



recognizing relationships

MARCH 4-7, 2021

Join these slides: <https://tinyurl.com/TalkStoryRR>

**These once-collaborative slides have been locked to prevent any accidental editing.
Mahalo nui loa to all participants who contributed!**

Resilient relationships

Ways of working collaboratively at a distance

Talk Story, ICLDC 7, March 2021
Collaborative slideshow

Logged in early? Please introduce yourself in the chat.

How does this work?

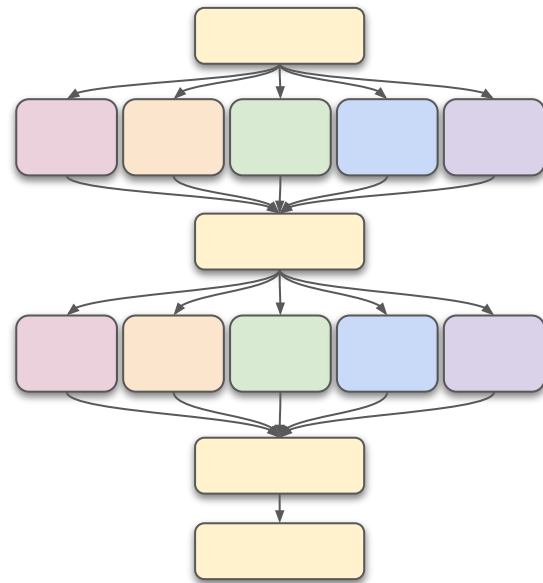
- These slides are collaborative:
 - Join the slides at the URL next to the slide numbers (bottom)
 - Contribute by collaboratively editing slides
 - If you can't easily access/edit google slides: use chat or speak aloud, other participants will assist with slide editing
- At the end of the Talk Story: short exit survey
 - Would you like to be identified as a collaborator on summarized materials from this session? How should we identify you?

Introductions: your Talk Story hosts

- Bryn Hauk (she/her) University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Virginia Tech
- Ruth Singer University of Melbourne
- Lina Hou (she/her) University of California, Santa Barbara
- Shobhana Chelliah University of North Texas
- Garry (Duke) Earl-Spurr Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa
- [Clifton Girgirba](#) Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa

The plan

1. Goals, background, overview (Bryn)
2. Discussion questions in **breakout rooms** (~15 min)
3. Interim summary (whole group)
4. Discussion questions in **breakout rooms** (~15 min)
5. Final summary (whole group)
6. Wrap-up: Exit survey



Goals

- honor the Hawaiian cultural practice of “talking story” — chatting, sharing wisdom and experiences, anecdotes
- reflect on experiences in fieldwork & documentation across ~one year of the pandemic
- identify successes and challenges, lessons learned so far
- create a shareable written knowledge base from our discussion
 - best practices, recommendations going forward
 - a single, public-facing document (non-peer-reviewed) to be shared on various platforms / repositories

Background and overview

- Roughly a year since pandemic impacted ability to travel safely among different communities
- Obvious negatives
 - Threat to health and safety of vulnerable people worldwide
 - Resultant economic crises
 - Canceled plans, missed opportunities, interrupted projects
- Potentially neutral or even positive impacts in language work
 - Change of direction in research, community projects
 - Increased capacities for connecting online from a distance
 - More engagement with archival materials, legacy data
 - More time (for some) to dedicate to language work

Background and overview

- In the past year: various opportunities to reflect and discuss what we are all going through
- “Talking story” about these experiences can potentially lead to
 - More resilient relationships
 - More comprehensive documentations
 - More flexibility and creativity in response to situations of uncertainty
 - Recognition of the importance of training and supporting community members
 - Better preparation for future crises
 - Better practices in documentation, fieldwork, revitalization in general

Questions to discuss

First breakout session:

1. What **successes** have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?
2. What, if anything, have you tried that was **unsuccessful**?

Second breakout session:

3. **Retrospective**: Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic?
4. **Looking forward**: What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Shared workspaces for breakout rooms

- Today = “Sunday” (Day 3)
- 2 slides per group per breakout session
- Edit your group’s slides directly in whatever way makes sense
- Duplicate slides as necessary if you need more space
- (Part of what we are doing = *learning how* to make collaborative slideshows a tool for connection and idea building)

Breakout room sign-up: by theme

Video-based documentation (Lina)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Mediated archiving (Shobhana)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Please type your name next to any number under your preferred breakout room.

Planning for uncertainty: Community perspectives (Duke & Clifton)

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Supporting & training community researchers (Ruth)

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Responsive ethics (Bryn)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Navigation

- Jump to [Thursday \(day 1\) slides](#)
- Jump to [Saturday \(day 2\) slides](#)
- Jump to [Sunday \(day 3\) slides](#)

Thursday (Day 1) slides

Room 1, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

- Translating materials about COVID
- Zoom language classes
- Whatsapp voice notes
- Finding gaps in corpus when making language materials
- Want more culturally targeted documentations

Room 1, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

- Don't know how to train from a distance
- Compounded tech issues
- Tried making a website to replace physical materials for community, but community couldn't access well
- technology

Room 2, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

1. Zoom language classes have gone on even though there have been funding delays
2. Younger speakers are able to use ZOOM and can be the ones supporting

Room 2, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 3, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 3, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 4, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 4, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Thursday interim summary (whole group)

What did you discuss in your breakout rooms?

- Successes?
 - Zoom
 - Transferring archival materials online
 - Less rigidity in obligations to funding perhaps
 - Train, distribute equipment, build relationships **before** the pandemic
- Challenges?
 - Zoom training for participants
 - Child care, family care
 - General stress and strong grief (loss of family to pandemic and other illness)
 - Zoom fatigue
 - Delayed funding
 - Complete inability to collect data, train, continue projects

Room 1, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic?

- Train on a regular basis!
- Don't commit to too much
- Prioritize training
- Prioritize making public health materials available in local languages
- Focus on mental health and relationship between language and healing
- Less focus on sketch grammars, more encouraging intergenerational transmission
-

Room 1, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

- How can we make time for grief? For recovery? Language can be part of healing
- Loss of language → loss of mental health
- Continued marginalization and loss of languages
- Public health in general
- High incarceration rates
- How to plan for different data collection styles in online medium?
 - Make sure everyone has good microphones
 -

Room 2, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 2, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 3, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 3, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 4, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 4, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Thursday final summary (whole group)

What did you discuss in your breakout rooms?

Saturday (Day 2) slides

Room 1, question 4

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 1, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 2, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

- Slowing down → more prep work, which is very beneficial
 - Get organized and identify what new data to collect when possible
- Using zoom, facebook to stay in touch, helping out community contacts from afar
 - Facebook live
- WhatsApp: groups dedicated to all kinds of topics (orthography...)
 - Ethics? Would it be okay to use some of those insights?
- Set the time yourself if you're talking across time zones

Room 2, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

- For every success, something bad seems to follow
- Very hard to connect with people in remote places (PNG)
 - Snail mail doesn't work great either
- Phone calls difficult to manage with time zone differences!
- Elders can't get to where they need to go, difficulty with tech
- funding?

Room 3, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 3, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 4, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

- Keeping in touch, maintaining relationships
 - Sending very short videos b/c collaborators have small bandwidth with greetings, etc. and they send some back
 - Reassure them that you're still interested to continue the work/explain why you haven't visited for so long
- Finding reassurance in the fact that the community you work with
 - is not concerned with delays/extended timeline to the work/research
 - are continuing to work on language
- Recording conversations:
 - using Zoom: tricky to record because there are so many screens
 - setting up camera for two people first (and then leaving while people make the recording)

Room 4, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 5, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 5, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Saturday interim summary (whole group)

- Challenges
 - Collecting video data: especially challenging for deaf language workers
 - Villages don't have access to tech needed for video, internet quality, capacity and capacity building
 - Need multiple videos for sign language data (also gesture) → difficult in this situation
 - Being on screens makes the sign space smaller
 - Gallaudet has a sophisticated way of recording Zoom conversations but this requires some trial and error and also some complicated logistics to coordinate the recordings -- this can be done!
 - Funding — more applicants, less funding?
 - Internet issues can be really demotivating
 - Mainstream mental health services don't work
- Successes
 - Facebook, WhatsApp groups
 - Discovering needs among community members
 - Phone?
 - Actually there might be more funding (more favorable attitudes for legacy data)
 - Slowing down helps do important preparatory work, ready to discover what more needs to be done
 - Cut out the need for travel
 - Community taking control: building language courses rooted in community values
 - Reconnecting with people after a long time

Room 1, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 1, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 2, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic?

- Remote work has always been a part of this. We just weren't prepared for the duration/intensity of the remote aspect
- Set things up in advance, assume most of your work will be remote
 - Establish ties with the expectation that you will maintain relationships remotely
- Work with people you have well established ties with → better prepared for the unexpected
 - Easier for community to have agency this way
- Relationships are crucial!
- Is our attachment to travel a necessary part of this work? We *like* traveling... is that responsible? sustainable?

Room 2, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

- The carbon footprint of traveling
- The tension between what the community needs for language teaching and learning and what the researchers need
 - Working remotely might make it harder to support community needs, increase the tension

Room 3, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 3, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 4, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

- I would have set up collaborators with better technology and funds to pay for electricity and better internet, so we could have communicated and do fieldwork together via video
 - This would be handy in any emergency when we can't get together physically e.g. hurricane/earthquake
- I would have done the recordings when I could, interviewing Elders who have passed away due to the pandemic. We have lost a lot of language keepers because of the pandemic. Recognising the urgency of what we are doing.

Room 4, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

- How to support the communities we work with - as humans, not just in their language needs
 - E.g. if they are cut off from reliable sources of information, especially if Deaf/low literacy/living in remote areas
- i.e. we are spending a lot of time sitting at home being concerned about the people in the communities we work with, whether they are getting access to good health information, getting adequate treatment if sick
- We feel like we could use our privileges to assist - e.g. apply for funds, provide translations of health information - but there is not always that much that we can do

Room 5, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 5, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

-

Saturday final summary (whole group)

- Do enough preparation without doing too much
 - Using tech for teaching increases flexibility
- Shame, being afraid to learning the language (true before covid as well)
 - Cultural approaches overcoming shame most effective
 - Maybe tech can help reduce shame? (maybe sometimes it makes it worse)
- Importance of language identity and pride, knowing who you are
- Communicating to government, trying to get them to listen
 - Top down doesn't work
- We will be in similar situations again: be prepared for relying on tech
- Think about solutions from the perspective of the actual communities, not from the outside
- Lost a lot of elders, the keepers of language. Wish we'd been able to talk with them more before the pandemic. This work is urgent!
- Linguists have already been doing a lot of remote work, but we weren't prepared for this scale of it
- Tension between supportive work for community (need to be present) vs. the need to work on data (which can be done more remotely)
- Was all that travel before really necessary? Or did we just like it?

Sunday (Day 3) slides

Room 1, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

- In communities less severely impacted, it was beneficial to have paid work to do working on the language
 - The work of managing data can be done remotely
- Not as daunting as expected to equip community to do their own work
- Figured out how to do ELAN training remotely, use youtube for transcription and then import to ELAN
- More time to study, to build new curricula
- More community based research, less extractive
- More sustainable research practices

Room 1, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

- How to collect new data remotely?
- Community members don't have resources, technology, internet access
 - Might only have phone, might cost money
 - If you can't connect with video, harder to discuss the data, feels more removed
- Data can't necessarily be collected, but you can stay in touch
- Elders struggle with new technologies
 - Hard to connect with the knowledge bearers
 - Very challenging to troubleshoot tech issues remotely (bryn's addition)
- Talking via computer is weird
 - If collecting data this way, is it naturalistic?
 - Eye contact is very different

Room 2, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 2, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 3, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

- Planning for uncertainty -- you just have to adapt as things come up
- Being open to things changing, ensuring plans are flexible
- Respecting community priorities has always meant working around significant community events such as funerals and other ceremonies
- Using technology to find success during COVID:
 - Using Zoom/Skype to Phone Call, taking notes or audio recording
 -

Room 3, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 4, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 4, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Room 5, question 1

What successes have you had since COVID-19 impacted your community? What strategies have helped maintain and build relationships among language project collaborators?

Room 5, question 2

What, if anything, have you tried that was unsuccessful?

Sunday interim summary (whole group)

- Successes

- Community members already trained in AV equipment already know what to do: more community agency and empowerment
- Data management work can be done remotely (if the other equipment is in place)
- If community already has experience, they won't be fearful of continuing this work
- Training community members to use ELAN with YouTube in the workflow for transcription and translation remotely
- Shift to community-led research has been empowering, more sustainable
- Slowing down, slow thinking is good for planning, relationship building
- Having contacts already established helped a lot
- Flexibility
- Phones useful for connecting to those without tech access
- Social media a great source for information, connection (WhatsApp)
 - Can interactions on social media be used in documentation?

- Challenges

- Countries completely closed down, universities closed down, no place to work
- Because of uncertainty, what actually happens differs from the plan a lot

Room 1, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

- 'Don't worry, don't be anxious' because you can't control things anyhow. Just do the best you can
- Adapt dissertation plans, because you have to graduate in 4-5 years, be flexible
- Realise now that each person putting more time into language learning, improves the whole language revitalization program
- Use time to plan what will happen after, now is a good time to reflect on how to get language revitalization creating more fluent speakers

Room 1, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

- Difficult to relax when you have the pressure of graduate studies timelines, grant timelines and the community also looking forward to the project, perhaps relying on income from the grant (a lot of time spent communicating with different parties involved to change plans/adapt, increases workload)
- Graduate studies programs put a lot of pressure on students in any case, and results in many mental health issues. Any unexpected changes to plans can make this worse.
- The time pressure is not always useful for constructive building relationships with community in any case
- Hard to run face-to-face classes, including doing things like carving together

Room 2, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic?

- Training speakers, leaving equipment with speakers
 - Should have been doing this anyway
 - Learning ELAN is difficult (probably easier to teach in person?)
- Incorporate remote work all along
 - Online meetings can replace a lot of travel!
- Build relationships early, make connections with young people who can be on-the-ground tech support when you can't be there
- Get more funding further in advance

Room 2, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

- The pandemic isn't the only crisis (natural disasters like hurricanes in Mexico)
- Difficult to build relationships with new groups of people remotely
- People attend remote workshops, but it doesn't necessarily result in continued language work
 - People drop off without regular contact
- Need to get people practical experiences
- People should start submitting grant proposals for remote work
- Major mental health impacts

Room 3, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

- This is going to go on longer than expected!
- Very isolating
- Get everyone individual tech -> Microphone shortage!
- Cabin fever
- Lots of Zoom language classes, Facebook live classes
- Using Hawaiian language on Instagram
-

Room 3, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 4, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 4, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Room 5, question 3

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in the early days of the pandemic? One year before the pandemic

Room 5, question 4

What issues are we facing that remain unresolved?

Sunday final summary (whole group)

[Jump to Wrap-up](#)

- Provide more hardware (people can't share microphones, mics sold out during pandemic)
 - iPads good for helping elders connect
- Zoom, facebook live good for language classes, other social media to stay connected
 - Concerns about tech giants trying to own your content
- Training via webinars
 - You can do at least some training, but close transcription might be too difficult to train remotely
 - How can this be done? Not everyone has the resources of a Western university
 - Use funding to help get the necessary resources to the community
 - iPads, breakout rooms
 - Do not make it too intense! Short and sweet, homework, breaks
 - Use what people have (WhatsApp, if not zoom)
 - Establish virtual conference? Could be tricky due to internet access
 - Get funding to improve this infrastructure

Sunday final summary (whole group)

[Jump to Wrap-up](#)

- We need a **toolbox of training** to implement when face-to-face is possible to keep us equipped for remote work
- Funding: how to plan ahead for potential crises?
 - Funding has seemingly slowed down, but funders are wondering why no one is applying (apply!!)
 - UCSB has internal grants for “travel” funds that you can’t use to travel, but instead use for remote webinars, pay for participants’ internet
- Stress, mental health needs to be addressed
- How to plan revitalization programs when it is not currently possible to study the language (due to various tech challenges, other issues)
- Flexible expectations for students working in this situation, have backup plans

Wrap-up

Exit survey

Please fill out the exit survey (<https://tinyurl.com/ExitSurveyRR>)...

- if you would like to be acknowledged for your contributions today
- if you would like us to send you a link to finalized materials
- if you have some other question or comment for us

Mahalo!

