

Emeritus Faculty

## Tucker Childs

### Professor



### Contact

[childst@pdx.edu](mailto:childst@pdx.edu)

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley 1988  
M.S. Sociolinguistics, Georgetown University 1982  
M.Ed. Teaching English, University of Virginia 1980  
Diploma in Anglo-Irish Literature (Honours), Trinity College, Dublin 1975  
A.B. English, Stanford University 1970

### Courses Taught

- LING 232: Introduction to Language and Society
- LING 410/510: Selected Topics: Black English (African American Vernacular English - AAVE), Field Methods, Language Contact, Language Variation, Language and Gender, Language Endangerment, Language Typology
- LING 412/512: Phonology
- LING 415/515: Linguistic Phonetics
- LING 420/520: Historical and Comparative Linguistics
- LING 432/532: Sociolinguistics
- LING 482/582: Pidgins and Creoles

### Research

- Interests
  - Prosody, especially (African) tone
  - Expressive language and non-core grammar
  - Field methods and methodology in general
  - Language contact, pidgins and creoles
  - Language variation and change, dialectology
  - African languages
- Projects
  - [Kisi proverbs \(2014-\)](#)
  - [Video documentation of the Mani \(2011-2013\)](#)
  - [Documenting Kim and Bom \(2008-2010\)](#)
  - [Mani Documentation Project \(2004-2006\)](#)
  - [Portland Dialect Study \(1998-2002\)](#)
- Related Videos
  - ["Documenting dying languages in West Africa"](#), Berglund Round Table Series (October 13, 2009)
  - [A Linguist Preserves Languages With Digital Tools](#), NYTimes.com (July 27, 2009)
  - Lost Voices: Parts 1-4: ["Getting there"](#), ["Song and dance"](#), ["Palm oil"](#), ["The children"](#) (May 13-16, 2009)
- Related Websites
  - [Studies in African Linguistics](#) (Childs is editor) [e-SAL](#) (the site where current and past issues are archived)
  - [SAL](#) (the site where descriptive information can be found)

## Representative Publications

- Childs, T. (2014). Sound symbolism. In J.R. Taylor (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of the word*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Childs, T. (2013). Doing what (you think) is right in the field: Problematizing the documentation of endangered languages. In R. Vossen & W.H.G. Haacke (Eds.), *Lone Tree: Khoisan Studies in the Service of the Koon. Essays in memory of Anthony Traill* (pp. 91-108). Cologne, Germany: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
- Childs, T. (2012). Languages of Africa. In M. Aronoff (Ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Childs, T. (2011). *A Grammar of Mani*. New York and Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Childs, T. (2010). Language contact in Africa, a selected review. In R. Hickey (Ed.), *Handbook of Language Contact* (pp. 695-713). Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

### News

[Colloquium: Dr. Beth Shinn, May 20, 4-5:30 in SMSU 236](#)  
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[Alumni in the News: GSE alumna retires as president of PCC Sylvania](#) »

[Peter W. Stott honored with retired number at 2014 Wine and Roses](#) »

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### Events

Wednesday, May 21  
[IELP Student Lounge](#) »

Wednesday, May 21  
[ACS Workshop: Writing Resumes & Cover Letters](#) »

Wednesday, May 21  
[Luncheon: Section 8 Rules Panel \(Multifamily NW\)](#) »

[go to events](#)

### Profile



[Qi Gao \(Cherry\)](#) »

Chinese Instructor, Confucius Institute at PSU

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