

ALESSANDRO M. JAKER, PH.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Education.

- 2018-2020. Postdoctoral Fellow in Linguistics, University of Toronto.
2013-2015. Postdoctoral Fellow, Alaska Native Language Center / NSF Polar Postdoc Program
2012. Ph.D., Linguistics, Stanford University.
2004. M.A., Linguistics, University of Minnesota.
2002. B.A., *summa cum laude*, Latin and French & Italian, University of Minnesota.

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards.

- 2016-2017. NSF / NEH Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowship: “*A Verb Grammar of Tetsó̄t’iné Yatíé (Yellowknife)*.” (\$50,000). Award ID: FN-249645
2013-2015. National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Polar Regions Research: “*Phonetics and Phonology of two Northern Athabaskan Languages*.” (\$131,000). Award ID: ARC-1204171
2009. National Science Foundation, Linguistics/Arctic Social Sciences Program. “*Dissertation Research: Dogrib Language Documentation and Revitalization in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (Alessandro Jaker)*”. (\$10,000). Award ID: 0806575.

Publications.

Articles, Peer-Reviewed

- Jaker, Alessandro and Phil Howson. (in preparation). An acoustic study of Tetsó̄t’iné stress.
Jaker, Alessandro. (under review). Tetsó̄t’iné Prefix Vowel Length: Evidence for Systematic Underspecification.
Jaker, Alessandro and Paul Kiparsky. To appear. Level Ordering and Opacity in Tetsó̄t’iné: a Stratal OT account. To appear in *Phonology* 37.
Jaker, Alessandro. 2020. On the historical source of *a ~ u* alternations in Dëne Sų́łné optative paradigms. *Glossa* 5(1): 67. 1-33.

Book-length descriptive works

- Jaker, Alessandro, Emerence Cardinal and Dora Cardinal. (in preparation). Tetsó̄t’iné Yatíé K’ízí T’asíe Hudzi ᵛEreht’ís / Tetsó̄t’iné Dictionary.
Jaker, Alessandro and Emerence Cardinal. 2020. Tetsó̄t’iné Verb Grammar. ANLC Publications.

Book chapters and conference proceedings

- Jaker, Alessandro, Nicholas Welch, and Keren Rice. 2019. Na-Dene Languages. In *The Routledge Handbook of North American Languages*. Routledge.

- Jaker, Alessandro. 2018. The Full ~ Reduced Vowel Contrast in Tetsó't'iné: Evidence for an 8-vowel system. In *Working Papers in Athabaskan (Dene) Languages 2018*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2016. Wiilideh Yatì Stress Revisited: Evidence for Iambic Foot Structure. In Alessandro Jaker (ed.) *Working Papers in Athabaskan (Dene) Languages 2016*. Fairbanks: Alaska Native Language Center.
- Jaker, Alessandro and Paul Kiparsky. 2016. Conjugation Tone Mapping in Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife): Level Ordering and Morphologization. In *Proceedings of CLS52*.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2015. The Consonant Hierarchy in Dëne Sų́iné: Verbal Morphophonemics and Synchronic Variation. In *Proceedings of CLS51*.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2014. Selection and Blocking in the Northeast Dene Verb. In Tracy Holloway King and Miriam Butt (eds.) *Proceedings of LFG14*. CSLI Publications.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2010. Be careful what you throw out: Gemination and tonal feet in Weledeh Dogrib. In Andrea L. Berez, Jean Mulder, and Daisy Rosenblum (eds.) *Fieldwork and Linguistic Analysis in Indigenous Languages of the Americas*. Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication No. 2 (May 2010): 203-222.

[Other \(Encyclopedia articles, dissertation, book reviews\)](#)

- Jaker, Alessandro. (to appear). A review of *A Grammar of Upper Tanana, Volume 1: Phonology, Lexical Classes, Morphology* by Olga Lovick. To appear in the April 2021 issue of *IJAL*.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2012. Quantity: Linguistic Basis. In Ronald Greene and Stephen Cushman (eds.) *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Princeton University Press.
- Jaker, Alessandro. 2012. Prosodic Reversal in Dogrib (Weledeh Dialect). Doctoral Dissertation, Stanford University.

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks.

- A Verb Grammar of Tetsó't'iné Yatìé*. Presented at the 2019 Dene Languages Conference, UC Davis. July 2019.
- The Full ~ Reduced Vowel Contrast in Tetsó't'iné: evidence for an 8-vowel system*. Presented at the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Meeting (MOT), March 2019.
- Derived Environment Effects as Systematic Underspecification: Evidence from Tetsó't'iné*. Presented at York University linguistics colloquium, January 2019.
- Consonant-Vowel and Sonority-Prosody Interactions in Dëne Sų́iné Optative Paradigms*. Presented at the Summer Phonology Forum (SPF 1), University of Toronto, August 2018.
- Derived Environment Effects as Systematic Underspecification: Evidence from Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife)*. Presented at the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Meeting (MOT), March 2018.
- Derived Environment Effects in Stratal OT: Evidence from Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife)*. University of Minnesota Linguistics Club, February 2018.
- (with Paul Kiparsky) *Level Ordering and Opacity in Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife): a Stratal OT Account*. Linguistics Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, January 2018.
- Systematic Underspecification and Derived Environment Effects in Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife)*. Linguistics Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, January 2018.
- (with Paul Kiparsky) *Conjugation Tone Mapping in Tetsó't'iné (Yellowknife): Level Ordering and Morphologization*. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS52), University of Chicago, April 2016.

Conjugation Tone Mapping in Tetsóť'iné (Yellowknife): Level Ordering and Morphologization. University of Minnesota Linguistics Club, September 2015.

Vowel Alternations in Dëne Sų́íné Optative Paradigms: Prosodic Conditioning and Representational Issues. Presented at Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PAPE 2015), Cambridge University, June 2015.

The Yellowknife Language is Not Extinct: Evidence from Optative Paradigms. Presented at the Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), UC Santa Barbara, May 2015.

The Consonant Hierarchy in Dëne Sų́íné: Verbal Morphophonemics and Synchronic Variation. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS51), University of Chicago, April 2015.

Early Tonogenesis in Northeast Dene: evidence from the-conjugation. Alaska Native Language Center colloquium talk, November 2014.

Understanding Dene Phonology: the 3-step squishing process. Presented at the Dene Verb Paradigms Workshop, University of Toronto, September 2014.

Selection and Blocking in the Northeast Dene Verb. Presented at the Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG14) conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July 2014.

Selection and Blocking in the Northeast Dene Verb: Some Counterexamples to Level Ordering. American International Morphology Meeting 2, UCSD, November 2013.

How Irregular is Dene (Athabaskan) Phonology? Iambic Prosody in Northeast Dene Languages. Conference on Metrical Structure, Text-Setting and Stress (M@90), MIT, September 2013.

Is the Yellowknife Language Extinct? New Phonological Evidence. Linguistics department colloquium, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, April 2013.

Weledeh Verb Classes: From Agglutination to Fusion. Linguistics Society of America annual meeting, Boston, January 2013.

In Defense of Tone Reversal: Evidence from Weledeh. Athabaskan/Dene Languages Conference, Bellingham, Washington, August 2012.

Prosodic Reversal in Dogrib: Cyclicity and Foot Harmony. Poster presented at 7th North American Phonology Conference (NAPhC7), Montreal, May 2012.

Teaching our Yellowknives Dene Languages (with Mary Rose Sundberg). Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), UC Santa Barbara, Apr. 2012.

Prosodic Reversal in Dogrib: Cyclicity and Foot Harmony. University of Minnesota Linguistics Club, Apr. 2012.

Current and Future Dene Language Projects. Yellowknives Dene Language Planning Meeting, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Jan. 2011.

Iambic Prosody in Dogrib Conjunct Prefixes. University of Toronto Phonology Workshop, Toronto, Ontario, Jan. 2010.

Teaching Experience.

Jan-Mar 2017. ALCIP Instructor, Dene Literacy Levels 1 & 2 (011-121, 122); Information Technology Skills for Language Teachers (440-145).
Goyatiko Language Centre /Aurora College, Yellowknife.

July 2016. Instructor, Wiiliideh verbs: Morphology and Phonology. Navajo Language Academy, Crownpoint, New Mexico.

July 2015. Instructor, Tetsóť'iné verbs: Morphology and Phonology. Navajo Language Academy, Tsaile, Arizona.

- Winter 2012. Instructor, Dene Literacy Levels 1 & 2 (011-121, 122);
Developing Aboriginal Language Teaching Materials (219-128),
Goyatiko Language Centre /Aurora College, Yellowknife.
- 2002-2004. Graduate instructor, Beginning Italian (Ital 1001-1002), Dept. of French & Italian,
University of Minnesota.

Documentation / Archiving Experience

- Data from my prior NSF grants and have been archived with the Alaska Native Language Archive (ANLA).
- Familiar with OLAC metadata standards and ANLA practices for organizing metadata.
- Assisted Yellowknives Dene First Nation with digitization of old analog recordings, and setting up their own digital archive (funded by BHP).
- Familiar with ethical issues including informed consent and access restrictions (consent forms, IRB procedures, Deed of Gift forms for depositors, etc.).

Recent Fieldwork.

- October 2019. Phonetic fieldwork on Tetsó't'iné stress. Yellowknife and Łúts'élk'é, Northwest Territories.
- Oct.-Nov. 2018. Work on Tetsó't'iné dictionary and placenames work with Yellowknives Dene First Nation Land & Environment Office.
- Oct. 2016 – Nov. 2017. Data collection for Yellowknife verb grammar, as part of NSF/NEH DEL Fellowship.
- November 2015. Fieldwork in Yellowknife, NWT with Chris Cannon (UAF) for Athabaskan Stellar Astronomy project.
- Aug. 2013 – Jun. 2014. Fieldwork at Goyatiko Language Centre (Yellowknife, NWT), as part of Polar Postdoc program.
- Jan.-Mar. 2012. Employee of Goyatiko Language Centre, working on verb dictionary, transcribing elders' stories, teaching Advanced Dene Literacy and Grammar class, setting up digital language archive.

Software / Technology Proficiency

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Digital audio and video recording, including proper choice of microphones, settings and file formats.
- Audio editing using *Audacity*.
- Text transcription using *ELAN*.
- Interlinear glossing and morpheme-by-morpheme parsing using *Toolbox*.

Other Professional Activities

I was co-organizer of the 2016 Dene Languages Conference in Yellowknife, a major event with over 225 attendees, most of them from First Nations communities. My organizing activities included:

- Getting sponsorship from the GNWT Department of Education, Culture, and Employment; Dominion Diamond Corporation; and Canadian North Airlines;
- Booking the venue and arranging food;
- Putting together conference schedule;
- Arranging simultaneous interpreting in 3 Dene languages;
- Editing conference proceedings.

Information about the conference can be found at www.uaf.edu/anlc/alc

Languages Spoken.

- English, French, Italian, German
- Dene (Athabaskan) languages: *Wiilìideh* (Dogrib), *Tetsòt'iné* (Yellowknife/Chipewyan).
- Latin, Ancient Greek, Sanskrit (reading only)

Contact information

Alessandro M. Jaker
2229 County Road H
New Brighton, MN 55112
USA
(415) 786-3623
amjaker@gmail.com