



## **Dr. Eric Potsdam**

### **Associate Professor**

### **Department of Linguistics**

### **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Eric Potsdam is a Professor in the Department of Linguistics, having received a PhD in Linguistics from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1996. He has held leadership roles in the Linguistic Society of America and served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation. His research investigates the grammar of languages spoken in and around the Pacific Ocean region, and their relevance for our understanding of the diversity of human language and theories of language structure. He has worked on several such Austronesian languages, in particular Malagasy, the native language of Madagascar. His most recent work extends to the Polynesian family, a group of closely related and understudied languages spoken in the South Pacific.

#### **Global Research Interests**

- the syntax of Austronesian languages
- Polynesian languages and linguistics
- the status of minority and endangered languages in the Pacific

#### **Mentor:** Fiona Mc Laughlin

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#### **Countries of Focus**

- New Zealand
- Cook Islands
- French Polynesia
- Madagascar
- Fiji

#### **How to Connect:**

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