

Curriculum Vitae
updated September 2026
Michael Fiddler, Ph.D

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Phonology, language documentation and description, language contact and change, typology, Uyghur, Turkic languages

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2026-present Assistant Professor, Boğaziçi University Department of Linguistics

EDUCATION

2018-2025 Ph.D (Linguistics), University of California Santa Barbara
Dissertation: “Uyghur prosody: stress, intonation, and prominence”
Committee chair: Matthew Gordon

2009 M.A. (Applied Linguistics), Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL)
Passed comprehensive exams with honors

2007 Certificate in Applied Linguistics, GIAL

2007 B.A. (Ancient Languages, *Summa cum laude*), Wheaton College

PUBLICATIONS

Papers and Journal Articles

2025 Fiddler, Michael. Uyghur vowel devoicing: phonetics and phonology. *Turkic Languages* 29, 30-53.

2023 Fiddler, Michael. Conceptual metaphor in areal perspective: time, space, and contact in the Sinosphere. *Language and Cognition*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2023.41>

2018 Fiddler, Michael. Chesterton, Poe, and the meaning of detective stories. *The Chesterton Review* 44.3/4 (2018), 467-493.
<https://doi.org/10.5840/chesterton2018443/479>

2017 Fiddler, Michael. Friends, enemies, and fools: A collection of Uyghur proverbs. *GLALens*, October 2017. <https://www.diu.edu/academics/gialens/>

- 2011 Fiddler, Michael. Bound nominal roots in Waorani. *GLALens*, January 2011. <https://www.diu.edu/academics/gialens/>
- 2009 Fiddler, Michael. Morphophonemic gemination in Latin. *DIU Occasional Papers in Applied Linguistics*, Summer 2009. <https://www.diu.edu/academics/opal/>
- 2003 Fiddler, Michael. Exploring the limits of reason: Noah Webster and language reform. *The Concord Review* 13.4 (2002-2003).

Conference Proceedings

- 2025 Fiddler, Michael. “Uyghur palatal harmony as bidirectional (root-controlled) harmony,” *Ninth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+9)*.
- 2024 Fiddler, Michael & Abdul-Kerim, Haibibullah. “The prosody of post-predicate position in Uyghur,” *Chicago Linguistics Society Annual Meeting*, University of Chicago.
- 2021 Fiddler, Michael. “The grammaticalization cline of the Uyghur converb: Syntax, morphology, and prosody,” *Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics (ConCALL-4)*, Indiana University.
- 2021 Fiddler, Michael. “Phonologically motivated orthographic variation in Modern Uyghur: the voicing of /h/,” *Sixth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+6)*, University of Toronto Department of Linguistics.
- 2019 Fiddler, Michael. “Phonetic characteristics of devoiced vowels in Uyghur,” *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*, Melbourne.

Book Chapters

- 2024 Gordon, Matthew & Fiddler, Michael. Vowel harmony: Statistical perspectives on typological distribution. In Nancy A. Ritter and Harry van der Hulst., eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Vowel Harmony*.

Translation

Literary (Uyghur-English)

- 2025 Excerpt from ch. 1 of *Iz (Traces)* by Abdurêhim Ötkür, in Munawwar Abdulla, Sonya Imin, & Maidina Kadeer, eds., *Encounters Under the Mulberry Tree: A Contemporary Uyghur Anthology Vol. II*. Tarim Network.
- 2024 “[Guman](#)” (“Suspicion”) by Zunun Qadiri, *The Tarim Network* blog. October 22, 2024.
- 2023 “[Küchükke Hujum](#)” (“Assault on a Puppy”) by Zunun Qadiri, *The Tarim Network* blog, December 4, 2023.
- 2023 “[Ikki Barmiqim Bilen](#)” (“With This Finger and Thumb”) by Zunun Qadiri, *The Tarim Network* blog, November 5, 2023.

- 2023 “[Perman](#)” (“The Edict”) by Zunun Qadiri, *East Turkistan Notebook* collection, special issue of *The Margins* co-organized by Asian American Writers’ Workshop and Tarim Network. March 21, 2023.
- 2023 “[Three Uyghur Poems](#)” at *The China Project*, March 21, 2023. Translations of “My Body is a Leaf” by Turghun Almas, “Song of Nuzugum” by Tursunay Hüseyin, and “Unending Song” by Teyipjan Éliyov.

Scholarly

Uyghur-English

- In prep Tursun, Nabijan. *General History of the East Turkestan Republic, Part 1: Revolution and State Establishment* (Volume 7 of *General History of the Uyghurs*). Trans. by Michael Fiddler & Ömerjan Tokhti.
- In prep Tursun, Nabijan. *A History of the East Turkestan Republic, Part 2: Independence War and Victory* (Volume 7 of *General History of the Uyghurs*). Trans. and ed. by Eleanor Hart, Michael Fiddler, Nazima Tursun, & Ömerjan Tokhti.

Chinese-English

- In press Shen, Jiaxuan. *Asymmetry and Markedness Theory I* (不对称和标记论). Trans. by Luo Chuanwei, Zheng Lianzhong, & Michael Fiddler. Routledge.

Web Publications

The Corpus of Conversational Uyghur (www.uyghurcorpus.org)

FUNDING AWARDS

- 2023 Humanities & Social Sciences Research Grant (UCSB Graduate Division), in support of the “Corpus of Conversational Uyghur” project: \$3,000.
- 2022 FLAS Fellowship for language study at 2022 UW-Madison Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute: tuition and fees up to \$5,000 plus \$2,500 stipend
- 2021 UCSB Confucius Institute China Studies Ph.D Students Award in support of the “Corpus of Conversational Uyghur” project: \$2750.
- 2020 CeLCAR Student Travel Stipend Award for ConCALL-4: \$500.
- 2019 UCSB Linguistics department conference travel mini-grant: \$1,250.
- 2019 Title VIII Fellowship for language study at 2019 UW-Madison Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute: tuition and fees up to \$5,000 plus \$2,500 stipend.
- 2018 UCSB Department of Linguistics Graduate Fellowship: 1 year \$24,000 stipend plus tuition, fees, and student health insurance, 4 years \$20,653 minimum stipend plus tuition, fees, and student health insurance.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2025 (with Abduweli Ayup and Katie Fiddler) Heritage language teaching in the Uyghur diaspora. *Sixteenth Heritage Language Research Institute*, University of Wisconsin-Madison (poster).
- 2025 A corpus-based account of constituent order in the Uyghur noun phrase. *Tenth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+10)*, University of Southern California (poster).
- 2024 Uyghur palatal harmony as root-controlled (bi-directional) harmony. *Ninth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+9)*, Cornell University.
- 2023 Introducing the Corpus of Conversational Uyghur. *Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference (CESS 2023)*, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2023 (with Haibibullah Abdul-Kerim) The prosody of post-predicate position in Uyghur. *Chicago Linguistics Society Annual Meeting*, University of Chicago.
- 2023 Weight and directionality in the stress of case-marked nominals in Uyghur. *LSA 97th Annual Meeting*, part of organized session “Stress at the phonetics-phonology interface: the special case of default-to-opposite patterns” (lightning talk plus poster).
- 2021 From syntax to morphology: grammaticalization on the converbs in Uyghur. *4th Conference on Central Asian Languages and Linguistics (ConCALL-4)*, Indiana University.
- 2021 Phonologically motivated orthographic variation in Modern Uyghur: the voicing of /h/. *Sixth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+6)*, University of Toronto Department of Linguistics.
- 2020 Negotiating conflicts between phonology and orthographic convention: final stop devoicing in Uyghur. *Dallas International Academic Lens (DLAL)*, Dallas International University.
- 2020 The morphosyntactic time-space continuum in Uyghur. New Adventures in Indigenous Languages (NAIL) winter 2020.
- 2019 Turkic relative clauses in typological perspective. Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI) Joint Student Conference.
- 2019 Wisdom from the desert: Uyghur proverbs. New Adventures in Indigenous Languages (NAIL) winter 2019.

Invited Talks

- 2024 Uyghur vowel harmony in typological perspective (lecture for LLL Department Seminar Series organized at Nazarbayev University by Giorgia Troiani)
- 2023 Uyghur converb constructions: from syntax to morphology (guest lecture for LIN 460: Structure of a Particular Language: Uyghur at University of Buffalo taught by Mahire Yakup)

2023	Sound harmony in Uyghur (guest lecture for intermediate Uyghur class taught by Akbar Amat at UW-Madison's CESSI summer institute)
2016	The first hour with a new language: demonstration of a linguist's language-learning method. (Monolingual fieldwork demonstration with a speaker of Kiribati). Open lecture at ZJNU, November 22, 2016.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewing

2025	<i>Turkic Languages</i>
2025	<i>International Journal of Bilingualism</i>
2024	<i>Language and Cognition</i>
2024	Proceedings for 9 th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (TU+9)
2019-2022	Abstracts for Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL)

Other

2023-24	Graduate student representative on search committee for FTE search for Assistant Professor in Syntactic Typology, UCSB Department of Linguistics
2017, 2018	Faculty panelist for the Lize Academic Forums (丽泽论坛) of ZJNU College of Foreign Languages, Linguistics Department (conducted in English and Mandarin)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT/SERVICE

2024-25	Resident Assistant, UCSB Family Student Housing
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TEACHING

As Instructor of Record, UCSB

2024	LING 181 Languages of the World, fall quarter 2024
2023	LING 20 Language and Linguistics, summer quarter 2023
2023	LING 181 Languages of the World, winter quarter 2023

As Teaching Assistant, UCSB

2025	LING 145 Articulatory Phonetics, summer quarter 2025 Instructor of record: Sherry Chien
2025	LING 115 Historical-Comparative Linguistics, spring quarter 2025 Instructor of record: Dr. Eric Campbell

2025	LING 109 Introduction to Syntax, winter quarter 2025 Instructor of record: Jaime Pérez González
2024	LING 137 First Language Acquisition, summer quarter 2024 Instructor of record: Catherine Scanlon
2024	LING 115 Historical-Comparative Linguistics, spring quarter 2024 Instructor of record: Dr. Matthew Gordon
2024	LING 109 Syntax, winter quarter 2024 Instructor of record: Albert Ventayol-Boada
2023	LING 106 Introduction to Phonetics, fall quarter 2023 Instructor of record: Sherry Chien
2023	LING 115 Historical-Comparative Linguistics, spring quarter 2023 Instructor of record: Jordan Douglas-Tavani
2022	LING 106 Introduction to Phonetics, fall quarter 2022 Instructor of record: C.J. Young
2022	LING 105 Predictive Modeling, spring quarter 2022 Instructor of record: Dr. Stefan Th. Gries
2022	LING 104 Statistical Methods in Linguistics, winter quarter 2022 Instructor of record: Dr. Stefan Th. Gries
2021	LING 137 First Language Acquisition, spring quarter 2021 Instructor of record: Dr. Lina Hou
2021	LING 107 Introduction to Phonology, winter quarter 2021 Instructor of record: Dr. Matthew Gordon
2020	LING 106 Introduction to Phonetics, fall quarter 2020 Instructor of record: Chloe Willis
2020	LING 15 Language in Life, summer quarter 2020 Instructor of record: Dr. Robert Kennedy
2020	LING 115 Historical-Comparative Linguistics, spring quarter 2020 Instructor of record: Dr. Matthew Gordon
2020	LING 70 Language in Society, winter quarter 2020 Instructor of record: Dr. Robert Kennedy
2019	LING 20 Language and Linguistics, fall quarter 2019 Instructor of record: Dr. Robert Kennedy
2019	LING 15 Language in Life, spring quarter 2019 Instructor of record: Dr. Robert Kennedy
2019	LING 107 Introduction to Phonology, winter quarter 2019 Instructor of record: Dr. Matthew Gordon
2018	LING 106 Introduction to Phonetics, fall quarter 2018 Instructor of record: Julia Fine

As teaching fellow, UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center

2020-22	Foundations in the Humanities III (Prison Correspondence Program) Director: Dr. Susan Derwin
2019-20	Foundations in the Humanities I (Prison Correspondence Program) Director: Dr. Susan Derwin

As instructor of record, ZJNU

2012-2018	Sociolinguistics for first-year M.A. students (College of Foreign Languages [FLC])
2013-2018	Discourse Analysis for first-year M.A. students (FLC)
2018	Contrastive Linguistics for first-year M.A. students (FLC)
2015-2018	College English (C level) special class for students from Xinjiang and Tibet (FLC)
2016-2018	Classics of British and American Literature (FLC)
2012-2016	College English (A level) (FLC)
2016	Oral English for university faculty in preparation for going abroad
2015	English Phonology and Pronunciation (FLC)
2012-2013	Practical English Writing (International College, Xingzhi College)
2011-2012	English Speaking and Listening (Xingzhi College)
2009-2010	English Speaking and Listening (Xingzhi College)

With Sepik Translation and Development Institute

2010	Computer skills class (conducted in Tok Pisin), September-October 2010
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HONORS AND AWARDS

2018	Nominated by ZJNU as a candidate for the West Lake Friendship Award
2007	Wheaton College Scholastic Honor Society
2003-2007	Dean's List, Wheaton College

LANGUAGES

English	native
Mandarin Chinese	speaking fluent, reading intermediate; passed HSK-5, passed HSKK Advanced Level
Uyghur	speaking, reading advanced (scored "Superior" on ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview)
Spanish	speaking, reading intermediate

Tok Pisin	speaking, reading intermediate
Wu Chinese	a little listening comprehension
Russian	speaking, reading beginner; decent grasp of linguistic structure
Latin	reading intermediate
Koine & Classical Greek	reading intermediate
Biblical Hebrew	reading beginner, decent grasp of linguistic structure

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Audacity, ELAN, Praat, R, elementary SQL, elementary Python

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2021-present Foundation for Endangered Languages
2019-present International Phonetic Association
2018-present Linguistic Society of America
2012-2013 Linguistic Society of America