

# MARIE TANO

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## EDUCATION

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**Stanford University**, PhD in Linguistics Expected 2026

**Pomona College**, Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science 2021

*Does Blackness have a Sound? Raciolinguistic Expectations of a Bidialectal Speaker*

(Distinction on Senior Exercise)

Supervisor: Meghan Zirnstein

### Non Degree Programs

**African Linguistics School 6 (ALS6)** 2022

Centre Songhai, Porto-Novo, Benin

- Participated in professional development workshops focused on grant writing, conference presentations, and manuscript preparation to enhance skills in academic writing and communication.
- Enrolled in advanced courses in Formal Semantics, Phonology, and Sociolinguistics to deepen knowledge and understanding of linguistic theory and analysis.

**Summer Research Opportunity Program (NSF Award #2017716)** 2020

Northwestern University, Department of Linguistics

- Conducted sociophonetics research on Black Chicago residents, specifically on the monophthongization of /ai/ sounds.
- Utilized Praat, an acoustic analysis software, to perform vowel formant analysis and calculate the spectral rate of change (SROC) of vowel tokens.

**Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS)** 2020

University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, Department of Linguistics

- Conducted independent research through dataset analysis and literature reviews of psycholinguistic literature under the guidance of faculty mentors
- Presented research findings at a departmental seminar and gained valuable experience in presenting research to an academic audience.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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BROAD SOCIOPHONETICS, COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS, PSYCHOLINGUISTICS, EDUCATION

NARROW AFRICAN-AMERICAN ENGLISH, DIASPORIA STUDIES, SOCIAL MEDIA, PERCEPTION

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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### Fellowships and Scholarships

#### External

**Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)** 2023 - 2028

National Science Foundation

**(Alternate) Predoctoral Fellowship Program** 2023

Ford Foundation

## Internal

<b>Research, Action, and Impact through Strategic Engagement (RAISE) Doctoral Fellowship</b> Stanford University	2023 - 2026
<b>Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Fellowship</b> Stanford University	2021 - 2023
<b>Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)</b> Pomona College	2019 - 2021
<b>Questbridge Match Scholarship</b> Pomona College	2016 - 2021

## Research Grants and Awards

<b>Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL), Student Travel Award, \$1,000</b> Linguistic Society of America	2024
<b>New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) Student Travel Award, \$650</b> Queens College	2023
<b>Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL), Student Registration Award</b> Linguistic Society of America	2020
<b>Remote Alternative Independent Summer Experience (RAISE) Grant, \$2,500</b> Pomona College	2020

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### In Progress

**Tano, M.** The Multiplicity of Authenticity: A Sociophonetic Case Study of a Diasporic Speaker.

### Published

Franz, H., Charity Hudley, A., Rowell, A., Johnson, S., **Tano, M.** & Grue, M. (2022). Black Students' Linguistic Agency: An Evidenced-Based Guide for Instructors and Students. *American Speech*.

Holliday, N. & **Tano, M.** (2021). "It's a Whole Vibe": testing evaluations of grammatical and ungrammatical AAE on Twitter. *Linguistics Vanguard*, 7(1).

### Under Review

Franz, H., Charity Hudley, A. H., Rowell, A., Johnson, S., **Tano, M.** & Grue, M. The Creation of the Students Right to Their Own Writing Website. *College Composition and Communication*.

Franz, H., Turner, K., Charity Hudley, A. H., & **Tano, M.** Writing towards Liberation: A Writing Guide to Support Black Students' Linguistic Agency. *Special Issue of the Journal of Multimodal Rhetorics (JMOR)*.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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**Tano, M.** "The Multiplicity of Authenticity: A Case Study on a Diasporic Speaker." (2023). New Ways of Analyzing Variation, Queens College.

**Tano, M.** "Does Blackness have a Sound?: Raciolinguistic Expectations of a Bidialectal Speaker." (2021). 15th Arizona Linguistics Circle, University of Arizona.

Franz, H., Charity Hudley, A., Johnson, S., & **Tano, M.** (2021). "Black Students' Linguistic Agency: A Researched Guide for Instructors and Students." Fourth HBCU Symposium on Rhetoric and Composition.

**Tano, M.** (2021). "It's a Whole Vibe: Testing Evaluations Of Grammatical and Ungrammatical AAE on Twitter." Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium, Johns Hopkins University.

**Tano, M.** (2020). "Testing Auditory and Internet-Based Evaluations of African-American English." Mellon Mays West Coast Regional Undergraduate Conference, Claremont University Consortium.

**Tano, M. & Holliday, N.** (2020). "It's a Whole Vibe: Testing Evaluations Of Grammatical and Ungrammatical AAE on Twitter." Advancing African American Linguist(ic)s Symposium, University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Tano, M.** (2020). "Linguistically Black: Highlighting the racial presuppositions surrounding the usage of African American Vernacular English." Black Intersections Conference, Claremont University Consortium.

**Tano, M.** (2019) "Linguistically Black: Highlighting the racial presuppositions surrounding the usage of African American Vernacular English." Mellon Mays West Coast Regional Undergraduate Conference, University of Washington and Heritage University.

## Invited Talks

<b>The Construction of a Diasporic Self</b>	2023
Phonology and Psycholinguistics Forum ("Phorum"), University of Berkeley	
<b>Language, Race and Autonomy: African-American English in the Classroom.</b>	2022
Vote Rev Speaker Series, Online	
<b>African-American English and Social Media.</b>	2021
Linguistics 338: African American English, Reed College	

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **Doctoral Research Assistant**

**Study of Stanford Writing Committee** 2021 - Present  
Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University

- Synthesize leading pedagogies from accredited peer institutions, leveraging research and analysis skills to identify best practices and inform strategic decision-making.
- Collaborate with external consultants to deliver comprehensive reports on the history of rhetorical analysis and the instruction of writing in higher education, resulting in valuable insights and actionable recommendations.

**Student's Right to their own Language** 2021 - 2022  
Stanford BAD Lab, School of Education

- Created engaging and effective online pedagogical materials for both students and faculty, leveraging strong instructional design skills and a deep understanding of best practices in online learning.
- Provided valuable support to authors by offering detailed citations and edits to manuscripts and presentations, ensuring accuracy and clarity in academic writing.
- Led a critical literature review of extant scholarship related to Black student writing, providing essential insights and informing the rationale behind the project.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Teaching Assistant**

**Phonetics (LINGUIST 105A/205A)** 2023  
Stanford University, Department of Linguistics

- Provided guidance to students in conducting quantitative sociophonetic research, demonstrating expertise in research design and methodology.

- Led discussion sections on Praat, an acoustic analysis software, and other quantitative methods in sociophonetics, fostering an engaging and interactive learning environment.
- Facilitated student learning and comprehension by breaking down complex concepts into easily digestible parts, resulting in improved student performance and success in the course.

### **Building a Successful Academic Career (UAR 56)**

2022 - 2023

Stanford University, Black Community Services Center

- Served as a dedicated advocate for students, working closely with them to identify their research goals and supporting them throughout the research process.
- Guided students in finding their voice and developing their ideas, particularly in projects exploring the legacy of Black students at Stanford University, leveraging strong mentoring skills and a deep understanding of the subject matter.
- Fostered connections between students and the broader graduate and undergraduate community, facilitating networking opportunities and promoting a sense of fellowship and collaboration among scholars.

## **Research Supervision**

### **BAD Lab (NSF Award #1757654)**

2022

Stanford University, School of Education

- Advised undergraduate research projects focused on exploring linguistic racism and bias in grammar-checkers and style tools, demonstrating a commitment to fostering critical thinking and social awareness among students.
- Provided thoughtful and constructive feedback on research reports and graduate school applications, leveraging strong communication skills and attention to detail to support students' academic and professional growth.
- Acted as a liaison between students and professors, streamlining communication and ensuring a seamless experience for all parties involved.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Student Researcher**

2023 - Present

Google Research, *Stanford, CA*

- Employed sociolinguistic natural language processing techniques to analyze and evaluate LLMs for potential biases in their outputs
- Designed and executed user studies and surveys to gather valuable insights from diverse user groups, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the impact of bias in LLM-generated content
- Developed and refined research methodologies to ensure the accuracy and validity of research findings

### **Data Science Intern**

2023

Stanford Center for Racial Justice, *Stanford, CA*

- Contributed to the development of the Center's neighborhood Vulnerability Index, a database reflecting the social conditions that influence California neighborhoods equitable and inclusive communities through data-driven analysis
- Developed computational tools in Python and Javascript to extract and synthesize Census data on thousands of California Census tracts, regarding social factors such as unemployment rates and median income level.
- Leveraged programming skills to automate data processing and analysis, resulting in more efficient and accurate reporting.

### **Digital Relational Organizer**

2021 - 2022

People First, *remote*

- Leveraged influencer marketing platforms and organic search strategies to recruit micro-influencers and content creators for various paid social media partnerships, demonstrating a deep understanding of the digital media landscape.
- Created and managed large-scale email and SMS campaigns, reaching out to 5,000-10,000 creators monthly and driving successful partnerships with top-tier talent.
- Collaborated with multiple teams and managed 4-5 simultaneous campaigns to fulfill client needs for diverse projects, including political campaigns and non-profit advocacy efforts.

**User Services and Resource Sharing Student Assistant**

2017 - 2020

Honnold-Mudd Library, *Claremont, CA*

- Efficiently retrieved and processed library materials requested by other libraries while adhering to established procedures.
- Provided reliable support to User Services by performing general operations such as reshelving library materials as needed, contributing to a seamless user experience.
- Monitored printers and other library equipment to maintain optimal working order, proactively identifying and addressing issues to ensure smooth operations.

**SERVICE**

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Committee Service

**Social Committee**

2021 - 2023

Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

**New Waves of Analyzing Variation 50 (NWAV50) Conference Planning Committee**

2021 - 2022

Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

**Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL)**

2020 - Present

Linguistic Society of America

Panelists

**MMUF Life As A Graduate Student Panel**

2022

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Stanford University

**Smart Start Fellowship Alumni Panel**

2022

Pomona College

**Mellon Mays Alumni Panel**

2022

Pomona College

**Spring Perspectives On Pomona (POP) Student Panels**

2021

Pomona College

Leadership Positions

**Graduate Scholar-in-Residence**

2022 - Present

Black Community Services Center, Stanford University

- Manage and facilitate cross-cultural collaborations with other community centers on campus, developing and maintaining strong partnerships to foster a culture of inclusion and diversity.
- Promote engagement and collaboration among Black undergraduate and graduate students, leveraging strong interpersonal skills and a deep understanding of community-building to drive positive outcomes.
- Provide key assistance in creating entry points for current graduate students to engage with the Black Community Services Center, resulting in improved access and increased participation in important programs and initiatives.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Stanford University Natural Language Processing (NLP) Group	2021 - Present
Stanford Black Academic Development (BAD) Lab	2021 - Present
Women in Cognitive Science	2020 - Present
Linguistic Society of America	2020 - Present
Questbridge Scholars Network	2016 - Present

## SKILLS

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### Natural Languages

PROFICIENT	ENGLISH, FRENCH
BASIC	SPANISH

### Technology

LANGUAGES	PYTHON (PANDAS, NUMPY), R, JAVASCRIPT, C++, R (STUDIO), HTML, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
APPLICATIONS	PRAAT, JMP, SPACY, GIT, R STUDIO