

**TO:** UTC  
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**TITLE:** SEI Liaison Report  
**DATE:** April 21, 2026

This document provides a summary of the UC Berkeley Script Encoding Initiative's recent activities.

### *Proposals/documents*

The following SEI-funded proposals were recently submitted to Unicode:

- Revised Proposal for Encoding the **Shaaldaa** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Daniel Jacob [[L2/26-040R2](#)]\*\*
- Proposal to Encode the **Ndiko Jonam** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf [[L2/26-055](#)]
- Preliminary Proposal for Encoding the **N'ti** Script in the UCS, Oreen Yousuf and Ibrahima Ceesay [[L2/26-028R](#)]
- Proposal to Encode the Lampungic Script in Unicode, Febri Muhammad Nasrullah [previous: [L2/26-036](#)]\*

\*not yet reviewed by the Script Encoding Working Group

\*\*recommended for provisional assignment

### *Ongoing Script Work*

In addition to those listed above, the following script proposals are in active development, and are expected to be submitted to SEW for review in the next six months:

- Maya Hieroglyphs - Classic, Codical (Preliminary)
- Kulitan (Revised)
- Masaba (Revised)
- Minim Dag Noore (Revised)
- Odùduwà (Revised)
- Persian Siyaq (Revised)
- Proto-Sinaitic (Preliminary)
- Vatteluttu (Revised)
- Zou (Zolai) (Revised)

Other ongoing projects include: Book Pahlavi, Box-Headed, Byblos, Kerinci, Kurukh Banna, Linear Elamite, Proto-Elamite, and Ranjana.

Debbie Anderson has been liaising with experts regarding Jurchen and Tangut scripts and assisting with collecting feedback on Egyptian hieroglyphs. She has also been facilitating exchanges with Hebrew and Leibniz collection experts.

The full list of SEI-funded projects, including those currently inactive or awaiting more information, is available on the SEI website ([sei.berkeley.edu/scripts-to-encode](http://sei.berkeley.edu/scripts-to-encode)).

## *Research Activities*

### *Publications*

Anushah Hossain recently published, “Unsettled Scripts: Script Invention and the Bind of Digital Recognition” on neographies and their encoding journeys in *Modern Languages Open*. Available [here](#). The article is part of a special issue edited by Isabelle Zaugg on “[The Digital Lives of Greater South Languages](#),” which also features a contribution by SEI blog manager Kyra Ann Dawkins.

### *Ongoing Projects*

SEI is currently working with UC Berkeley PhD student Julián Vargo on an ongoing project estimating the time it takes to achieve “full stack support” for encoded scripts. Julián’s work focuses specifically on font support across major vendors.

This spring we are hosting Bríd-Áine Parnell, doctoral researcher at the University of Edinburgh, as a visiting scholar in the UC Berkeley Department of Linguistics. Bríd-Áine is investigating the gap between design and implementation of the Unicode Standard in government databases.

This year’s research fellows, working on Buginese-derived scripts (Febri Muhammad Nasrullah), Nsibidi (Jordan Williams), and Kulitan (Julie Sayo), are continuing to collect data from the field in support of their projects.

We are continuing our efforts to scan and study the Unicode archival collections held at Stanford University. Our scans are available for access by researchers on a requested basis. We will be working with returning SEI intern Bryce Hoenigman to improve our cataloguing and qualitative coding of these materials this summer.



*Helena Kansa and Bryce Hoenigman in the archives last summer*

### Recent Presentations

- **Ancient Writing Systems, Typography, and Encoding workshop** (Liège, March): Alexandre Bassi, Andrew Glass, Helena Kansa, and Anshuman Pandey participated, with productive exchanges on Maya hieroglyphs and Linear Elamite.
- **Writing As Visual Engagement conference** (Cambridge, March): Oreen Yousuf presented on Minim Dag Noore bidirectionality; Jordan Williams demonstrated Nsibidi's mix of written and gestured language.
- **Inventing Adlam panel** (UC Berkeley, April): SEI co-organized with Adam Benkato (Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures), featuring script inventors Abdoulaye and Ibrahima Barry, linguistic anthropologist Coleman Donaldson, and SEI director Anushah Hossain.
- **Guest lectures on Unicode:** Anushah Hossain is lecturing in Writing Systems courses at UC Berkeley and Stanford this spring, reflecting growing interest in Unicode within writing systems curricula



*Snapshots from Liège and Cambridge in March 2026*

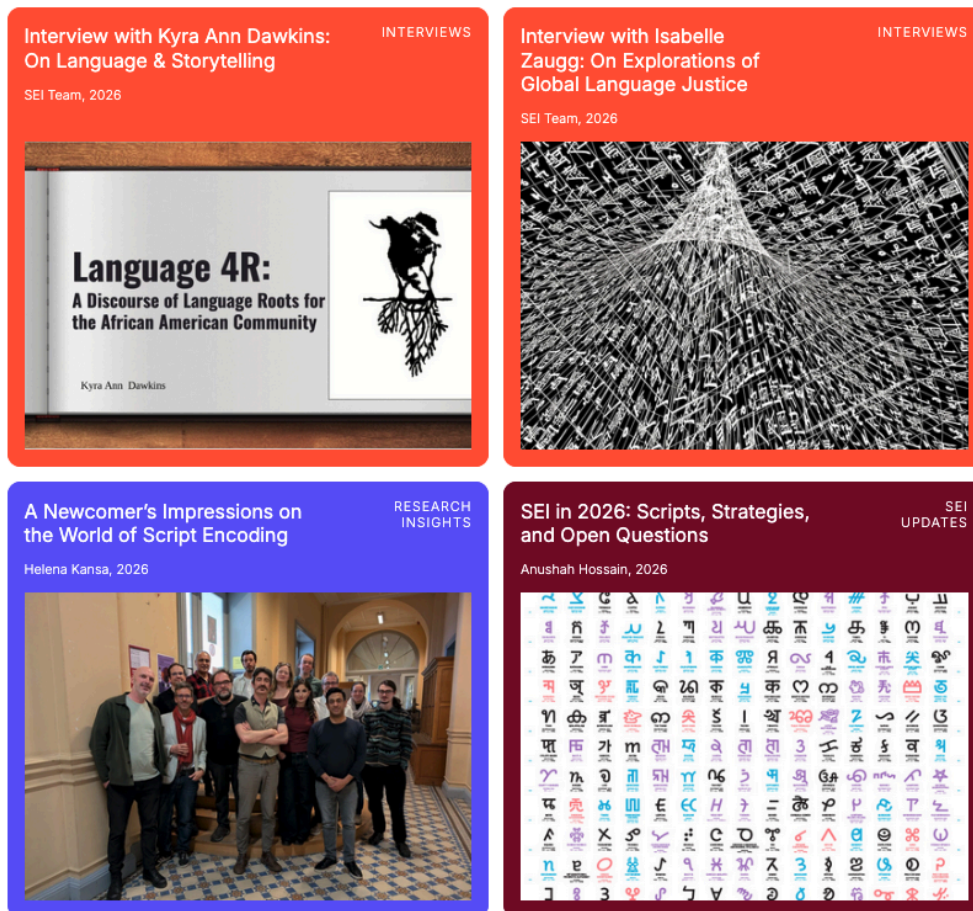
### Upcoming Presentations

- [Association Typographique Internationale](#) (Stanford, May 27-30): Alexandre Bassi on the Maya encoding project; Anushah Hossain on thinking in terms of a “text stack”
- [Special Interest Group in Computing, Information, and Society](#) (UC Berkeley, June 17-18): Anushah Hossain on early Unicode history
- [/grafematik/ - Grapholinguistics in the 21st Century](#) (Reading, June 24-26): Anushah Hossain presenting with Missing Scripts collaborators Johannes Bergerhausen and Thomas Huot-Marchand on “A Text Processing Theory of Script”

## Public Communications

SEI has continued sharing its work via a [monthly newsletter](#) and its [blog](#). Recent blog posts include:

- [SEI in 2026: Scripts, Strategies, and Open Questions](#) by Anushah Hossain
- [A Newcomer's Impressions on the World of Script Encoding](#) by Helena Kansa
- [Interview with Isabelle Zaugg: On Explorations of Global Language Justice](#)
- [Interview with Kyra Ann Dawkins: On Language & Storytelling](#)
- [In Memoriam: Fredrick Brennan](#) by Debbie Anderson



Recent SEI blog posts

We have also been working with designers Juliette Flécheux and Noémie Garnier to add a translation option to select blog posts and a search bar to the SEI website. These features will launch in the coming month.

## *Administrative Updates & Funding*

SEI is happy to be hosting UTC #187 at UC Berkeley this April 2026, and have been glad to welcome visiting scholars and students for the event.

SEI has also been partnering with Unicode as part of the Missing Scripts program to host UTW 2026 this October in Nancy, France. This event will include opportunities to expand international engagement with type designers, policy makers, and software internationalization experts and will feature curated multidisciplinary panels. **Initial information about the event is available at:** <https://www.unicode.org/events/utw/2026/>



*ENSAD campus and site of UTW 2026*

SEI is formally housed in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, but is entirely sustained by external grants and donations.

This year we raised \$2000 from UC Berkeley's annual fundraiser, the Big Give. Ongoing funding for basic operations and script research currently comes from the Mellon Foundation's Public Knowledge program, and will provide support from Sept 2024 – Aug 2028. Additional funding for public communications projects from Sept 2024 - Aug 2026 comes from the Internet Society Foundation. Proposal work by Anshuman Pandey is also being supported through the Unicode Adopt-a-Character (AAC) program.

SEI accepts donations from private donors via our website (<https://sei.berkeley.edu/donate/>). We are continually seeking funding to be able to expand our team and the projects we support.