

Velda Khoo, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Linguistic anthropology and sociocultural linguistics
Language, racialization, and class formation
World Englishes, globalization, and postcolonialism
Digital and social media ethnography

Multilingualism and translanguaging
Language, nationalism, and belonging
Language politics, planning and policy
Applied pedagogical theory in linguistics

EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder

2024

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Linguistics

Dissertation Title: *Modeling Singlish: Authentic Hybridity in a Model Nation*

Advisor: Dr Kira Hall

Committee Members: Dr J Calder, Dr Chase Raymond, Dr Mie Hiramoto, Dr Angela Reyes

University of Colorado Boulder

2016

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Linguistics

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

2012

Bachelor of Arts (B.A., *First Class Honors; Valedictorian*) in Linguistics and Multilingual Studies

Senior Thesis Title: *A Conversation Analytic Approach: The sia Particle in Singapore Colloquial English*

Advisor: Dr Kang Kwong Luke

PUBLICATIONS

Khoo, Velda. (forthcoming). "Singlish has Grammar too!": Colonial Recursivity in the Construction of Multilingualism in Singapore. [Special issue, "Regimenting Postcolonial Multilingualism: Discourses of Multiscalar Speaker/Listener Ideological Positioning," edited by Kathe Managan and Jacqueline Messing]. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

Khoo, Velda. 2023. Voicing Singlish from the "Middle": Indexical Hybridities of Class, Race, Language, and Singaporeanness. [Special issue, "Toward a Non-binary Semiotics of Intersectionality: Linguistic Anthropology in the Wake of Coloniality," edited by Jay Ke-Schutte and Joshua Babcock]. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 33(2), 202–222. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12403>

Khoo, Velda. 2019. "Ownself Check Ownself": The Role of Singlish Humor in the Rise of the Opposition Politician in Singapore. *Colorado Research in Linguistics* 24. <https://doi.org/10.33011/cril.24.1.5>

Stenzel, Kristine, and Velda Khoo. 2016. Linguistic Hybridity: A Case Study in the Kotiria Community. *Critical Multilingualism Studies* 4(2), 75–110.

Khoo, Velda. 2015. Simultaneous Indexicalities: Linguistic Variation in Political Speech in Singapore. *Texas Linguistics Forum* 58: 71–80. Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Symposium about Language and Society-Austin April 17–18, 2015.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Khoo, Velda. (in progress). *Modeling Singlish: Authentic Hybridity in a Model Nation*. [Book manuscript in preparation].

Khoo, Velda, and Kira Hall. (in progress). Hybrid Imaginings in Mixed Languages: The Qualia of Singlish and Hinglish.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS

- English Department, Invited Talk 5 March 2025
Presenter - *"Ownself Check Ownself": The Enregisterment of Singlish Through the Listening Subject*
Hunter College, City University of New York, USA
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- Department of Anthropology, Invited Talk 23 April 2023
Presenter - *"Ownself Check Ownself": The Enregisterment of Singlish Through the Listening Subject*
University of South Carolina, USA
-
- School of Anthropology Lecture 21 February 2023
Presenter - *"Ownself Check Ownself": The Enregisterment of Singlish Through the Listening Subject*
The University of Arizona, USA
-
- Society for Linguistic Anthropology Spring Meeting 7–9 April 2022
Introduction - *Engaging with Our Imperfect World: The Work of Dr Angela Reyes, CLASP keynote speaker*
Boulder, Colorado, USA
-
- 118th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 20–24 November 2019
Panel Co-organizer - *Language and Middle Classness: New Directions in Sociocultural Linguistic Research*
Presenter - *Singlish Spoken through the Middle Class*
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
-
- Conference on Asian Linguistic Anthropology 23–25 January 2019
Presenter - *"The Language is the People": Constructions of Singlish and the Hybrid Nation*
Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, Siem Reap, Cambodia
-
- Society for Linguistic Anthropology Inaugural Spring Meeting 8–10 March 2018
Panel Co-organizer - *English's Others: Problems with "Complexity" and "Hybridity"*
Presenter - *"Tidying Up" Hybridity: The Enregisterment of Singlish Through Metadiscourse*
University of Pennsylvania, USA
-
- 116th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 29 November–3 December 2017
Presenter - *The Enregisterment of Singlish Through the Listening Subject*
Washington, D.C., USA
-
- 12th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies 24–28 July 2017
Presenter - *The Role of Singlish Humor in the Rise of the Opposition Politician in Singapore*
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore
-
- 15th International Pragmatics Association Conference 16–21 July 2017
Presenter - *The Role of Singlish Humor in the Rise of the Opposition Politician in Singapore*
Belfast, Northern Ireland
-
- 114th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting 18–22 November 2015
Panel Organizer - *Localizing Globalization: Language in the Nation-state*
Presenter - *The Listening Subject in Defining the Singapore Politician*
Denver, Colorado, USA
-
- WAIL (Workshop on American Indigenous Languages) 8–9 May 2015
Co-Presenter - *Linguistic Hybridity in the Kotiria Community* (with Dr Kristine Stenzel, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)
University of California Santa Barbara, USA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (2013–PRESENT)**Lecturer, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder****LING 3800 Language and Social Media (2026)**

Linguistics 3800 is an upper division undergraduate online course that explores how language is used and transformed on social media platforms. Students explore shifts in online sociality through the growth and spread of meme culture, consider how new media and technology affords new communities, communicative roles, and forms of politics. Through shared discussions and guided ethnography projects, students gain critical awareness and understanding of issues of language, identity and power in digital spaces.

Lecturer, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder**ANTH/LING 4800 Language and Culture (2025; 2026)**

Anthropology/Linguistics 4800 is a cross-listed module that instructs upper division undergraduates on key concepts and topics in linguistic anthropology and facilitates their approach to language as a central form of action through which social, cultural, and political relations are constituted. This is a 45-student seminar that focuses on both theoretical and methodological approaches in the field, with the aim to prepare students for more advanced graduate classes. Students participate in both critical discussion and small group projects; this course's specific focus is on online communities, and students complete a scaffolded online ethnography project for the semester.

Lead Graduate Instructor, Program for Writing and Rhetoric CU Boulder**WRTG 1150 First-Year Writing and Rhetoric (2019–2024)**

Writing 1150 is a writing course of 19 students per class, structured to guide students in developing skills and rhetorical knowledge required as they transition from high school to college classes. In my classes, I expose students to various academic arguments and design their writing assignments in ways that hone their skills in drafting, revising, and reviewing as part of the writing process. Students are also encouraged to reflect on the social benefits and costs of writing clear, "standard American English" prose.

Lead Graduate Instructor, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder**LING 1000 Language in U.S. Society (2015; 2016; 2018; 2019)**

Linguistics 1000 is a large lecture class of about 100 students per section, structured to help students gain a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity in the United States and beyond, and examines issues central to the fields of sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology. During the semester, students work on scaffolded writing assignments that guide them through the steps of qualitative sociolinguistics research: data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Lead Graduate Instructor, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder**LING 3545 World Language Policies (2016–2018)**

Linguistics 3545 is an upper division linguistics course that provides an introduction to language rights, language policies, and language ideology from both national/international and local/global perspectives. This 35-student course attracts students from majors beyond linguistics that are interested in language politics, including political science, economics, sociology, and communication studies. Students explore motivations and consequences of language policymaking as well as analyze several case studies of historical and current language policy implementation through theoretical frameworks from language planning and policy, linguistic anthropology, and sociolinguistics.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder
LING 2400 Language, Gender, and Sexuality (2018; 2023)**

Linguistics 2400 is a 50-student course that explores how language is used as a resource to produce gender and sexuality across cultures, with a special focus on language practices in today's college-age generation. Students consider how ideas about gender and sexuality are perpetuated through language; how speakers use language to affirm or challenge these ideas; and how language is involved in the gendered construction of social identities, communities, and political positions. As Teaching Assistant, I plan and hold weekly recitations, help to set and grade all assignments, and mentor students on their final data analysis project assignments, among other duties.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics CU Boulder
LING 3100 Language Sound Structures (2013)**

STUDENT MENTORING

Leo Cornelson, BA Honors Student (Anthropology and Information Science), Spring 2026–

Project: "Dating Apps: An Ethnographic Look at Authenticity"

Martina Garbutt, BSc Student (Astrophysics, Anthropology), Spring 2025–

Project: "Fandom Culture and the Struggle to Survive"

Katherine Fair, BA Student (Anthropology)

Amelia Gandhi, BSc Student (Astrophysics)

Brennan Lentz, BA Student (Anthropology)

2025/2026 Linguistics Undergraduate Research Award, Department of Linguistics – Mentor/Nominator

ACADEMIC SERVICE

**SLA 2022 Conference Co-Organizer / Liaison to the Society for Linguistic Anthropology
2019–2022, Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA) Fall Conference 2022, Boulder, CO**

As one of two lead student organizers for the SLA Conference that had both in-person, hybrid, and virtual components, I acted as liaison between student-led teams in Boulder, faculty and administrator teams from the Society of Linguistic Anthropology, and corporate partners and sponsors. Project management responsibilities for a 400+ attendee academic conference included coordinating multiple sub-committees and managing all on-the-ground aspects of the event.

Lead Coordinator

2022, LING 4900 SLA 2022 Student Internship

LING 4900 is a student internship program that provided undergraduates the opportunity to work as student organizers of the 2022 Society for Linguistic Anthropology Spring Conference in Boulder, CO. As lead graduate coordinator, I worked with groups of undergraduate student interns on conference organizing and planning tasks, coordinated schedules and expectations, and oversaw final delivery of their projects considering the larger timeline of the conference.

**External Member, University of Colorado Art Museum Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI)
Committee**

2021, Committee established by the University of Colorado Art Museum

In my invited capacity as external graduate student representative, I collaborated with both museum executives and outside partners to discuss and consider matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to the museum ecosystem, with the final goal of creating and launching a new diversity statement for the CU Art Museum.

Co-Lead Organizer, Talking Politics Webinar Series

2020, Co-sponsored by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA), CU Boulder Program for Culture, Language, and Social Practice (CLASP), and UChicago Center for the Study of Communication and Society

Talking Politics was a fully online and public-facing event held during the COVID-19 pandemic. This required experience and skills working remotely with co-organizers and partnering organizations from across the United States. As one of the lead organizers for Talking Politics, I oversaw the overall planning of five online seminar events over a period of half a year involving multiple teams of guest speakers, technological support, and organizers. The Talking Politics Webinar Series organizing committee won the Award for Public Outreach and Community Service presented by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology in 2021.

Member, Scientific Committee

2017, Program for Culture, Language and Social Practice (CLASP) V Conference, CU Boulder

I was part of a committee that graded and evaluated abstracts for scientific validity, merit, and research methodology, for acceptance to the graduate student-run CLASP V academic conference in 2017.

Member, Organizing Committee

2015, Program for Culture, Language and Social Practice (CLASP) IV Conference, CU Boulder

As part of the organizing committee for the CLASP IV academic conference in Boulder, I was involved in the day-to-day administrative planning of a 3-day academic conference in areas of budgeting, schedule planning, marketing and promotions, and conference material design.

Lead Graduate Coordinator

2013–2014, LING 1900 Linguistics Practicum

As lead graduate coordinator, I liaised with multiple Boulder community partners to pair CU undergraduates with community members seeking help with English literacy, as well as coordinated students' semester requirements.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder Graduate School, Fall 2022.

Award for Public Outreach & Community Service, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, 2021. Awarded to graduate student collaboration between University of Chicago and University of Colorado Boulder for organizing the *Talking Politics Webinar Series*, 2020–2021. Speakers included Kira Hall, Adam Hodges, Michael Lempert, Janet McIntosh, Norma Mendoza-Denton, and Jonathan Rosa.

Graduate School GPTI Teaching Excellence Award, Nominated by the Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado Boulder Graduate School, 2018.

LANGUAGES

English	(first language; high proficiency)
Mandarin Chinese	(first language; high proficiency)
Japanese	(high proficiency in comprehension and spoken Japanese, good proficiency in written Japanese; JLPT N1 Certification)
Cantonese/Hokkien/Teochew	(family languages, intermediate proficiency)

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Office & Productivity	Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Drive)
Online Course Design & Technology	Screen recording/editing software for UDL-aligned multimedia courses (Screen Studio, ScreenSage Pro etc.)

Student Learning & Platforms

Canvas, Moodle, and other LMS platforms, Qualtrics, Google Forms, Padlet, FigJam, Canva

Project Management

Trello, Airtable, Notion

Communication & Collaboration

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Slack, Discord