunkulp Ananthanarayan^{*}. Identifying the leitmotif in the linguistic symphony: Lightweight forced alignment for language documentation. Poster, New Ways of Analyzing Variation 54 (NWAV 54), Université de Montréal, October 22–24.
- 2026 **Das, Patrick.** Optional ergativity in Tikhir. Emerging Topics in Typology (ETT 2026), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz.
- 2026 **Das, Patrick**[†] & Kellen Parker van Dam. Beyond Hill and Valley: A sociogeographic investigation of argument coding complexity in the Eastern Himalayas. Association for Linguistic Typology 16 (ALT 16), Lyon.
- 2023 **Das, Patrick.** Investigating the structure of Eastern Himalayan Region numeral classifiers. 26th International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL 26). osf.io/kca4n
- 2023 **Das, Patrick.** Questioning the areal hypothesis for North-East Indian classifiers. (formal) Approaches to South Asian Languages 13 (fASAL-13). osf.io/6yzx2
- 2022 Ephraums, Grace^{*} & **Patrick Das**^{*}. Does lack lead to want? An analysis of the nominal “deprivative” in four Australian languages. Annual Meeting of the Australian Linguistic Society (ALS 2022).

^{*}Equal contribution; [†]Lead author

INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

- 2026 **Data session:** Tikhir split demonstratives. Semiotic Syntax Working Group, CU Boulder.
- 2026 **Guest talk:** Bottom-up computationally-optimistic typology. Journal Club, Universität Passau.
- 2025 **Guest lecture:** Language contact and ecology in South Asia. UCLA.
- 2023 **Roundtable panelist:** ‘Politics of indigeneity in Asia’. 2023 Asia Symposium.
- 2023 **Presentation:** Academic ethics. Department of Tenyidie, Nagaland University.

Fieldwork and Research Visits

Tikhir (Tibeto-Burman, Central Naga)

Eastern Nagaland, India

DOCUMENTARY FIELDWORK

2024 – 2026

- Four field trips, about six months in total: Summer 2024 (2 weeks), Summer 2025 (2 weeks), Fall 2025 (2 months), Spring 2026 (3 months)
- Audio recording and elicitation across the three Tikhir dialect regions (Anatongre, Shamator, Kiusam) on argument marking, aspect, demonstratives and sociophonetic variation
- Wordlist data from 18 speakers for dialectometric analysis, alongside community perceptions of dialect regions

Chair of Multilingual Computational Linguistics, Universität Passau

Passau, Germany

VISITING RESEARCHER

June – July 2026

- Two-month research stay hosted by Johann-Mattis List and Kellen Parker van Dam. Trained in Bayesian phylogenetic analysis and in maintaining large-scale cross-linguistic databases in CLDF format

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

LING 3430: SEMANTICS (ONLINE)

Summer 2026

- Designed a compressed five-week upper-division course surveying major approaches to the study of meaning, including weekly readings (in place of a textbook), lectures, worksheets, homework and a cumulative final exam
- Scaffolded assessment so that completion-graded worksheets gave students low-stakes practice on new language data before graded homework on similar problem sets
- Designed assessments robust to generative AI, including a final exam built on novel data sets not available online and homework requiring students to show and reflect on their reasoning
- Built collaborative learning into weekly discussion forums, where students named their ‘weak point’ for the week and helped one another work through it

LING 1020: LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD (ONLINE)

Summers 2024, 2025

- Designed the curriculum, syllabus, lectures and assignments for an introductory elective on linguistic diversity for non-majors
- Introduced students to various forms of linguistic data and to best practices in research ethics, to prepare them for working with language data in their own fields
- Designed assignments building basic descriptive linguistic skills, culminating in a typological report on a language chosen from a pre-selected list

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

LING 1000: LANGUAGE IN US SOCIETY

Fall 2026

- Led three recitation sections for a non-technical introductory course on language as a social institution in the US, covering everyday and institutional talk in settings such as the courtroom, the classroom, political debates and social media
- Graded student work and held office hours to support students with course concepts and assignments

LING 1020: LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD; LING 2000: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

2022 – 2024

- Graded assignments and designed recitations to teach basic linguistic analysis
- Created worksheets and slides on concepts such as identifying cognates vs. loanwords, phonological analysis and morphosyntactic alignment
- Gave guest lectures in areas of expertise, such as Papuan languages

Service and Leadership

	Reviewer , <i>Languages and Peoples of the Eastern Himalayan Region</i>	
2026	Lead Organizer , Working Group on Language Documentation, Description and Revitalization	CU Boulder
2024 – 25	Lead Organizer , Reading Group on Language Contact, Variation and Change	CU Boulder
2023	Inaugural Chair , Linguistics Graduate Student Association	CU Boulder
2022	Chair , Discussion Group on General vs. Particular Linguistics, LingSoc Typology Reading Circle	Monash
2019 – 22	President , Monash Linguistics Society	Monash
2019 – 20	Member , Queer Affairs Committee	Monash

Professional Development and Memberships

- 2025 **Participant**, Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute (online)
Member, Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT)

Skills

Languages English, Hindi, Bengali (native); Sylheti (heritage); Tikhir (fieldwork); Maasai (fieldwork); German (learner); Nagamese (learner)

Methods Typological surveying and analysis; descriptive linguistics and language documentation; elicitation (interview, questionnaire, semi-structured); sociolinguistic interviewing; syntactic analysis; dialectometry; spatial analysis (GIS)

Analysis Qualitative (thematic, content and critical discourse analysis); quantitative (frequentist and Bayesian methods)

Computational R (tidyverse, brms/Stan, ape, ggplot2), Python, LingPy, Praat, QGIS

Graduate Coursework

- Fall 2025 **Syntactic Theory**
- Spring 2024 **Seminar: Amazonian Languages**, term paper: *Revisiting North-West Amazonian noun classification*
- Spring 2024 **Semantic Theory**, term paper: *On classifiers in Kotiria narrative*
- Spring 2024 **Statistical Methods in Linguistics**, term paper: *Predicting function of classifiers in Kotiria narrative via prominence*
- Fall 2023 **Issues and Methods in Cognitive Science**, term paper: *What predicts numeral classifier languages?*
- Fall 2023 **Research Methods in Linguistics**
- Spring 2023 **Semantics and Pragmatics**, term paper: *Without nouns: A semantic map analysis of the Australian ‘privative’*
- Spring 2023 **Field Methods**, term paper: *The noun phrase in Maasai*
- Fall 2022 **Seminar: Language and Geography**, term paper: *Questioning the areal hypothesis for North-East Indian classifiers*
- Fall 2022 **Syntactic Analysis**