

David R. Mortensen

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Executive Summary

A linguist who raises performance. Known for defying disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of the best possible analysis of data. Blends academic expertise in the language sciences and background in methods of data analysis with formidable scripting and database skills.

Professional Experience

Carnegie Mellon University; Pittsburgh, PA

Visiting Researcher, May 2014-Sep 2014

Engaged with two teams in research on computational linguistics.

- Refined rules for converting a treebank of constituency trees to dependency trees.
- Collaborated with computer scientists in the rapid development of named entity recognition systems for under-resourced languages.
- Participated in the evaluation of a weakly supervised morphological analyzer.

University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA

Assistant Professor, 2006–2014

Carried out a research and teaching program in linguistics.

- Published linguistics research in peer-reviewed journals.
- Carried out linguistic fieldwork on underdescribed languages.
- Performed corpus-based, quantitative and qualitative research on the word structure of a minority language (Python/NLTK).
- Developed WebComparator, a web-based software package for managing comparative linguistic data and performing comparative reconstruction (Haskell/SQLite).
- Taught four courses per year in various subfields of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, field methods, and linguistic typology.
- Trained undergraduate and graduate students in theoretical and field linguistics, cultivating excellent communication and mentoring skills.
- Oversaw research assistants using strong managerial skills.
- Supervised two MA thesis, one PhD dissertation, and participated in numerous MA and PhD committees.

University of California, Berkeley; Berkeley, CA

Graduate Student Instructor, 2004–2005

Assisted in the instruction of large undergraduate classes in linguistics.

- Developed excellent pedagogical skills.
- Earned *Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award*.

University of California, Berkeley; Berkeley, CA

Graduate Student Researcher, 2003–2006

Developed computational tools to maintain, manipulate, and query a set of etymological and lexical databases.

- Developed, as part of a team, a web application (Perl/MySQL) for etymological analysis and management of comparative linguistic data.
- Migrated a large, multilingual lexical database from FileMaker to MySQL.
- Authored tools for organizing and typesetting an English-Lahu dictionary (Python/LaTeX).

Skills

Languages: English (native), Hmong (advanced), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate), French (reading knowledge), Tangkhul (novice), German (novice)

Programming languages: Python, Perl, R, Ruby, Haskell, JavaScript

Operating systems: Linux, Mac OS X, Windows

Other software: Praat, Git, SVN, Bash, LaTeX, MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite

Other technologies: Unicode, SQL, XML/HTML, CSS

Education

- PhD in Linguistics. 2006. University of California, Berkeley. Dissertation: *Logical and Substantive Scales in Phonology*.
- MA in Linguistics. 2003. University of California, Berkeley.
- BA in English Literature (Departmental Honors, minors in Linguistics and Psychology). 2000. Utah State University.