

**COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE**  
**Annual Report 2015-2016**

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Faculty Research Lecture enthusiastically nominates Sandra Chung, Professor of Linguistics as the Faculty Research Lecturer for the 2016-2017 academic year,

Professor Chung's research focuses on syntax and semantics, and her contributions are empirical as well as theoretical. Her work helps explain similarities and differences of word order and grammar agreement across languages, and their implications for communication and meaning.

Trained in Linguistics at Harvard University, Professor Chung combines theoretical rigor with an unusually deep empirical analysis. Her empirical focus is the understudied Austronesian languages—some 1,200 languages dispersed over a large area that includes Pacific island archipelagos—that form one of the world's largest language families. She began doing fieldwork on Maori, Tongan, and Samoan (all languages of the South Pacific) as an undergraduate and as a graduate student, she also did fieldwork on Indonesian language. Since 1977, she has focused especially on Chamorro, a language of the Mariana Islands. Her fieldwork on Chamorro takes her regularly to Saipan—a beautiful corner of the world.

Some of the questions she has investigated include: How is verb-first word order derived? What is the best way to understand ergativity? (This denotes a type of verb that takes the same noun as either a direct object or as subject such as “he fused the lights” or “the lights fused” where “fuse” is an ergative verb.) Professor Chung's research is highly regarded since she combines theoretical analysis with field research and documentation. Professor Chung, along with a UCSC colleague, is now exploring syntactic questions by means of psycholinguistic behavioral experiments with Chamorro participants. This is a pioneering methodology in her field.

Professor Chung's documentary work goes beyond her own research agenda. She has taken the lead in a project to create a Chamorro grammar dictionary. This work illustrates how her research expertise contributes to the larger public good.

Professor Chung is an internationally renowned scholar. A past president of the Linguistics Society of America and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Professor Chung has received at least three National Science Foundation grants, and her affiliations beyond the University of California include the Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik. Professor Chung is recipient of the Governor's Humanities Award for Preserving Traditional Cultural Practices (U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), and is a former Lansdowne Scholar and Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Chung also recently held the Gary D. Licker Memorial Chair of Cowell College in the Division of Humanities.

Professor Chung has published widely. Her books include *Case Marking and Grammatical Relations in Polynesian* (1978), *A Book of GB Syntax Problems* (1993), *The Design of Agreement: Evidence from Chamorro* (1998), *Restriction and Saturation* with William Ladusaw (2004), and *A Festschrift for William F. Shipley* (co-ed., 1991). Dr. Chung has served as an

editorial board member for several top-tier journals including *Language and Linguistics*, *Te Reo*, and the *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*. Chung has also delivered over 70 papers at conferences, professional meetings, and universities in the United States, New Zealand, Indonesia, Jakarta, Europe, Japan, Taiwan, and the Northern Mariana Islands and has authored or co-authored over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Professor Chung is also an outstanding teacher, and has received our campus' Excellence in Teaching Award and Innovations in Teaching Award. Her American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellowship cited her "distinguished contributions to teaching and research in linguistics, advancing syntax through insights from under-studied languages, notably Chamorro, and engaging minority communities in linguistic research." Besides courses in the Linguistics major, Professor Chung also teaches undergraduate courses in logic, poetics, and historical linguistics. She has advised fourteen Ph.D. recipients, some of them now distinguished academics in their own right.

Since joining UCSC in 1986, Professor Chung has served as chair of the Linguistics Department, chair of the Philosophy Department, and chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel.

Professor Chung is much in demand as a speaker. She has presented her research in countless university seminars and professional meetings around the world, and her presentations to broader audiences are said to be "clear, engaging, and fun."

In conclusion, Professor Chung is a world-renowned researcher and teacher, highly deserving of the honor of presenting her research to the University and the larger community as the 2016-17 Faculty Research Lecturer.

Respectfully submitted;  
COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE  
Dimitris Achlioptas  
Grace Delgado  
Jennifer Parker  
Patricia Zavella  
Daniel Friedman, Chair