

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

starting 09/2024

Doctorate degree: Linguistics,
University of Oregon (U.S.)
Advisory Committee: Volya Kapatsinski, Rachel Weissler Powell, Kaori Idemaru

MASTER OF ARTS

since 10/2022

Double master's degree: Anglophone Studies (English Linguistics) and History,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Master's thesis: The Sound of <me> in <my> brain: Acoustic Patterns of the First-Person Possessive <my> and the First-Person Object <me> in Tyneside English

since 04/2022

Master's degree: VAMoS: Verarbeitung, Analyse, und Modellierung natuerlicher Sprache: Computerlinguistik – Psycholinguistik – Theoretische Linguistik
(Processing, Analyzing and Modelling Natural Language: Computational, Psycho- and Theoretical Linguistics),
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany)

Master's thesis: Harmony of Thinking: The Cognitive Intersection of Music and Language

since 10/2019

Master's degree: Musicology and Cultural Studies,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)

Master's thesis: Harmony of Thinking: The Cognitive Intersection of Music and Language

BACHELOR OF ARTS

10/2018 - 03/2022

Double bachelor's degree: Anglophone Studies and History,
University Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Bachelor's thesis: Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan – FOOT & STRUT, FACE and GOAT

09/2016 - 09/2019

Bilingual bachelor's degree: Musicology (German - French) / musique et musicologie licence franco-allemande,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany) and University François Rabelais, Tours (France)

Bachelor's thesis: Die Leitmotivtechnik in Howard Shores Filmmusik *The Lord of the Rings*: Die musikalische Beziehung Aragorns und Arwens
(The technique of Leitmotives of Howard Shores film music *The Lord of the Rings* – The musical relation between Aragorn and Arwen)

Jobs in Academia

Since 09/2024

Graduate Employment at Linguistics Department,
University of Oregon (U.S.)

08/2020 - 08/2024

Student assistant at the Sociolinguistics Lab,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)
DFG funded Project: "Tacking Language Variation and Change across the Lifespan" (LaVaLi), led by Prof. Dr. Isabelle Buchstaller
Tasks: transcription, alignment checking, and auditory coding in ELAN and Praat

05/2022 - 03/2024

Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Eva Belke (Psycholinguistics),
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany)
Tasks: transcriptions, alignments, and measurements in ELAN and Praat, composition of nursery rimes

10/2019 - 03/2024

Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bloesel (History),
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Tasks: scanning, and proofreading

04/2019 - 05/2022

Student assistant at the library,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
Tasks: assisting students with library use and research, labelling books, etc.

04/2018 - 09/2019

Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Matthias Brzoska (Musicology),
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
Tasks: organizing literature and sheet music, proofreading, and digitizing handwritten notes

Teaching

Spring 2025

Instructor of Records: LING 150: The Structure of English Words,
University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

Winter 2025

Teaching Assistant - LING 211: Languages of the World,
University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant: LING 311: Phonetics and Phonology,
University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

11/2022 - 01/2024

Writing in Academia (Wissenschaft unter Dach und Fach: Einfuehrung in das wissenschaftliche Schreiben),
Student Laboratory at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 4 sessions

08/2022 - 07/2024

The Mental Lexicon (Das Woerterbuch im Kopf),
Student Laboratory at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 8 sessions

05/2024

Tutorial: ELAN (master's level) – 4h,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), 1 session

08/2023

Linguistics – the secret behind language,
Junior Akademie Bad Segeberg 2023 (Germany), 10-day summer school for students in ~6th grade

06/2023

Phonetics & Phonology (undergraduate level),
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 2-week block with 6 sessions

10/2022 - 02/2023

Areas and Approaches I: Phonetics and Phonology (undergraduate level),
University Duisburg-Essen (Germany), 15-week class

06/2022

Tutorial: Praat (undergraduate level) – 2h,
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 1 session

Guest Lectures

05/2025

LING 201: The Power of Language
Paat (2023) – The Vowel Space as Sociolinguistic Sign & Variation of Vowels,
University of Oregon (U.S.)

Conference Presentations

07/2025

Ahrens, C.: Social Influences on “Articulatory” Targets. Paper presented at DYMOS: Dynamical models of speech. 26th-27th July 2025, Eugene, Oregon (U.S.).

11/2024

Gramma, J., **Ahrens, C.:** Evaluating traditionally “stable” variables in a creole: Variation and change in (th, dh) in Hawai'i Creole. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52. 7th-9th November 2024, Miami Beach (U.S.).

11/2024

Ahrens, C., Moelders, A.: How does [mi] brain make [mi] talk?: An acoustic analysis of First-Person Possessive and First-Person Object. Poster presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52. 7th-9th November 2024, Miami Beach (U.S.).

- 07/2024** **Ahrens, C.**, Moelders, A.: me and my Accent - Analyzing Acoustic Patterns of the First-Person Possessive and Object 'me': Evidence from Tyneside English. Paper presented at the International Conference on Language Variation in Europe 12. 8th-11th July 2024, Vienna (Austria).
- 07/2024** **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J.: Evaluating a traditionally “stable” variable in a contact language: A study of (dh)-stopping in Hawai'i Creole. Paper presented at Methods in Dialectology XVIII. 01st-05th July 2024, Melbourne (Australia).
- 07/2024** **Ahrens, C.**, Moelders, A.: A.: Exploring acoustic realisations of Tyneside English: Homophonous realisation of the First-Person Possessive and Object 'me'?. Paper presented at Methods in Dialectology XVIII. 01st-05th July 2024, Melbourne (Australia).
- 06/2024** **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J.: (dh)-stopping in Hawai'i Creole: Testing a stable variable in a creole. Paper presented at Sociolinguistic Symposium 25. 24th-27th June 2024, Perth (Australia).
- 06/2024** Moelders, A., **Ahrens, C.**: An acoustic study of the first-person possessive in the Northeast of England. Paper presented at Sociolinguistic Symposium 25. 24th-27th June 2024, Perth (Australia).
- 10/2023** **Ahrens, C.**: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Investigate Language Choices in a Trilingual Setting (Project Launch). Poster presented at NWA 51. 13th-15th October 2023, NYC (U.S.).
- 08/2023** Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J.: Change across the lifespan in GOAT: Evidence from a panel study of Tyneside English. Poster presented at *ICPhS 20*. 7th-11th August 2023, Prague (Czech Republic).
- 06/2023** **Ahrens, C.**: Tracing FACE and GOAT across the Lifespan: From Student to Lecturer. Poster presented at *UKLVC 14*. 26th-28th June 2023, Edinburgh (Scotland).
- 12/2022** **Ahrens, C.**: Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan – FACE and GOAT. Tweeted at *Linguistweets 3*. 5th December 2022, Twitter.
- 08/2022** Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J., Eiswirth, M., and Buchstaller, I.: Socio-demographic trajectory, vowel normalization, and the marriage of auditory and acoustic approaches in assessing lifespan change. Paper presented at *Methods XVII*. 1st-5th August 2022, Mainz (Germany).
- 07/2022** **Ahrens, C.**: Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan - FACE and GOAT. Poster presented at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 24*. 13th-16th July 2022, Ghent (Belgium).
- 07/2022** Grama, J., Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Eiswirth, M., and Buchstaller, I.: FACE and GOAT across the life-span: A three-wave panel analysis of vowel change in Tyneside. Poster presented at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 24*. 13th-16th July 2022, Ghent (Belgium).
- 09/2021** Grama, J., Buchstaller, I., Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**: Tracing vowel change across the life-span – A three-wave panel analysis of FACE and GOAT. Paper presented at *UKLVC 13*. 8th-10th September 2021, online / Glasgow (Scotland).

Publications

- 08/2023** Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J. (2023): Change across the lifespan in GOAT: Evidence from a panel study of Tyneside English. In: Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (eds.) *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Science* (pp. 2064-2068). Guarant International.

Workshops & Summer Schools & Internships

07/2025 - 08/2025	LSA Summer Institute, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
05. - 07.09.2023	Forensic Linguistic Short Course Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany) Dr. Isabel Picornell and Dr. Annina Heini, Aston University, Birmingham (England) – 30h
08.02.2023	Reproducible analyses with R-Notebooks Dr. Sophia Leimer, University Duisburg-Essen – 2h
16. - 29.07.2022	4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics University of Crete, Rethymno, Crete, (Greece)
21. - 25.03.2022	Bootcamp: R and Statistics for Humanities Prof. Dr. Stephan Th. Gries, University of Santa Barbara & Justus-Liebig-University Giessen – 30 hours
09.02.2022	Preparation for R and Statistics for Humanities Prof. Dr. Stephan Th. Gries, University of Santa Barbara & Justus-Liebig-University Giessen – 3 hours
09. - 10.12.2021 & 27. - 28.01.2022	Regular Expressions in R PD Dr. Christoph Ruehlemann, University Freiburg – 24 hours
07/2021 - 10/2021	Internship at Medici Archive Project in Florence (Italy) Research in Archives and Libraries about the Medici family – 9 weeks (ERASMUS Plus Scholarship)

Service

06/2025 - 8/2025	Volunteer at LSA Summer Institute, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.) Tasks: Schedule, Registration Desk, Canvas Support, Tech Support, Poster Judge
2019 - 2020	First vice chairwoman at the AStA (General Student Committee), Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
2018 - 2019	Second vice chairwoman at the AStA (General Student Committee), Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)

Funding, Grants & Awards

11/2024	450\$ Graduate Student Travel Award for travels to NWAV 52, Linguistics Department, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
02/2024	6 000\$ Lokey Graduate Science Award: most competitive UO doctoral applicants, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
10/2023	650\$ NWAV Student Travel Grant for travels to NWAV 5 Queens College, New York (U.S.)
07/2022	250€ Fee Waiver for online participation at Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, Ghent (Belgium)
07/2022	500€ Seed Grant Junge - Sprachwissenschaft e.V. (society of young linguists) for 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics, Rethymno (Greece)
07/2021 - 09/2021	1 040€ ERASMUS Plus Scholarship for 9-week-internship, Florence (Italy)

Affiliations

since 04/2025	Raciolinguistic Emotion Perception Psycholinguistics and Sociolinguistics Lab (REPPS; led by Rachel Weissler), University of Oregon (U.S.)
since 09/2024	Usage-Based Lab (led by Volya Kapatsinski), University of Oregon (U.S.)
since 07/2024	Sociolinguistics Lab (led by Betsy Sneller and Suzanne Wagner), Michigan State University (U.S.)
08/2020 - 08/2024	Sociolinguistics Lab (led by Isabelle Buchstaller), University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Skills

Languages:

- German (first language)
- English (fluent spoken and written – TOEFL: 103)
- French (advanced – DELF-DALF: B1)
- Italian (advanced)
- Latin (beginner)

Software and Programming Languages:

- Praat
- ELAN
- R & RStudio (statistics & visualization)
- PsychoPy
- Gorilla Experiment Builder
- MS-Office
- Python (basics)
- HTML, CSS & JavaScript (basics)