

Brenton Watts

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Education

University of Kentucky

May 2018

Majors: International Studies, Bachelor of Arts; Theatre, Bachelors of Arts

Minors: Spanish; Linguistics

Cumulative GPA: 3.969

Robinson Scholar, Chellgren Student Fellow

Teaching and Leadership Experience

Peer Educator at University of Kentucky

Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Lexington, KY

Fall 2016-Present

- Help to create programming for students that explains consent within the context of sex and sexual assault.
- Provide programming to student groups and classes with explanations on consent, sexual assault, rape culture, and how to hold conversations about such topics.
- Facilitate a non-judgmental and supportive dialogue among students with varying levels of knowledge about sexual assault, consent, etc.

SPARC/Green Team Student Activist at University of Kentucky

Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Lexington KY

Fall 2015-Present

- Participate in yearly 40-hour training on violence intervention, active bystander education, consent culture, rape culture, how to support survivors of interpersonal and sexual violence, and other related topics.
- Attend weekly and monthly meetings to work alongside other members and bring projects to fruition.
- Organize and lead rallies in support of survivors of sexual assault, such as the annual Take Back the Night rally held every April, an event intended to create a safe and welcoming space for survivors to speak up and share their own stories.
- Responsibilities have included event planning, resource allocation, information distribution, event setup and takedown, impromptu public speaking, and providing support to people in crisis.

Volunteer at Linguistic Society of America 2017 Linguistic Institute

July 2017

- While attending Institute as a student, worked front desk and provided information and resources to attendees about campus amenities, local activities, and Institute classes and events. Also assisted attendees in moving out of resident halls at the end of the Institute, as well as Institute organizers in event maintenance and regular tasks.

Peer Tutor at University of Kentucky

Student Support Services, Lexington, KY

January 2015-August 2016

- Tutored first generation students and students from underrepresented backgrounds in Spanish, theatre, writing, and lower level general education courses for three to five hours a week.
- Explained concepts to students in ways that appealed to their personal learning style.
- Assisted students in understanding assignments and preparing for exams.

Volunteer Bilingual Tutor at Lexington Public Library

Village Branch, Lexington, KY

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

- Tutored elementary and middle school students who were bilingual in English and Spanish or who primarily spoke Spanish.

- Assisted students in communicating their assignments to their parents when the parents only spoke Spanish or spoke very limited English.

Research

Young Appalachian Living Language Corpus

Student Research Assistant at University of Kentucky

August 2017-Present

- Conduct recorded interviews with young people from Appalachia to collect data about the features present in the dialects of young Appalachians.
- Transcribe interviews using a transcription protocol to ensure that important corpus features are easily retrievable.
- Attend regular meetings with primary researchers and fellow student research assistant to solve nascent issues, improve upon transcription protocol, and plan for how to transcribe unexpected, but potential, features and constructions.

Documentary Theatre Dramaturge/Student Research Assistant

Spring 2016

- Conducted dramaturgical research on climate change as a Chellgren Fellow under mentor Dr. Herman Farrell and presented research to associated documentary theatre class taught by Dr. Farrell.
- Participated alongside associated class in the devising of the documentary play *Terra: A Play About Climate Change* as a devising artist and as an actor.

Relevant Coursework

University of Kentucky

- Introduction to Linguistics I: Theoretical Foundations and Analysis (LIN 221)
- Linguistic Morphology (LIN 505)
- Phonetics (LIN 500)
- Phonetics Lab (LIN 540)
- Introduction to Linguistics II: Language in Context (LIN 222)

- Analysis of English Syntax (LIN 512)

*Linguistic Society of America 2017
Linguistics Institute*

- Structure of Hawaiian
- English in Appalachia
- Speech Play and Verbal Art
- The Origins of Language

Additional Experience and Skills

Proficiency in Spanish language

- Able to fluently speak, read, write, and comprehend Spanish.
- Completed Spanish Minor with courses including conversation, translation, and poetry.

Familiarity with PRAAT

- Used PRAAT to measure stop-closure duration, voice-onset time, vowel formants, and hesitation times; to create a personal vowel plot; and to run experiments regarding speech perception and the importance of anticipatory coarticulatory information.

Theatre Artist/Playwright

- Since 2010, involved in multiple theatre projects as an actor, director, dramaturge, writer, stage manager, or collaborator.
- Wrote one ten-minute play and one one-act play, both of which have been produced, as well as co-wrote one full-length adaptation of the children's book, *The Little Prince*, which is currently in the process of being produced.