John Clayton

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Program in Indo-European Studies
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Curriculum Vitæ

October 2026

Education

2017–2023 **Program in Indo-European Studies**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D., June 2023
Dissertation: "The Development of the Indo-European **-wr̥-/-wen*-Heteroclites in Sanskrit and Beyond"
Advisor: Stephanie Jamison
Graduate Certificate in Linguistics, 2022

2013–2014 **B.S. in Computer Science**, *Oregon State University*, Corvallis, OR

2009–2013 **B.A. in Linguistics**, *Yale University*, New Haven, CT

Non-Degree Education

2019 **European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information**, *University of Latvia*, Rīga, LV

2019 **Summer School in Languages and Linguistics**, *Leiden University*, Leiden, NL

2018 **Latin and Greek Institute**, *The Graduate Center, CUNY*, New York, NY

2010, 2008 **Deutsche Sommerschule am Atlantik**, *University of Rhode Island*, Kingston, RI

Employment

2023– **Lecturer in Indo-European Linguistics**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

2015–2017 **Senior Associate Software Engineer**, *Capital One*, McLean, VA

Courses taught

Instructor of Record

Fall 2025 **IE STD 280A: Old Norse & Proto-Germanic**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

W/S 2025,2027 **IE STD C160/C260: Indo-European Comparative Mythology & Poetics**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

S/F 2024–6 **LING M4/IE STD M70: Language & Evolution**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Winter 2024–6 **LING/IE STD M150: Introduction to Indo-European Linguistics**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2023 **IE STD 280A: Introduction to Gothic & Proto-Germanic**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2023–6 **IE STD 205: Introduction to Indo-European Phonology**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Summer 2021 **GREEK 16: Intensive First-Year Greek**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; co-instructor Alex Roy, supervisor Dr. Richard Ellis

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2023 **LING 1: Introduction to the Study of Language**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Harold Torrence

Winter 2023 **LING 1: Introduction to the Study of Language**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Giuseppina Silvestri

Fall 2022 **LING 1: Introduction to the Study of Language**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Giuseppina Silvestri

Spring 2022 **LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Carson Schütze

Winter 2022 **LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Claire Moore-Cantwell

Spring 2021 **LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Claire Moore-Cantwell

Winter 2021 **LING 110: Introduction to Historical Linguistics**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. David Goldstein

Spring 2019 **LING 110: Introduction to Historical Linguistics**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. David Goldstein

Winter 2019 **LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Carson Schütze

Fall 2018 **LING 1: Introduction to the Study of Language**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; instructor: Dr. Dominique Sportische

Tutoring

2013–4 **Computer Science Tutor**
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Publications

Theses

2023 "The Development of the Indo-European *-*wr̥*-/-*wen*-Heteroclites in Sanskrit and Beyond", Dissertation, *University of California*, Los Angeles
https://www.proquest.com/docview/2822978715

Peer-reviewed publications

2022 "Labiovelar loss and the rounding of syllabic liquids in Indo-Iranian", *Indo-European Linguistics*, 10, 33–87
https://doi.org/10.1163/22125892-bja10021

Editor-reviewed publications

2024 "The Identity of *pīlu* in *Atharvaveda Paippalāda* 7.19: Vedic Arboreal Terminology and Etymology", *Proceedings of the 34th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference: Los Angeles, October 27th and 28th, 2023*), Hamburg: Buske, 21–40

2020 "Rhinoglottophilia in Avestan: *h > [h̃] and its orthographic and phonological consequences", *Proceedings of the 31st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference: Los Angeles, November 8th and 9th, 2019*), Hamburg: Buske, 79–93
https://www.academia.edu/55746962

Presentations

Conference Presentations

2026 "*$dóru$ 'oak' & *h_1rewd^h- 'red': The Caland System & the Kortlandt Effect", 37th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, October 23–24, 2026

2026 "*Plakṣa*(*prā*)*sravaṇa* & *Fīcus Rūmināli*s: When Ritual Meets Geography", 236th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Premodern Asia, Los Angeles, April 24–27, 2026

2025 "The Etymology of 'God' in Luwic", Anato*Links*: Connections within and beyond Ancient Anatolia, Oxford, December 4–5, 2025, co-presented with Melvin Pötzsch

2025 "New encoding protocols for Hittite transliteration & their applications", Anato*Links*: Connections within and beyond Ancient Anatolia, Oxford, December 4–5, 2025

2025 "The chronology of Indo-European */wr/ > */rw/ metathesis", Poster presented at the 7th Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology, Edinburgh, December 1–2, 2025

2025 "The chronology and environments of **wr* > **rw* metathesis", Arbeitstagung of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft, Prague, September 15–17, 2025

2025 "*Arundhatí* 'Wound-Setter': Parasitism, Medicine, & Sexuality in Ancient India", the 235th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Premodern Asia, Boston, MA, April 9–12, 2025

2024 "*Minerva*, *caterva*, & sonorant metathesis: Arguments against a sound law by Rix", the 43rd Annual East Coast Indo-European Conference, Athens, GA, July 1–3, 2024

2024 "A heteroclitic origin of Vedic *-yu*-stems?", the 234th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Premodern Asia, Chicago, IL, March 22–25, 2024

2023 "Vedic *pīlu*: The Galactic Tree of Revelation", the 34th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, October 27–28, 2023

2023 "A Marriage of Conveyance: *urvárī-* 'bride' (AV) and Its Etymology", the 233rd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Premodern Asia, Los Angeles, CA, 10–13 March, 2023, co-presented with Alex Roy

2022 "A *Männerbund* for All Seasons: L *Māvort-*, Ved. *śárdho mā́rutam*, U *Ṡerfus Martius*, Gr. ἀμαυρός, and H *mēḫur*", the 33rd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 12–13 November, 2022

2022 "The Lengthening of **i*, **u* > *ī*, *ū* / __*rC* in Sanskrit", the 232nd Annual Meeting of the American Society for Premodern Asia, Boston, 18–21 March, 2022

2021 "The reconstruction of *-*wr̥*-/-*wén*-stems in Vedic", the 32nd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Virtual, 5–7 November, 2021

2021 "Morphological change from allophonic asymmetry: Indo-Iranian nasals and directional remodeling", the 95th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Virtual, 7–10 January, 2021

2020 "A reflex of the Indo-European dragon in Italy. The relationship of *Lānuvium* and **Déh$_2$nu*", the 39th Annual East Coast Indo-European Conference, Virtual, 12–14 June, 2020

2019 "Rhinoglottophilia in Avestan: Explaining Younger Avestan **h* > *ŋh*", the 31st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 8–9 November, 2019

2018 “Rounding of Indo-Iranian *$\underset{\circ}{R}(H)$”, the 30th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 9–10 November, 2018

Teaching interests

Introductory linguistics
Introductory phonetics & phonology
Introductory morphology
Introductory syntax
Optimality Theory
Historical linguistics
Language & evolution
Structure and history of English words
Indo-European linguistics
Indo-European phonology
Indo-European morphology
Indo-European syntax
Indo-European mythology
Introductory Gothic & Proto-Germanic
Introductory Old Norse
Introductory Sanskrit
Introductory Ancient Greek
Introductory Latin
History of the Indic Languages
History of the Romance Languages

Research Interests

Latin/Italic phonology
Indo-Iranian morphophonology
Diachronic morphophonology
Computational phylogenetics
Indo-European mythology and poetics
Germanic linguistics

Language Competence

Speaking and reading

English
French
German

Advanced knowledge

Avestan
Ancient Greek
Gothic
Hittite
Latin
Luwian
Old Norse
Vedic Sanskrit

Philological knowledge

Classical Armenian
Lycian
Middle High German
Middle Welsh
Mycenaean Greek
Old English
Old French
Old Frisian
Old Irish
Old Persian
Palaic
Prakrit (Gāndhārī)
Sogdian
Yemba (Dschang)

Honors, awards, & grants

2026 **UCLA DataX 2026 Pilot Projects Grant**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA, with Anthony Yates & Wendy Perla Kurtz (co-PIs)

2021-2 **Mellon Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

2019-20 **Graduate Research Mentorship**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA, with Prof. David Goldstein

2017–8 **Graduate Dean's Scholar Award**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

Department Service

2021–3 **Webmaster, Program in Indo-European Studies**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

2017–22 **Graduate Representative, Program in Indo-European Studies**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

2017–22 **Indo-European Studies Student Alliance (IESSA) signatory**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

2017–22 **A/V lead, Conference Organizing Committee, 29th–33rd Annual UCLA Indo-European Conferences**, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA

Professional Societies

2020– **Linguistic Society of America**

2021– **American Society for Premodern Asia**

Technical Skills

Languages

C/C++	Google Apps Script	Python	XQuery
CSS	LaTeX	R	Haskell
HTML	Lua	Scala	
Java	MASM	SQL	
JavaScript	PHP	XML	

Operating systems & Tools

Unix/Linux	Hadoop	Spark	BayesTraits
Windows	Kafka	Teradata	Git
macOS	Luigi	RevBayes	

References

Prof. Stephanie Jamison
Department of Asian Languages & Cultures & Program in Indo-European Studies, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA
jamison@humnet.ucla.edu

Prof. Brent Vine
Department of Classics & Program in Indo-European Studies, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA
vine@humnet.ucla.edu

Prof. Anthony Yates
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures & Program in Indo-European Studies, *University of California*, Los Angeles, CA
adyates@ucla.edu