

# Christina Skelton

## *Curriculum Vitae*

**Contact** Department of Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Texas at Austin  
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Austin, TX 78712  
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## Research Interests

Applications of phylogenetic systematics to language and writing  
Historical linguistics of ancient Greek  
Greek dialects, especially Mycenaean Greek  
Linear B and related scripts  
Aegean Bronze Age archaeology

**Positions Held** *University Affiliate*, June 2018-present  
Department of Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX  
*Junior Fellow*, July 2014-June 2018  
Society of Fellows  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Education** *Ph.D., Program in Indo-European Studies*, May 2014  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA  
Dissertation: A New Computational Approach to the Ancient Greek Dialects:  
Phylogenetic Systematics  
Advisor: Prof. Brent Vine  
*C.Phil. Indo-European Studies*, December 2012  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA  
Advisor: Prof. Brent Vine  
*Graduate Student, Linguistics*, September 2008-August 2009  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Advisor: Prof. Donald Ringe  
*B.A. Classics, with highest honors*, August 2008  
University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

Minors: *Geology* and *Biology*

Advisor (Classics): Prof. Thomas G. Palaima

Advisor (Geology): Prof. William D. Carlson

## **Additional Education**

### **Research Experience**

*Visiting Graduate Student Researcher*, Center for Textile Research, July-August 2011

Danish National Research Foundation

Copenhagen, Denmark

Project: "A Look at Early Mycenaean Textile Administration in the Pylos Megaron Tablets"

Advisor: Prof. Marie-Louise Nosch

*Predoctoral Fellow*, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Summer 2008

Berlin, Germany

Project: "Reconstructing the development of Proto-Cuneiform using phylogenetic systematics"

Advisor: Prof. Peter Damerow

### **Archaeological and GIS Experience**

GIS Institute, May 31-June 10, 2016

Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Directors and Instructors: Prof. Jason Ur (Harvard), Prof. Scott Bell (Saskatchewan), Prof. David Smith (Harvard)

Iklaina Archaeological Project, June 27-July 7, 2011

University of Missouri-St. Louis, Athens Archaeological Society

Iklaina, Greece

Director: Prof. Michael B. Cosmopoulos

Archaeological Field School at Petsas House, Summer 2005

University of Texas at Austin

Mycenae, Greece

Director: Prof. Kim Shelton

Hands-On Instruction in Bronze Age Fiber Crafts, July 11-22, 2011

Sagnlandet Lejre

Lejre, Denmark

Instructor: Dr. Ida Denant

### **Language and Linguistics Experience**

Linguistic Institute: Universality and Variability, June 24-July 19, 2013

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Instructors: Prof. Sarah Thomason (Michigan), Prof. Carmel O'Shannessey (Michigan), Prof. James Kirby (Edinburgh), Prof. Morgan Sonderegger (McGill), Prof. Stefan Gries (Santa Barbara)

Graduate Student Seminar on Greek Dialects and Greek Historical Linguistics, June 24-July 8, 2010

Center for Hellenic Studies

Harvard University  
Washington, DC

Instructors: Prof. Jeremy Rau (Harvard), Prof. Michael Weiss (Cornell)

Leipzig Spring School on Linguistic Diversity, March 26-April 4, 2008  
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology  
Leipzig, Germany

Leiden Summer School in Indo-European Linguistics, Summer 2006  
University of Leiden  
Leiden, The Netherlands

Sprachkurs, Level A1-A21, June-July 2007  
Goethe Institut  
Dresden, Germany

## Grants

- 2015 Principal Investigator. *William F. Milton Fund*, a Harvard University Endowment Fund.  
Project: "Testing the Effect of Geography on Language Spread Using a GIS Dialect Atlas of Ancient Greek."  
Amount: \$40,000.

## Publications

- 2017 "Greek-Anatolian Language Contact and the Settlement of Pamphylia," *Classical Antiquity* 36.1, 104-129.
- 2017 "Thoughts on the initial aspiration of HAKESANDRO," in J. S. Clay, I. Malkin, and Y. Z. Tzifopoulos, eds., *Panhellenes at Methone: Graphê in Late Geometric and Protoarchaic Methone, Macedonia (ca 700 BCE)*, De Gruyter, 219-231.
- 2016 With Brent Vine, "L'interprétation, l'étymologie et la morphologie des mots mycéniens *ko-u-ra* et *ko-u-re-ja*," in A. Blanc and D. Petit, eds., *Nouveaux acquis sur la formation des noms en grec: Actes du Colloque international, Université de Rouen, ERIAC, 17-18 octobre 2013*, Peeters, 79-95.
- 2016 With Richard Firth, "A study of the scribal hands of Knossos based on phylogenetic methods and find-place analysis," *Minos* 39, 159-188.
- 2016 With Richard Firth, "A study of the scribal hands of Knossos based on phylogenetic methods and find-place analysis. Part II: Early, middle & late Knossian writing styles and the dating of the Knossos Tablets," *Minos* 39, 189-213.
- 2016 With Richard Firth, "A study of the scribal hands of Knossos based on phylogenetic methods and find-place analysis. Part III: Dating the Knossos tablets using Phylogenetic Methods," *Minos* 39, 215-228.
- 2015 "Borrowing, Character Weighting, and Preliminary Cluster Analysis in a Phylogenetic Analysis of the Ancient Greek Dialects," *Indo-European Linguistics* 3, 84-117.
- 2011 "A Look at Early Mycenaean Textile Administration in the Pylos Megaron Tablets," *Kadmos* 50, 101-121.
- 2011 "Reconstructing the history of Linear B using phylogenetic systematics," in E. Kyriakidis, ed., *Proceedings of the International Colloquium "The Inner workings of Mycenaean Bureaucracy"*, University of Kent, Canterbury, 19-21 September 2008, *Pasiphae* 5, 71-80.
- 2009 "Re-Examining the Pylos Megaron Tablets," *Kadmos* 48 (2009), 107-123.

- 2008 "Methods of Using Phylogenetic Systematics to Reconstruct the History of the Linear B Script," *Archaeometry* 50, 158-176.
- 2008 "The Value of Sign AB 53 *ri* for Paleographical Studies of Linear B and Linear A," *Kadmos* 47, 67-72.

## Conference Presentations

### Talks

- 2015 "Modeling Spread Zones and Residual Zones in the Ancient Greek Dialects" at the conference "Historical Linguistics and Typology: Assessing a Partnership," University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 12-13, 2015.
- 2014 "What are the Dialects of West Greek?" at the Kyoto-UCLA Student Workshop on Indo-European, Department of Linguistics, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, March 24-26, 2014.
- 2013 "A Phylogenetic Analysis of the Ancient Greek Dialects," at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, August 5-9, 2013.
- 2012 "Thoughts on the Initial Aspiration of HAKESANDRO," at the conference "Panhellenes at Methone: Geometric and Protoarchaic Methone, Macedonia (ca 700 BCE)," Thessaloniki, Greece, June 8-10, 2012.
- 2012 "Spinning Fate– from Anatolia to Greece," at the roundtable "Spinning Fates and the Song of the Loom," Danish National Research Foundation's Center for Textile Research, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 1-2, 2012.
- 2011 "What Was the Reflex of the PIE Syllabic Nasals in Mycenaean Greek?" at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, January 6-9, 2011.
- 2010 "Dialect Evolution in Mycenaean Greece? Not so Fast." at the American Philological Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, January 6-9, 2010.
- 2010 "Reexamining the Pylos Megaron Tablets," at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, January 6-9, 2010.
- 2008 "The scribal hands of Knossos, part I: phylogenetic analyses" at the conference "The Inner workings of Mycenaean Bureaucracy: Scribes and their Role in Mycenaean Administration," University of Kent, September 20-21, 2008.

### Poster Presentation

- 2009 "How Did the World's First Writing Evolve?" at the NSF IGERT PI meeting, Alexandria, Virginia, May 17th-19th, 2009. (One of ten winners for Best Poster).

## Invited Talks

- 2011 "The Linear B tablets from the Megaron at Pylos," Danish National Research Foundations Center for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen, September 8, 2011.
- 2011 "What was the outcome of the PIE syllabic nasals in Mycenaean Greek?" Danish National Research Foundations Roots of Europe Project, University of Copenhagen, September 5, 2011.
- 2011 "Reconstructing the history of the Linear B writing system using phylogenetic systematics," Center for Hellenic Studies, April 22, 2011.

- 2009 “Reconstructing the history of the Linear B writing system using phylogenetic systematics,” Comparative Philology Work-In-Progress Seminar, University of Oxford, June 9, 2009.
- 2008 “Reconstructing the history of the Linear B writing system using phylogenetic systematics,” CLA 564 (Problems in Indo-European Linguistics: Linear B and the Mycenaean World), Princeton University, October 14, 2008.
- 2008 “Statistical Analysis of Early Writing Systems,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, April 3, 2008.

## Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2013 *University of California, Los Angeles* Dissertation Year Fellowship  
Amount: \$20,000 stipend plus standard tuition and fees for one year  
Advisor: Brent Vine
- 2012 *University of California, Los Angeles* Graduate Research Mentorship  
Amount: \$20,000 stipend plus standard tuition and fees for one year  
Advisor: Brent Vine
- 2009-2011 *National Science Foundation* Graduate Research Fellowship  
Amount: \$30,000 annual stipend plus \$12,000 cost of education allowance each year for three years
- 2011 *National Science Foundation* Graduate Research Fellowship Nordic Research Opportunity Supplement  
Amount: \$5,000 award from NSF plus monthly stipend of 9,000 Danish krone (approx. \$1,600) for two months
- 2011 *National Science Foundation* Graduate Research Fellowship International Travel Allowance  
Amount: \$1,000
- 2008-2009 *National Science Foundation* Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT)  
Amount: \$30,000 stipend per year for two years (although I left Penn after one year)
- 2009 *Poster Session Winner*, IGERT Principal Investigator Meeting  
Amount: \$3,000 in travel funds (although I left Penn before I had the opportunity to use the money)
- 2008 *Honorable Mention*, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2008 *Dean’s Distinguished Graduate*, University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts
- 2007 *George H. Mitchell Award for Academic Excellence*, \$20,000 Award Winner  
Project: “Methods of Using Phylogenetic Systematics to Reconstruct the History of the Linear B Script”

## Outreach and Related Activities

### Videos

- 2018-present Host, writer, editor, and producer for the YouTube channel *Dr. Word Person*, which features bimonthly 3-8 minute educational videos on various topics in linguistics, ancient languages, and ancient history and culture. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU-1mR3dcd6z0-W03WdjsRA/videos>

### Articles

- 2013 “Compensatory Vowel Lengthening in Ancient Greek: a linguistical game of musical chairs,” in *Nuntius*, the newsletter of Eta Sigma Phi, the US national honorary collegiate society for students of Latin and Greek, Winter 2013.
- 2013 “Mystery Men of the First Declension,” *Nuntius*, Winter 2012.
- 2012 “Historical Linguistics of the Latin Language: Latin Rhotacism,” *Nuntius*, Fall 2011.

### Online Classes

- 2010 With Sherrylyn Branchaw, “More Linguistics,” hosted by The Art of Problem Solving, an online school for exceptional middle and high school math students. Feb. 2, 2010. [http://www.artofproblemsolving.com/School/mathjams.php?mj\\_id=273](http://www.artofproblemsolving.com/School/mathjams.php?mj_id=273)
- 2010 With Sherrylyn Branchaw, “An Introduction to Linguistics,” hosted by The Art of Problem Solving. Nov. 20, 2009. [http://www.artofproblemsolving.com/School/mathjams.php?mj\\_id=266](http://www.artofproblemsolving.com/School/mathjams.php?mj_id=266)

### Language Skills

*Extensive Philological/Linguistic Knowledge:* Latin, Ancient Greek (including Mycenaean and the Greek dialects), Vedic Sanskrit, Hittite.

*Limited Philological/Linguistic Knowledge:* Pali and other Middle Indic languages, Old Persian.

*Modern Languages:* French, German (reading, limited speaking knowledge).

December 14, 2018