

Andrew M. Byrd

Department of Linguistics

University of Kentucky

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OVERVIEW

Associate Professor of Linguistics

Specializes in Historical Phonology, Proto-Indo-European, and Constructed Languages

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Linguistics

2017-

Assistant Professor of Linguistics

2014-2017

Lecturer of Linguistics

2011-2014

University of Kentucky

- My primary research focus is the creation and application of innovative approaches to solve difficult problems in historical linguistics.
- I also work to educate the public about Proto-Indo-European (PIE) and historical linguistics through constructed languages and other forms of outreach.
- Courses Taught:

The History of English

Homeric Greek

Phonological Analysis

Writing Systems

Constructed Languages

Computation for Linguists

Oscan & Umbrian

Proto-Indo-European

Ancient Greek Dialects

Research Methods in Linguistics

Introduction to the Study of Language

How to Create Your Own Language

Decipherment

Hittite

Historical Linguistics

Sanskrit

Optimality Theory

Introduction to Linguistics

Words & Sentences

Classical Armenian

EDUCATION

PhD Indo-European Studies

2004-2010

University of California, Los Angeles

[“Reconstructing Indo-European Syllabification”](#)

Thesis advisor: H. Craig Melchert

2nd place, “Best Dissertation of 2011 in the field of Indo-European”, Indogermanische Gesellschaft

Visiting Student, Linguistics

2003-2004

Harvard University

BA Linguistics (minors: Latin, German, and Italian)

1997-2002

University of Georgia, Athens

“The Phonology of the Laryngeals”

Thesis advisor: Jared S. Klein

Summa Cum Laude, with Honors

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **DERBi PIE:** I am creating a searchable database of the PIE language called DERBi PIE (Database of Etymological Roots Beginning in PIE), which includes multiple etymological reference works and search functions.
2. ***Five Novellas in Proto-Indo-European*.** Brenna Reinhart Byrd and I are working on five novellas for the public that introduces the study of Proto-Indo-European language, culture, and archaeology through immersive stories in PIE.

BOOKS

2. A.M. Byrd, J. DeLisi, and M. Wenthe (eds.), “[Tavet Tat Satyam. Studies in Honor of Jared S. Klein on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday](#)”, *Ann Arbor & New York: Beech Stave Press*. (2016).
1. A.M. Byrd, “[The Indo-European Syllable](#)”, *Leiden: Brill*. (2015).

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

14. Zia Khoshsirat and A.M. Byrd, “[The Indo-Iranian labial-enlarged causative suffix: Indic - \(ā\)páya-, Eastern Iranian *-\(ā\)uaja-, and Proto-Caspian *-āwēn-](#)”, *Indo-European Linguistics* **11**, 1-32 (2023).
13. A.M. Byrd, “[The Use of the Google Suite in LIN 200: How To Create Your Own Language](#)”, *Greater Faculties: A Review of Teaching and Learning* **3**, Article 12 (2022).
12. Anton Vinogradov, A.M. Byrd, and Brent Harrison, “[Mistake Captioning: A Machine Learning Approach For Detecting Mistakes And Generating Instructive Feedback](#)”, *Proceedings of Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing, September 1–3, 2021*, 1455-1462 (2021).
11. Brenna Reinhart Byrd and A.M. Byrd, “[Teaching Proto-Indo-European as a Constructed Language](#)”, *Jeffrey Penske, Amy Fountain, and Nathan Sanders (eds.), Language Invention in Linguistics Pedagogy*, Oxford: OUP (2020).
10. A.M. Byrd, “[Motivating Lindeman’s Law](#)”, *Adam Alvah Catt, Ronald I. Kim, and Brent Vine (eds.), QAZZU warrai. Anatolian and Indo-European Studies in Honor of Kazuhiko Yoshida*, 6-20 (2019).
9. Phillip Barnett and A.M. Byrd, “[A Markedly Different Approach: an Experimental Look at the Rarity of PIE */b/](#)”, *Proceedings of the 29th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 11-28 (2018).
8. A.M. Byrd, “[121. The Phonology of Proto-Indo-European](#)”, *Handbook of Comparative and Historical Indo-European Linguistics* **vol. 3**, 2056-79 (2018).
7. A.M. Byrd, “[The Rules of Reconstruction: Making our Etymologies More Grounded](#)”, *Etymology and the European Lexicon, Proceedings of the 14th Fachtagung of the Indogermanische Gesellschaft, 17-22 September 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark*, 81-92 (2017).

6. Joseph Rhyne and A.M. Byrd, “[Stressful Conversions: Internal Derivation within the Compositional Approach](#)”, *Tavet Tat Satyam. Studies in Honor of Jared S. Klein on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*, 322-333 (2016).
5. A.M. Byrd, “[Schwa Indogermanicum and Compensatory Lengthening](#)”, *Sahasram Ati Srajas. Indo-Iranian and Indo-European Studies in Honor of Stephanie W. Jamison*, 18-28 (2016).
4. A.M. Byrd, “[Deriving Dreams from the Divine: Hittite tesha-/zash\(a\)i-](#)”, *Historische Sprachforschung* **124**, 96-105 (2011 [2012]).
3. A.M. Byrd, “[Predicting Indo-European Syllabification through Phonotactic Analysis](#)”, *The Sound of Indo European - selected papers from the conference, held in Copenhagen 16-19 April 2009*, 9-28 (2011).
2. A.M. Byrd, “[Motivating Sievers’ Law](#)”, *Proceedings of the 21st Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 45-67 (2010).
1. A.M. Byrd, “[Return to Dative anmamm](#)”, *Ériu* **56**, 145-55 (2006).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Consultant for Cornett, “[Hey Aliens! Look at Lexington!](#)”; advertising campaign for Lexington, KY (VisitLEX) (2023-24)
- Project Co-Director (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), *Roots of the Ancients* (2017-21). My responsibilities were:
 - To secure funding for the project;
 - To translate dialogue from English to PIE and train actors to speak the language within in-game dialogue;
 - To coordinate tasks among the nearly thirty individuals enlisted to work on the project, including game designers, artists, musicians, and scholars.
- Pronouncer, [University of Kentucky Spelling Bee](#) (2013-21), [Fayette County Spelling Bee](#) (2018-19)
- Advisory Board, [Bluegrass Literacy Project](#), a community organization dedicated to improving and advancing English language literacy in the state of Kentucky (2018-21)
- Language Creation
 3. [Flintlock: Siege of Dawn](#): co-creator, translator, and dialect coach of the Th’anthk language; Kepler/A44 (2021-23)
 2. [Battle Shapers](#): Latin translation; Metric Empire, Inc. (2022)
 1. [Far Cry Primal](#): lead creator, translator, and dialect coach of the Wenja & Izila languages; Ubisoft (2014-16)
- Translation of PIE and Ancient Languages
 9. [The PIE Creation Myth](#), with Riccardo Ginevra and Phill Barnett (3/25)

8. [KAMU Espoo City Museum \(Finland\)](#), translation of the PIE Dragon Slaying myth for the "Clues to our Roots" exhibition, with Riccardo Ginevra and Phill Barnett (3/17/22-1/29/23)
 - Featured in Ginevra's new podcast, [L'invasione](#), #1 on Spotify in Italy (1/24)
 - Article in [Il Post](#) about [L'invasione](#) (1/24)
 - [Myth on YouTube](#) (1/24)
 7. [Vikings, season 6, episode 13](#): PIE poem reconstructed for Proto-Germanic (12/20)
 6. [Draw Curiosity](#): translation featured on "Let's Talk about PIE (Proto-Indo-European) - Reconstructing Old Languages" (3/19)
 5. [AXE](#): set in 3,600 BCE, John Yates' play features prayers and story-telling in PIE (3/18)
 4. [The Birth of Humanity](#): a documentary for NHK on the evolution of humankind. Features languages created for early Homo Sapiens, Neanderthal, and Homo Erectus. (2018)
 3. [Origins: The Journey of Humankind](#): features eight prehistoric and ancient languages created, translated, and trained, including two varieties of PIE, Proto-Afro-Asiatic, Proto-Nostratic, Proto-Dené-Caucasian, Proto-Pama-Nyungan, Lydian, and Gaulish, shown on National Geographic (2017)
 2. [The Drop That Contained the Sea](#): PIE translations for "Water Prelude" in the album by Grammy-award winning composer [Christopher Tin](#) (5/14)
 1. "Telling Tales in Proto-Indo-European": PIE recordings of [Schleicher's Fable & the King and the God](#), *Archaeology Magazine*, (9/13)
- Interviews
 16. [Is There Anybody Out There?](#), *KET - Kentucky Educational Television* (12/24)
 15. [Ep.94 How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Laser \(feat. Dr. Brenna Byrd and Dr. Andrew Byrd\)](#), *Strange Talk* (2/24)
 14. [Conlangs: Making Up a Language \(with Profs. Andrew and Brenna Byrd\)](#), Interview with Jackson Crawford, Youtube (8/23)
 13. [Speaking Proto-Indo-European \(with Dr. Andrew Byrd\)](#), Interview with Jackson Crawford, Youtube (4/22)
 12. [I Don't Understand with William Shatner](#), RT (12/21)
 11. [Andrew Byrd, czyli jak rozmawiali ze sobą jaskiniowcy?](#), PRZETłumacze podcast (11/20)
 10. [To Bee or Not to Bee? UK's spelling bee may not exist next year](#), *Kentucky Kernel* (2/20)
 9. [Archaeo-Chat: Creating Prehistoric Languages for Far Cry Primal! \(With some KFC\)](#), Interview with Archaeology Soup (6/19)
 8. [First Horse Warriors](#), NOVA documentary, PBS (5/19)
 7. "UK professor speaks about developing Proto-Indo-European languages for video games", *The Collegian* (4/19)
 6. [Let's Talk About PIE \(Proto-Indo-European\) - Reconstructing Old Languages](#), *Draw Curiosity* (3/19)
 5. "The Long Linguistic Journey to 'Dagnabbit'", *Atlas Obscura* (3/18)

4. National Geographic's *Origins*: [UKNow](#) (4/17)
 3. *Far Cry Primal*: roughly 70 interviews given with mainstream media outlets, including [der Spiegel](#), [le Figaro](#), [el Mundo](#), [News Corp Australia](#), [Vice](#), [Player.One](#) (2016)
 2. Recordings for *Archaeology Magazine*: [BBC Brazil](#), [BBC World Service's Newsday](#), [Huffington Post](#), [UKNow](#) (2013)
 1. "On Talk Like a Pirate Day, it's time to go beyond 'aarr, matey'", *Lexington Herald Leader*. (9/13)
- Pamela Munro, Virgil Lewis, and Nicole Gfroerer, with Marcus Smith, Andrew Byrd, Kevin Ryan, Kyle Wanberg, Heather Willson, and Jennifer Fischer. *Shaap Kaij?* (An introductory primer to the Akimel O'odham language.) Academic Publishing, UCLA. (2007)

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- [NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant](#) (with Danny Law, University of Texas, Austin), \$75,000, to work on the development of a DERBi PIE prototype. (2024)
- [NEH Digital Projects for the Public Discovery Grant](#), \$30,000, to work on the development of *The Anatolian Trail: an Indo-European Adventure*. (2018)

INTERNAL GRANTS & AWARDS

- CURATE award, \$5,000, to continue work on DERBi PIE. (2025)
- Research and Creative Activities Support Program award (with Allison Burkette), \$5,000, to build an OCR program to digitize linguistic texts. (2024)
- Broadening our Funded Research Base in Arts and Sciences, \$20,000, to continue work on DERBi PIE. (2023)
- Research and Creative Activities Support Program award (with Allison Burkette), \$5,000, to build an OCR program to digitize linguistic texts. (2023)
- Alternative Textbook Grant Program award (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), \$2,500, to create a free textbook that teaches about PIE through immersion. (2021)
- UK Arts & Sciences Innovative Teaching Award (2021)
- Research and Creative Activities Support Program award (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), \$3,000, for work on *Roots of the Ancients*. (2020)
- Teachers Who Made a Difference Award (2020)
- Alternative Textbook Grant Program award (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), \$2,500, to create a free textbook that teaches about PIE through immersion. (2020)
- CELT Teaching Innovation Institute award, \$6,000. (2020)
- Alternative Textbook Grant Program award (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), \$2,500, to create a free textbook that teaches about PIE through immersion. (2019)

- Research and Creative Activities Support Program award (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), \$5,000, for work on *The Anatolian Trail: Roots of the Ancients*. (2019)
- Southeastern Conference Visiting Faculty Travel Grant, \$2500. (2013)
- Academic Planning, Analytics and Technologies Grant, \$1500, to develop an introductory course in Linguistics. (2013)
- UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Award. (2005-2006)
- Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute Fellowship. (2005)
- Fulbright Fellowship for Study in Pavia, Italy, at l'Università degli Studi di Pavia. (2002-2003)

INVITED TALKS

16. An Immersive Approach to Teaching Indo-European Studies (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), UCLA Indo-European Studies Seminar, Los Angeles, CA, 10/24
15. The Business of Making Conlangs (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), UTA guest lecture in *Constructed Languages*, Austin, TX, 9/24
14. Being a Public Scholar in Linguistics, UGA Graduate Student Invited Talk, Athens, GA, 2/24
13. LECS: Reconstructing Proto-Caspian Causative Suffix ن‌پ‌ساک رد ی‌راداو دنوسپی‌زاسزاب:س‌ک ی‌ز‌ا‌غ‌ا (with Zia Khoshsiraf), Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran, 12/23
12. Constructed Languages and World['] Building in Video Games (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), UK, 11/23
11. Using Proto-Indo-European as a Conlang in Video Games & the Classroom, University of Louisville, 2/20
10. Conlanging Proto-Indo-European: An Immersive Experience within Prehistory (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), 2020 MLA Conference, Seattle, WA, 1/20
9. Making the Esoteric Exoteric: Introducing the Public to Historical Linguistics through Film, TV, and Video Games, Marshall College of Liberal Arts Research and Creativity Conference, keynote speaker, 4/19
8. Making PIE for the People: *Far Cry Primal*, The History Channel's *Vikings*, and *The Anatolian Trail*, University of Richmond, 4/19
7. Reconstructing the Proto-Indo-European Stop System: An Experimental Approach, Princeton University, 12/17
6. Resurrecting a Dead Language for *Far Cry Primal* (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), Centre College convocation, 2/17
5. The Wenja Language from *Far Cry Primal* (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), OMG!con, featured panelist, 6/16
4. Vowels vs. Vader: Exploring the Light and Dark Sides of Indo-European (with Joshua T. Katz), Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, keynote presentation, 4/14

3. Speaking Proto-Indo-European: What Modern-Day Linguistics Can Teach Us About a 7000-year-old Language, Centre College convocation, 11/13
2. The Phonology of Proto-Indo-European. Day 1: Segmental Phonology; Day 2: Suprasegmental Phonology; Day 3: Rules & Constraints; Day 4: Future Directions.” (SEC Faculty Exchange Seminar Series), University of Georgia, Athens, 5/13
1. A Crazy Rule in PIE? A Closer Look at the Saussure Effect, 10th Annual Ohio State Linguistics Symposium, Columbus, OH, 1/13

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

23. Representing Semantic Relationships in Ancient IE Languages: A Pilot Study (with Anton Vinogradov and Gabriel Wallace), 35th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 10/24
22. Connecting Lexical Aspect and Morphology in Proto-Indo-European (with Tara Singh), 7th Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (LCUGA7), Athens, GA, 10/21
21. Transparent Learning through Video Game Puzzles: Making Indo-European Studies Accessible (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), 2019 Pedagogicon: Transparency in Teaching and Learning, Richmond, KY, 5/19
20. The Anatolian Trail: An Interactive Introduction to Proto-Indo-European (with Brenna Reinhart Byrd), ACTFL, New Orleans, LA, 11/18
19. The Gilaki Causative Suffix *-be(:)-*: Its Function and Origins (with Zia Khoshsirat), 30th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 11/18
18. An Empirical Look at the Rarity of PIE */b/ (with Phillip Barnett), 37th East Coast Indo-European Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, 6/18
17. A Markedly Different Solution: Perceptual Confusability Explains the Rarity of PIE */b/ (with Phillip Barnett), 29th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 11/17
16. Motivating Lindeman’s Law, 27th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 10/15
15. Extrametricality and Non-Local Compensatory Lengthening: The Case of Szemerényi’s Law (with Ryan Sandell), 89th Annual Meeting of the LSA, Portland, OR, 1/15
14. Raising a Language from the Dead: On Teaching Indo-European Linguistics in the Age of the Internet, 29th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, Carrollton, GA, 11/14
13. Stressful Conversions: an Analysis of Internal Derivation within the Compositional Approach (with Joseph Rhyne), 26th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 10/14
12. In Defense of Szemerényi’s Law (with Ryan Sandell), 33rd East Coast Indo-European Conference, Blacksburg, VA, 6/14
11. Accounting for the Absence of Expected Lengthened Grade: Szemerényi’s Law in Word-Medial Position, 2013 Arbeitstagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft, Leiden, the Netherlands, 7/13

10. The Indo-European Homeland Hypothesis : an Examination of Bouckaert, et al. (with Darin Arrick and Victoria Milam), SECOL LXXX, Spartanburg, SC, 4/13
9. ‘It’s Complicated’: the Relationship between Syllabification & Morphology in PIE, 24th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 10/12
8. The Use of Linguistic Typology and Universals in Indo-European Linguistics, with a Brief Note on the Hittite *s* ~ Luvian *t* Correspondence, SECOL LXXIX, Lexington, KY, 4/12
7. A Fresh Look at Pinault’s Law, 23rd UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 10/11
6. ‘Laryngeal Vocalization’ as Schwa Epenthesis: Why does Compensatory Lengthening not Occur?, ECIEC 30, Cambridge, MA, 6/11
5. Motivating Sievers’ Law in a Stratal OT Framework, 21st UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA., 10/09
4. Predicting PIE Syllabification through Phonotactic Analysis, The Sound of Indo-European Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, 4/09
3. Deriving Dreams from the Divine: Hittite *tesha-/zash(a)i-*, The 219th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Albuquerque, NM, 3/09
2. Towards a Predictive and Explanatory Theory of Laryngeal Deletion in Proto-Indo-European, 27th East Coast Indo-European Conference, Athens, GA, 7/08
1. The Long Dative Singular of Neuter n-Stems in Old Irish, 16th UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 11/04

THESES SUPERVISED

5. [Patrick Gehringer](#), MA in Linguistic Theory and Typology, University of Kentucky. “Albanian Nasal Clusters” (05/24)
4. [Eleanor Wren-Hardin](#), MA in Linguistic Theory and Typology, University of Kentucky. “Cognate Detection in the Nakh-Daghestanian Language Family” (05/24)
3. [Ryan McDonald](#), MA in Linguistic Theory and Typology, University of Kentucky. “PMKN PIE: A Parsed Morphological KATR Network for Proto-Indo-European.” (11/20)
2. [Zia Khoshsirat](#), MA in Linguistic Theory and Typology, University of Kentucky. “The Origins of the Gilaki Causative Suffix *-bē-*.” (7/18)
1. [Phillip Barnett](#), MA in Linguistic Theory and Typology, University of Kentucky. “Investigating PIE stops using modern empirical methods.” (5/18)

OTHER ADVISING

13. Neihal Saini, Lexington Summer Youth Program. “Integrating *The Oxford Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the Proto-Indo-European World* into DERBi PIE” (6/25-7/25)

12. Lasantha Senanayake, PhD in Computer Science. “LLMs and Storytelling Systems” (5/25-)
11. James Epperson. “What the *Fuit*: Double Marking in Classical Latin Passives.” (5/25)
10. Casey Smith. “Towards Proto-Niger-Congo Phonology: Evidence from Divergent Branches.” (11/24-5/25)
9. Gabriel Wallace. “Reconstructing Semantic Hyperspaces for Ancient and Reconstructed IE Languages.” (5/23-10/24)
8. Anton Vinogradov, PhD in Computer Science. “[Recovering From And Accommodating For Player Preference Shifts In A Player Modeled Experience Management Environment.](#)” (8/24)
7. Gihyun Gal. “[Rhyming Tactics in Korean Hip-Hop with Two Approaches of English and Korean Syllable Structures.](#)” (4/23)
6. Tara Singh. “[Connecting Lexical Aspect and Morphology in PIE](#)” (2018-2022)
5. Jarred Brewster. “[Language Contact and Covert Prominence in the Šherēt-Jibbālī Language of Oman](#)” (4/21)
4. Noor Bueasa. “[The Adaptation of Loanwords in Classical Arabic: the Governing Factors.](#)” (5/15)
3. Joseph Rhyne. “Indo-European Nominal Morphology: a Phonotactic Approach.” (5/14)
2. Lindley Winchester. “[Egyptian Arabic Plurals in Theory and Computation.](#)” (5/14)
1. Erica Mattingly. “Tongues from Across the Mediterranean: The Influence of Classical Arabic on Spanish Phonology.” Chellgren Fellows Program. (5/13)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WORK, CURRENT

- Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Curriculum Committee, chair
- Member of the Cognitive Science Minor Faculty of Record

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Affiliations
 - Linguistic Society of America
 - Indogermanische Gesellschaft
 - American Oriental Society
 - Southeastern Conference on Linguistics
 - American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
 - Modern Language Association (MLA)
- Reviews

- *U̯ékuos
- Brill's Studies in Indo-European Languages & Linguistics
- Indogermanische Forschungen
- Kratylos
- Indo-European Linguistics
- Journal of Germanic Linguistics
- Springer / Palgrave
- Cambridge University Press