

The College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature
is Pleased to Announce the
Recipients of the
2018 College Awards

Each year, the College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature selects members from senior and junior-mid career faculty, doctoral students, and staff to receive research, teaching, and service awards. The 2018 recipients are:

2018 Senior Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship & Research



S. Shankar is a novelist, literary and cultural critic, translator, and professor of English. His third novel, *Ghost in the Tamarind*, which was published in September 2017, is set against the background of the anti-caste movement in South India during the 20th century. His most recent critical book is the award-winning *Flesh and Fish Blood: Postcolonialism, Translation and the Vernacular*.

Shankar is the editor of *Caste and Life Narratives* and the translator of Komal Swaminathan's Tamil play *Thaneer, Thaneer (Water!)*. His writings have appeared in publications in the United States, India, and Europe.

Shankar is currently a Senior Fulbright-Nehru Fellow for 2017-2018. He has also received the College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature's Excellence in Teaching Award, and has been honored with scholar-in-residence appointments at SOAS University (London, UK) and at the University of Houston (Downtown).

2018 Junior & Mid-Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship & Research



Katie Drager is an associate professor in the Department of Linguistics. She specializes in sociophonetics, which examines the link between sounds and social meanings. She is especially interested in how expectations about a talker can influence how sounds produced by that talker are perceived, and the ways in which phonetic variants contribute to a language user's construction of style. Her work contributes to our understanding of how sounds, words, and social information are produced and perceived, and helps to expose ways in which stereotypes affect listeners' interpretations of speech.

Drager's work can be found in journals such as *Journal of Phonetics*, *Language Documentation and Conservation*, and *Language*. Her second book, *Experimental Research Methods in Sociolinguistics*, was published by Bloomsbury earlier this year.

2018 Awards for Excellence in Doctoral Dissertation Research



Wenyi Ling, a PhD candidate in the Department of Second Language Studies, is writing her dissertation about perceiving, processing, and learning Mandarin language tone by second language speakers. Ling earned her BA and MA degrees from East China Normal University, where she also earned accolades for her graduate work.

Before arriving at UH Mānoa in 2014 to pursue a PhD, Ling was a visiting scholar at Reed College in Oregon. In fall 2017, she conducted research at Peking University on a scholar exchange award. Ling has published several papers in peer-reviewed journals and presented her work in field-famous conferences.

Currently, Ling is analyzing eye-tracking data from a research study she designed on using tonal information to recognize Mandarin words. Ultimately, Ling wants to create useful learning and teaching materials on the subject.



Rain Wright is a doctoral candidate in the English department whose research interests include Contemporary Life Writing, Creative Writing Pedagogy, and Critical Ethnic Studies Theory. Her dissertation is titled “Everything Turns to Light.”

Rain has been published in *Hawai’i Review*, *Mud Season Review*, *Connotations Press: An Online Artifact*, *Madras Magazine*, *Summit Magazine*, and *Hawai’i Pacific Review*. She won the 2014 University of Hawai’i at Mānoa Biography Prize for her work “A Way With Water.” In 2015, she won second place in the Ian MacMillan Writing Awards for her creative nonfiction piece titled “Shrines.” Rain won first place in the Stryker Prize (2016) in fiction for “We Came Up the Hill,” and third place in the Saiki Prize Contest (2016) for “Ke’ei Stories.” Rain was the Nonfiction Editor for *Hawai’i Review* (2016).

2018 Awards for Excellence in Teaching



Betsy Gilliland is a language teacher educator in the Department of Second Language Studies. Her research focuses on adolescent second language (L2) literacy, particularly for immigrant youth in American middle and high schools, and language teacher learning. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the teaching of L2 writing, qualitative research methods, and reflective classroom practice. She takes SLS graduate students to northeastern Thailand for a two-month summer teaching practicum, where they have an opportunity to teach their own English-for-academic-purposes classes to groups of Thai undergraduates.

In addition to journal articles and chapters in edited books, Betsy is co-author of the book *Beyond "Teaching to the Test": Rethinking Accountability and Assessment for English Language Learners*. In the book, she and Shannon Pella encourage mainstream teachers of middle and high school students to consider their own accountability to their students through supporting students' development of academic language and literacy.



Born and raised in France, **Nathalie Ségeral** moved to the United States to pursue graduate studies at UCLA, where she received a PhD in French and Francophone studies in 2012. As an assistant professor of French in the Department of Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas, she also serves as the director of graduate studies in the French division.

Ségeral's research and teaching focus on contemporary French and Francophone literature and culture (especially the South Pacific, Mauritius, and Mayotte); gender and women's studies; trauma and memories studies (of the Holocaust and Rwandan genocide); and translation theory and practice. She also enjoys teaching composition and grammar classes.

Ségeral has published extensively on these topics in various venues such as *SITES: French and Francophone Studies*, *Journal of Jewish Culture and History*, and *Dapim: Studies in the Holocaust*. In Summer 2018, she will be participating in two teaching and research development workshops at Columbia University's Holocaust Institute and at the University of London's Wiener Holocaust Library.

2018 Award for Excellence in Service



Coleen Sekigawa has been working for the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) for nearly nine years. She started as an office assistant and worked her way to become the department secretary in 2013.

When receiving the news of this service award, Sekigawa immediately thought of others. She read “congratulations” in the e-mail subject line, and believed that the message was intended for another. True to form, Sekigawa’s reaction was one of humility and gratitude.

“I am very thankful and happy to work for the College of Languages, Linguistics & Literature and EALL,” she writes. “Everyone is very supportive, friendly, and helpful--and that is hard to find. It makes me feel very fortunate.”