Alice Mitchell

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Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie
Universität zu Köln
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Academic Positions

Since 2019	Junior Professor Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie Universität zu Köln *Parental leave*: January–October 2021; October 2023–August 2024
2016–2019	Postdoctoral Research Associate, VariKin Project Department of Anthropology & Archaeology University of Bristol
2015–2016	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow Asien-Afrika-Institut Universität Hamburg

Education

2015	PhD Linguistics University at Buffalo
2010	MA Language Documentation and Description, *Distinction* SOAS, University of London
2009	BA German and Linguistics, *First Class Honours* University of Oxford

Publications

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Mitchell, Alice. To appear. Documenting difference: Interactional approaches to the documentation of special registers. In Rich Sandoval and Nicholas Williams (eds.), *Interactional approaches to language documentation* (*Language Documentation & Conservation SP*).

Mangena, Tendai and Alice Mitchell. 2023. Hauntings of the metaphysical empire? Anthroponomic patterns in contemporary Zimbabwe. *Critical African Studies*.

Sam Passmore, Wolfgang Barth, Simon Greenhill, Kyla Quinn, Catherine Sheard, Paraskevi Argyriou, Joshua Birchall, Claire Bowern, Jasmine Calladine, Angarika Deb, Anouk Diederen, Niklas P Matsäranta, Luis Henrique Araujo, Rhiannon Schembri, Jo Hickey-Hall, Terhi Honkola, **Alice Mitchell**, Lucy Poole, Péter Rácz, Sean Roberts, Robert M Ross, Ewan Thomas-Colquhoun, Nicholas Evans, Fiona M Jordan. 2023. Kinbank: A global database of kinship terminology. *PLoS One* 18(5): e0283218.

Mitchell, Alice and Péter Rácz. 2021. Children's knowledge of a name-based avoidance register: A quantitative study among Datooga of Tanzania. *American Anthropologist* 123(2). 389–400.

Mitchell, Alice and Fiona M. Jordan. 2021. Kinship, seniority, and rights to know in Datooga children's everyday interaction. *Journal of Pragmatics* 181. 49–61.

Mitchell, Alice and Fiona M. Jordan. 2021. The ontogeny of kinship categorization. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 21. 152–177.

Blythe, Joe, Jeremiah Tunmuck, Alice Mitchell, and Péter Rácz. 2020. Acquiring the lexicon and grammar of universal kinship. *Language* 96(3). 661–695.

Fleming, Luke, Alice Mitchell, and Isabelle Ribot. 2019. In the name of the father-in-law: Pastoralism, patriarchy, and the sociolinguistic prehistory of eastern and southern Africa. *Sociolinguistic Studies* 13(2–4). 171–192.

Mitchell, Alice. 2018. Allusive reference and other-oriented stance in an affinal avoidance register. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 28(1). 4–21.

Mitchell, Alice. 2015. Words that smell like Father-in-law: A linguistic description of the Datooga avoidance register. *Anthropological Linguistics* 57(2). 195–217.

Childs, G. Tucker, Jeff Good, and Alice Mitchell. 2014. Beyond the ancestral code: Towards a model for sociolinguistic language documentation. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 8. 168–191.

MONOGRAPHS

Lovegren, Jesse, Alice Mitchell, and Natsuko Nakagawa. 2015. *The Wala language of Malaita, Solomon Islands*. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics, Australian National University. 243 pages.

EDITED VOLUMES

Hollington, Andrea, Alice Mitchell, and Nico Nassenstein (eds.). To appear 2024. *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa.* Amsterdam: Benjamins.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Mitchell, Alice. To appear. Pointing for time-of-day reference in Datooga. In Eric Dzwiza-Ohlsen (ed.), *Deixis – Zeigen – Pointing. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven.* Darmstadt: WBG.

Nassenstein, Nico, Alice Mitchell, and Andrea Hollington. To appear. Introduction. In Andrea Hollington, Alice Mitchell, and Nico Nassenstein (eds.), *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa.* Benjamins.

Mitchell, Alice and Nicola Zimmermann. To appear. Mouths, tongues, and ears: Source concepts for language across Africa. In Andrea Hollington, Alice Mitchell, and Nico Nassenstein (eds.), *Anthropological Linguistics: Perspectives from Africa.* Benjamins.

Mitchell, Alice and Anne Storch. 2022. The Unspoken. In Svenja Völkel and Nico Nassenstein (eds.), *Approaches to language and culture*, 217-236. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

Mitchell, Alice. 2021. Phasal polarity in Barabaiga and Gisamjanga Datooga (Nilotic): Interactions with tense, aspect, and participant expectation. Raija Kramer (ed.), *The expression of phasal polarity in African languages*, 419–441. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

Mitchell, Alice. 2020. "Oh, bald father!": Kinship and swearing among Datooga of Tanzania. Nico Nassenstein & Anne Storch (eds.), *Swearing and cursing: Contexts and practices in a critical linguistic perspective*, 79–102. Berlin: de Gruyter Mouton.

Mitchell, Alice and Ayu'nwi Neba. 2019. Special-purpose registers of language in Africa. In H. Ekkehard Wolff (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics,* 513–534. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mitchell, Alice. 2017. The pragmatics of a kinship term: The meaning and use of *íiyá* 'mother' in Datooga (Nilotic). In Raija Kramer & Roland Kießling (eds.), *Mechthildian Approaches to Afrikanistik: Advances in language based research on Africa. Festschrift für Mechthild Reh,* 287–301. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Mitchell, Alice. 2023. "Hey, bonikala": Language contact and experiences of Swahili among rural Datooga children. In Roger Blench, Petra Weschenfelder und Georg Ziegelmeyer (eds.), *Current Research in Nilo-Saharan. 14th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium,* 153–162. Cologne: Köppe.

Bellingham, Erika, Stephanie Evers, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Alice Mitchell, Sang-Hee Park, Anastasia Stepanova, and Jürgen Bohnemeyer. 2020. Exploring the representation of causality across languages: integrating production, comprehension and conceptualization perspectives. In E. A. Bar-Asher Siegal & N. Boneh (eds.), *Perspectives on causation: Selected papers from the Jerusalem 2017 workshop*, 75–118. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Péter Rácz, Alice Mitchell & Joe Blythe. 2018. Egocentric and allocentric learning of social-indexical meaning in American English, Datooga, and Murrinhpatha. CogSci 2018 Proceedings. 2303–2308. Cognitive Science Society.

Mitchell, Alice. 2015. Extra-ordinary morphology in an avoidance register of Datooga. In Ruth Kramer et al (eds.), *Selected Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics*. 188–198. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Grants and awards

2022	'Kopf Frei Programm', University of Cologne. (€1950 to cover costs of teaching load reduction for one semester.)
	Linguistic approaches to the documentation of indigenous ecological knowledge: A mobile training workshop. Volkswagen Stiftung, 'Wissen für morgen – Kooperative Forschungsvorhaben im sub-saharanischen Afrika'. Co-PI: Chrispina Alphonce, The University of Dodoma; €34,800.
2022–2026	*Framing futures: Temporal frames of reference in land conversions.* Sub-project within the DFG-funded CRC 228 Future Rural Africa. Co-PI: Thomas Widlok. €348,000.
2021–2025	*Split case marking and constituent order in East Africa.* Sub-project within the DFG-funded SFB 1252 Prominence in Language. Co-PI: Birgit Hellwig. €342,200.
2019	*Together: Designing an inclusive picture book to explore children's concepts of family.* Ideas Exchange Fund, Brigstow Institute, University of Bristol; £1,000. Co-Is: Beatrice Paterson-Achenbach and Prof. Fiona Jordan.
2015	Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award. University at Buffalo.
2014	*Doctoral Dissertation Research: Linguistic avoidance and social relations.* National Science Foundation: Linguistics/Cultural Anthropology, Award No. BCS-1422677; $14,471.
2014	College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship. University at Buffalo; $6,000.
2013	Excellence in Teaching Award, University at Buffalo.
2013	*Avoidance and politeness in the Datooga language.* Mark Diamond Research Fund, University at Buffalo; $1,979.
2013	Department of Linguistics Student Research Fund. University at Buffalo; $800.
2010–14	Presidential Fellowship, University at Buffalo.

Academic Conferences

PANELS ORGANIZED

2021   'Signs of care: Communicating sympathy in African contexts'. 17th International Pragmatics Conference, Winterthur, 27 June–2 July. (Online.)

PAPERS PRESENTED

2023   Chrispina Alphonce and Alice Mitchell. In-law name avoidance practices in interethnic marriage contexts: Insights from Datooga and Iraqw. 16th Nilo-Saharan Colloquium, Nairobi, 30 August–1 September.

Alice Mitchell and Mandy Lorenzen. The dynamics of coding human arguments in Datooga: Integrating functional-typological and socio-interactional approaches. 18th International Pragmatics Conference, Brussels, 9–14 July 2023.

Mandy Lorenzen and Alice Mitchell. Constituent order variation in Datooga narrative and conversation. 25th Afrikanist*innentag, Leipzig, 4–6 May 2023.

Alice Mitchell, Anastasia Bauer and Birgit Hellwig. A first cross-linguistic foray into children's feedback signals. 45th Annual Meeting of the DGfS, University of Cologne, 8–10 March.

2021   Tendai Mangena and Alice Mitchell. Hauntings of the metaphysical empire? Anthroponomic patterns in Zimbabwe. Names Society of Southern Africa Congress, Durban University of Technology, 3–5 November. (Online.)

Comparative perspectives on African expressions of sympathy. 17th International Pragmatics Conference, Winterthur, 27 June–2 July. (Online.)

Alice Mitchell and Solange Mekamgoum. Fertile ground: Language, gender, and reproduction in African contexts. International Gender and Language Association conference, Queen Mary University, London, 22–24 June 2021. (Online.)

2019   Joe Blythe, Jeremiah Tunmuck, Péter Rácz and Alice Mitchell. Murrinhpatha-speaking children's acquisition of sibling-inflected verbal morphology. Australian Linguistics Society Annual Conference, Sydney, 11–13 December.

Erika Bellingham, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Yu Li, Alice Mitchell, Sang-Hee Park, Anastasia Stepanova and Juergen Bohnemeyer. The semantic typology of causatives: New approaches to data collection and analysis. 13th Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, Pavia, 4–6 September.

Knowledge and seniority in Datooga children's interactions. 16th International Pragmatics Conference, Hong Kong, 9–14 June.

2018   "Hey, bonikalaa": Language contact and experiences of Swahili among rural Datooga children. 14th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Conference, Vienna, 29 May–1 June.

Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Language and the body in Datooga children's concepts of kinship. Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK & Commonwealth Annual Conference, Oxford, 18–21 September.

Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Mother and child yes/no question sequences as affective displays in Datooga. 5th International Conference on Conversation Analysis, Loughborough, 11–15 July.

Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. "Donkeys dig holes, do they?": Knowledge transmission in Datooga interaction. Inaugural Conference of the Society of Linguistic Anthropology, Philadelphia, 8–10 March.

Alice Mitchell and Fiona M. Jordan. Child-anchored kinship terms in child-directed speech in Datooga. Poster presentation at 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, 4–7 January.

| 2017 | Erika Bellingham, Stephanie Evers, Kazuhiro Kawachi, Alice Mitchell, and Jürgen Bohnemeyer. An experimental approach to the semantic typology of causative constructions. Poster presentation at the 12th Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology, Canberra, 10–15 December. |

| 2016 | The long hello: Greeting routines in Datooga. Sociolinguistics Symposium 21, University of Murcia, 15–18 June. |

Degrees of name avoidance in Datooga: A usage-based study of an African avoidance register. 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC, 7–10 January.

Documenting taboo-motivated lexical variation in an avoidance register of Datooga. Poster presentation at 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC, 7–10 January.

| 2015 | Documenting difference: Interactional approaches to the documentation of special registers. 114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, 18–22 November. |

| 2014 | Avoidance language and the limits of register. Sociolinguistics Symposium 20, University of Jyväskylä, 15–18 June. |

| 2013 | Extra-ordinary morphology in an avoidance register of Datooga. 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Georgetown University, 7–10 March. |

Tucker Childs, Jeff Good, and Alice Mitchell. Beyond the ancestral code: Advancing sociolinguistic language documentation in sub-Saharan Africa. 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics, Georgetown University, 7–10 March.

Invited Talks and Other Presentations

| 2022 | Speaking about the unspeakable: Creativity and convention in the Datooga avoidance register. a.r.t.e.s Workshop on 'Systematisierung der Welt: Perspektiven – Grenzen – Auslassungen', University of Cologne, 1 July. |

Ecological knowledge in childhood. Workshop on 'Interpreting the natural world: Linguistic and cultural perspectives on ecological knowledge', University of Cologne, 11 May.

"Isn't she your mother?": Learning the language of kinship in Datooga childhood. Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series, University of Rochester, 1 April. (Online.)

Some reflections on the role of food-sharing in learning kinship concepts. Spring School 'Hospitality, Reciprocity, Sharing', Kloster Eberbach, 25 March.

2021   Alice Mitchell and Andrew Harvey. Riddles of the Rift Valley: A one-year update. Rift Valley Network Webinar Series, 1 December. (Online.)

2020   A first look at riddles and riddling in Gisamjanga-Datooga. 'Riddles of the Rift Valley: Variation and Convergence in a Verbal Genre' Workshop, 20 November. (Online.)

Sociolinguistic language documentation in the Rift Valley: Current practices and future prospects. Rift Valley Network Webinar Series, 8 April. (Online.)

2019   Negotiating knowledge in Datooga interaction. East Africa Day, Leiden University, 27 September.

2018   Name avoidance and taboo across cultures. University of Flensburg, 21 November.

Phasal polarity items in Datooga (Nilotic): Interactions with tense, aspect, and participant expectation. Conference on the Expression of Phasal Polarity in sub-Saharan African languages, University of Hamburg, 2–4 February.

Learning about kinship among Datooga of Tanzania. Workshop on Children's Acquisition of Kinship Knowledge: Theory & Method, University of Bristol, 25–26 January.

2017   The social dynamics of in-law name avoidance among Datooga of Tanzania. Language and Anthropology Seminar, University of Oxford, 23 February.

"The father of the wife of what's his name": Aspects of person reference in Datooga. Linguistics Departmental Seminar Series, SOAS, 7 February.

2016   Language and kinship among Datooga of Tanzania. Bristol Archaeology and Anthropology Research Seminar Series, University of Bristol, 14 December.

2016   Person reference in Datooga. Hamburg Afrikanistik Colloquium, University of Hamburg, 8 June.

2014   A first look at avoidance language in interaction. Workshop on Social & Cultural Approaches to Language, University at Buffalo, USA, 8 March.

2013   Alice Mitchell, Tucker Childs, and Jeff Good. Goals, tools, and techniques for the sociolinguistic documentation of minority languages. Workshop on African fieldwork in the 21st century, Georgetown University, USA, 7 March.

2012	Morphological irregularity in an avoidance register of Datooga. Qualifying Paper presentations, Dept. of Linguistics, University at Buffalo, USA, 11 December.
2010	Chain reactions in language revitalisation: Contact and exchange between minority language preschools in Europe. MA presentations, Dept. of Linguistics, SOAS, UK, 10 June.

Teaching Experience

UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN

- *Anthropological Linguistics.* Postgraduate seminar for MA Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Bildung, MA Afrikanistik, MA Linguistik and MA Culture and Environment in Africa. Summer 2020; Winter 2020/21; Winter 2021/22; Winter 2022/23.

- *Einführung in die afrikanistische Sprachwissenschaft*. (In German.) Introductory undergraduate lecture for BA Sprachen und Kulturen Afrikas and BA Geographie. Summer 2022; Summer 2023.

- *Ethnographie der Kommunikation*. (In German.) Advanced undergraduate seminar for BA Sprachen und Kulturen Afrikas and BA Geographie. Winter 2019/20; Winter 2020/21; Summer 2022; Summer 2023.

- *Language Ecologies.* Postgraduate seminar for MA Culture and Environment in Africa, MA Afrikanistik, MA Interkulturelle Kommunikation und Bildung, MA Linguistik. Winter 2021/22.

- *Language and Kinship in Africa*. Postgraduate seminar for MA Culture and Environment in Africa and MA Afrikanistik. Winter 2019/20.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

- *Sociolinguistic Anthropology.* Final-year, co-taught module for BA Anthropology and BA Modern Languages. Term 2, 2018; Term 2, 2019.

- Guest lectures:
    - "Ethnographic and linguistic research methods" for *Black Humanities Research Skills* module on MA Black Humanities; 2019.
    - "Language and migration" for *People on the Move*, second-year BA Anthropology module; 2019.
    - "Language and gender" for *Big Ideas in Anthropology*, first-year BA Anthropology module; 2018 and 2019.
    - "Linguistic anthropology" for *Peoples, Culture, Language*, first-year module on BA Anthropology module; 2018.
    - "Language socialization" for *Anthropology of Childhood*, second-year module on BA Anthropology; 2018.

- *Language, Society, and the Individual*. Co-taught course for BA Linguistics; 2015.
- *German 101*. Undergraduate language course; 2011, 2012, 2013.
- *German 102*. Undergraduate language course; 2010, 2011, 2012.
- Teaching assistant for *Language in Its Social Setting*; 2014.
- Teaching assistant for *Structure of English: Sound System*; 2013.

Academic Service

UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN
- Mitglied, Gender Pay Gap Arbeitsgruppe (2020–2021)
- Erasmus Koordinatorin, Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie (2020–2021)
- Mitglied, Kommission für Lehre, Studium und Studienreform (WS2021–)
- Stellvertretende Direktorin (Deputy Chair), Cologne Centre for Language Sciences (WS2021–2022)
- Geschäftsführende Direktorin (Chair), Cologne Centre for Language Sciences (WS2022–)

EXTERNAL SERVICE
- Vorsitzende (Chair), Fachverband Afrikanistik (2020–)

CONSULTANCY
- Oxford English Dictionary, Nilotic languages (2020–)

EDITORIAL POSITIONS
- Berghahn Studies in Linguistic Anthropology series, Editorial Board (2016–)
- *Sociolinguistic Studies* (Equinox), Editorial Board (2020–)
- *Linguistique et Langues Africaines*, Editorial Board (2020–)
- *Afrika und Übersee*, Academic Advisory Board member (2021–)
- Nilo-Saharan: Studies in Language and Context series with Köppe, Editorial Board (2022–)

JOURNAL REVIEWING
- *Language Documentation & Conservation* (2016)
- *Language Dynamics and Change* (2017)
- *Poznan Studies in Contemporary Linguistics* (2019)
- *Africa: Rivista di Studi e Ricerche* (2019)
- *Multilingual Margins* (2019)
- *Sociolinguistics Studies* (2020)
- *Journal of Postcolonial Linguistics* (2020)
- *Journal of African Languages and Literatures* (2020)
- *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics* (2021)
- *Pragmatics & Cognition* (2021)
- *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* (2021)
- *Afrika und Übersee* (2021)

- *Language Sciences* (2021, 2023)
- *International Journal of Language and Culture* (2022)
- *South African Journal of African Languages* (2023)

BOOK PROPOSALS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND MANUSCRIPT REVIEWING
- Berghahn (2018)
- Bloomsbury (2018)
- Routledge (2019)
- University of the West Indies Press (2020)
- De Gruyter (2021)

GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEWING
- Endangered Languages Fund (2016, 2017)
- Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (2018, 2022)
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2023)

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWING
- Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (2016–2019)
- LingCologne (2023)
- 16th Nilo-Saharan Colloquium (2023)

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION
- Co-organiser (with Thomas Widlok, Joachim Knab and Sabrina Msangi), 'Becoming (un)equal in age', Aga Khan University, Arusha Campus, 14–15 September 2023.
- Co-organiser (with Thomas Widlok, Gideon Tups, Joachim Knab, David Greven, Emily Gubbini, and Sabrina Msangi), 'Into the open: Sharing knowledge and reflecting on research relationships', CRC Future Rural Africa Summer School, Arusha, 11–15 September 2023.
- Co-organiser (with Chrispina Alphonce), 'Linguistic approaches to the documentation of indigenous ecological knowledge: A mobile training workshop', The University of Dodoma, 4–10 September 2023.
- Member of organizing committee (with Anne Storch, Angi Mietzner, Jane Oduor, Prisca Jerono and Helga Schröder), 16th Nilo-Saharan Colloquium, University of Nairobi, 30 August–1 September 2023.
- Co-organiser (with Chrispina Alphonce), 'Interpreting the natural world: Linguistic and cultural perspectives on ecological knowledge', University of Cologne, 11 May 2022.
- Co-organiser (with Chrispina Alphonce), 'Riddles of the Rift Valley: Variation and Convergence in a Verbal Genre,' Zoom workshop, 20 November 2020.
- Co-organiser (with Fiona Jordan), 'Children's Acquisition of Kinship Knowledge: Theory and Methods,' University of Bristol, 25–26 January 2018.
- Co-organiser (with Cala Zubair), 'Social and Cultural Approaches to Language,' University at Buffalo, March 12, 2014.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
- With Sheena Shah. 'Die Sprachen Afrikas in 60 Minuten'. Online seminar for the Deutsche Volkshochschul-Verband, 25 May 2023.

- *Exploring Cross-Cultural Diversity* stall, FUTURES 2018 Research Fair, We The Curious, Bristol, 29 September 2018.
- *Lugha za Tanzania / Languages of Tanzania* stall, Haydom Four Corners Cultural Festival, Haydom (Tanzania), 26 September 2017.

Languages (spoken)

Native	English
Fluent	German
Intermediate	Swahili, French, Spanish, Datooga

Professional Membership

Linguistic Society of America (2010–2023)
The Philological Society (2010–2020)
American Anthropological Association (2015–2018)
British Institute in Eastern Africa (since 2015)
Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (since 2016)
International Society for Conversation Analysis (2017–2018)
International Pragmatics Association (since 2018)
Fachverband Afrikanistik (since 2020)

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