

Joshua Wilson Black

New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour
University of Canterbury
joshua.black@canterbury.ac.nz
<https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz>
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8272-5763>

Employment

2024 - | Lecturer | University of Canterbury
2021 - 2024 | Post Doctoral Fellow | University of Canterbury
2014 - 2018 | Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Sheffield

Education

2021 | Master of Applied Data Science (with Distinction) | Data Science | University of Canterbury
2017 | Doctor of Philosophy | Philosophy | University of Sheffield
2013 | Master of Arts | Philosophy | University of Waikato
2012 | Bachelor of Science with Honours (First Class) | Mathematics and Philosophy | University of Canterbury
2011 | Bachelor of Science | Mathematics | University of Canterbury
2011 | Bachelor of Arts | Philosophy | University of Canterbury

Publications

- Sheard, Elena, Jen Hay, **Joshua Wilson Black**, and Lynn Clark. 2025. "Do 'Leaders' in Change Sound Different from 'Laggers'? The Perceptual Similarity of New Zealand English Voices." *PLOS ONE* 20 (12). Public Library of Science: e0338199. doi:[10.1371/journal.pone.0338199](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0338199).
- Hurring, Gia, **Joshua Wilson Black**, Jen Hay, and Lynn Clark. 2025. "How Stable Are Patterns of Covariation Across Time?" *Language Variation and Change*, May, 1–25. doi:[10.1017/S0954394525000043](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394525000043).
- Flego, Stefon M., Lynn Clark, Jen Hay, Gia Hurring, Elena Sheard, Abby Walker, and **Joshua Wilson Black**. 2025. "Changing Trajectories of New Zealand English Vowels." *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 157 (April): A125. doi:[10.1121/10.0037628](https://doi.org/10.1121/10.0037628).
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2025. "Peirce on Inference: Validity, Strength, and the Community of Inquirers by Richard Kenneth Atkins (Review)." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 63 (4). Johns Hopkins University Press: 659–60. <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/1/article/971110>.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, and James Brand. 2024. "nzilbb.vowels: Vowel Covariation Tools." https://nzilbb.github.io/nzilbb_vowels/.
- MacLagan, Margaret, Toby Macrae, and **Joshua Wilson Black**. 2024. "The Pronunciation of the Word 'Māori'." *Te Reo: The Journal of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand* 66 (2): 132–50. https://nzlingsoc.org/journal_article/the-pronunciation-of-the-word-maori/.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, Jennifer Hay, Lynn Clark, and James Brand. 2023. "The Overlooked Effect of Amplitude on Within-Speaker Vowel Variation." *Linguistics Vanguard* 9 (1). Walter de Gruyter GmbH: 173–89. doi:[10.1515/lingvan-2022-0086](https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2022-0086).
- Fromont, Robert, Lynn Clark, **Joshua Wilson Black**, and Margaret Blackwood. 2023. "Maximizing Accuracy of Forced Alignment for Spontaneous Child Speech." *Language Development Research* 3 (1). doi:[10.34842/shrr-sv10](https://doi.org/10.34842/shrr-sv10).
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2023. "Peirce on Metaphysics and Common Sense Belief: A Challenge to Hookway's Account." In *Pragmatic Reason: Christopher Hookway and the American Philosophical Tradition*, edited by Robert Talisse, Paniel Reyes Cárdenas, and Daniel Herbert. Routledge. doi:[10.4324/9781003165699](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003165699).
- . 2022. "Creating Specialized Corpora from Digitized Historical Newspaper Archives." *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 38 (2). Oxford University Press (OUP): 779–97. doi:[10.1093/llc/fqac079](https://doi.org/10.1093/llc/fqac079).
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, James Brand, Jen Hay, and Lynn Clark. 2022. "Using Principal Component Analysis to Explore Covariation of Vowels." *Language and Linguistics Compass* 17 (1). Wiley. doi:[10.1111/lnc3.12479](https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12479).
- Legg, Catherine, and **Joshua Black**. 2022. "What Is Intelligence For? A Peircean Pragmatist Response to the Knowing-How, Knowing-That Debate." *Erkenntnis: An International Journal of Scientific Philosophy* 87 (5). Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands: 2265–84. doi:[10.1007/s10670-020-00301-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-020-00301-9).
- Black, Joshua David**. 2017. "Peirce's Conception of Metaphysics." University of Sheffield. <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/18188/>.
- Black, Joshua**. 2016. "Peirce." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 24 (6). Routledge: 1223–27. doi:[10.1080/09608788.2016.1149448](https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2016.1149448).
- Black, Joshua David**. 2013. "Peirce on Habit, Practice, and Theory: The Priority of Practice and the Autonomy of Theory." <https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/handle/10289/7847>.

Presentations

- Sheard, Elena, **Joshua Wilson Black**, Lynn Clark, Robert Fromont, and Jen Hay. 2024. "Comparing Perception of New Zealand English Listeners from Free Classification and Pairwise Rating Tasks." Presented at the New Zealand Linguistic Society Conference 2024, University of Canterbury, December 9.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2024. "Nzilbb.vowels: A New Tool for Quantitative Research on Vocalic Covariation." Presented at the New Zealand Linguistic Society Conference 2024, University of Canterbury, December 9. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/nzls2024>.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, and Lynn Clark. 2024a. "PCA for Vocalic Covariation: Monophthongs and Diphthongs." Presented at the Voices of Regional Australia Workshop, Australian National University, November 21.
- Sheard, Elena, and **Joshua Wilson Black**. 2024. "Rotating Principal Components to Explore Change over the Lifespan in New Zealand English Monophthongs." Presented at the Eighteenth International Conference on Methods in Dialectology, La Trobe University, July 4. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/methods/>.
- Sheard, Elena, Jen Hay, Robert Fromont, **Joshua Wilson Black**, and Lynn Clark. 2024. "Covarying New Zealand Vowels Interact with Speech Rate to Create Social Meaning for NZ Listeners." Presented at the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Hanyang University, June 29.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, and Lynn Clark. 2024b. "Exploring Vernacular Reorganisation in a Longitudinal Corpus of Pre-Schoolers' Speech." Presented at the 25th Sociolinguistics Symposium, Curtin University, June 24. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/ss-25/>.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2024. "Love and Science in Peirce's Theism." Presented at the Navigating the Nexus: ISCAST/NZCIS Zoom Conversation, May. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_yvihGVYIU.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2023a. "Philosophy in a 19th Century New Zealand Newspaper Corpus." Presented at the NZ Association of Philosophy Conference, University of Waikato, Tauranga, December 6. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/nzap-2023/>.
- . 2023b. "Sutherland and Popper: Lessons for Tauīwi Philosophers." Presented at the mini-conference on Te Ao Māori and the Philosophy Curriculum in Aotearoa New Zealand, University of Waikato, Tauranga, December 3. https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/popper_sutherland.pdf.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, and Lynn Clark. 2023a. "Early Acquisition of the New Zealand English Short Front Vowel Shift in a Longitudinal Corpus of Christchurch Pre-Schoolers." Presented at the Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand, University of Auckland, November 30.
- . 2023b. "Exploring Vernacular Reorganisation with Pre-Schoolers' Short Front Vowels." Presented at the Annual Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society, University of Sydney, November 30. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/als-2023/>.
- Sheard, Elena, Robert Fromont, **Joshua Wilson Black**, Jen Hay, Lynn Clark, and Gia Hurring. 2023. "Exploring the Relationship Between the Production and Perception of Vocalic Covariation in New Zealand English." Presented at the Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand, University of Auckland, November 29.
- Sheard, Elena, and **Joshua Wilson Black**. 2023. "Change over the Lifespan Across Covarying New Zealand English Monophthongs." Presented at the Annual Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society, University of Sydney, November.

- Clark, Lynn, **Joshua Wilson Black**, James Brand, Gia Hurring, Jen Hay, Marton Sóskuthy, and Kevin Watson. 2023. "Understanding the Covariation of Vowel Variables Within and Across Speakers." Presented at the Linguistics Invited Speaker Series, University of Pennsylvania, February 17.
- Hay, Jennifer, and **Joshua Wilson Black**. 2022. "Principal Components Analysis in the Study of Language Variation — a Practical Workshop." Presented at the Workshop of the Collaborative Research Cluster on Register, Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin, December.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, Jen Hay, Lynn Clark, and James Brand. 2022a. "Topical Structure, Amplitude Variation, and F1 in Single-Speaker Narrative Recordings." Presented at the Annual Conference of the New Zealand Linguistic Society, University of Otago, December. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/nzlingsoc-topic/>.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**. 2022. "PCA in Sociolinguistics: A Tutorial." Presented at the NZILBB Research Meeting, University of Canterbury, July. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/pca/>.
- Fromont, Robert, Lynn Clark, **Joshua Wilson Black**, and Margaret Blackwood. 2022. "Forced Alignment of Child Speech: Comparing HTK and Kaldi-based Aligners." Presented at the Third Workshop on Sociophonetic Variability in the English Varieties of Australia, Griffith University, May.
- Wilson Black, Joshua**, Jen Hay, Lynn Clark, and James Brand. 2022b. "The Overlooked Effect of Amplitude on Within-speaker Vowel Variation." Presented at the Third Workshop on Sociophonetic Variability in the English Varieties of Australia, Griffith University, May. <https://joshua.wilsonblack.nz/slides/sociophonaus-amp/>.
- Black, Joshua**. 2021. "Philosophical Writing in Early New Zealand Newspapers: A Case Study of Corpus Construction from Large Digitised Newspaper Datasets." Presented at the DHA2021 Ka Renarena Te Tauakea | Creating Communities, University of Canterbury, November 23.
- Black, Joshua**, Jen Hay, Lynn Clark, and Kevin Watson. 2021. "Quakebox Vowel Clustering: Corpus Level PCA." Presented at the Sociolinguistics Seminar, University of Canterbury, September 10.
- Black, Joshua**. 2020a. "Peirce on God and Explanation." Presented at the Philosophy Department Seminar, University of Canterbury, October 13.
- . 2020b. "Philosophical Writing in Early New Zealand Newspapers: A Case Study of Corpus Construction from Large Digitised Newspaper Datasets." Presented at the Sociolinguistics Seminar, University of Canterbury, April 19.
- . 2018a. "Peirce on the Identity of Truth and Reality." Presented at the Sixth World Congress and School on Universal Logic, Vichy, June 26.
- . 2018b. "Peirce on God and Explanation." Presented at the Christian Philosophy Conference, St John's Seminary, Womersley, January 11.
- . 2017. "Peirce on Believing Propositions and Possessing Habits." Presented at the British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference 2017, University of Sheffield, April 7.
- . 2016a. "Cenoscopy as First Philosophy." Presented at the Way of Inquiry, University of Waikato, December 3.
- . 2016b. "Brandom and Price on Expressivism and Representation." Presented at the New Directions for Expressivism, University of Sheffield, August 19.
- . 2016c. "Peirce on Exact Truth and Force Equivalence." Presented at the Philosophy Department Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield, June 1.
- . 2016d. "The Normative Basis of Metaphysics and Pragmatist Naturalism." Presented at

- the Naturalism and Normativity Workshop, University of the West of England, Bristol, May 13.
- . 2015a. “Peirce’s Strong Anti-Intellectualism.” Presented at the University of Sheffield Summer Seminar, August 13.
- . 2015b. “Quietism and Convergence: Motivating Pragmatist Metaphysics.” Presented at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University College Dublin, June 9.
- . 2015c. “Quietism and Convergence: Motivating Pragmatist Metaphysics.” Presented at the White Rose Graduate Workshop, University of Hull, May 23.
- . 2014a. “Peirce and Sellars on the Problem of Universals.” Presented at the New Zealand Association of Philosophy Conference, University of Canterbury, December 4.
- . 2014b. “Hunting for Metaphysics in Price’s Pragmatism.” Presented at the University of Sheffield Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield, October 15.
- . 2014c. “Peirce on Habit and the Theory/Practice Distinction.” Presented at the Charles S. Peirce international centennial congress, UMass Lowell, July 17.
- . 2014d. “Peirce and Price on Pragmatist Metaphysics.” Presented at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University of Oregon, July 10.
- . 2014e. “Habit and Peirce’s Theory/Practice Distinction.” Presented at the University of Sheffield Graduate Seminar, University of Sheffield, February 12.
- . 2013. “Peirce on the Law of Habit and the Law of Large Numbers.” Presented at the Graduate Idealism and Pragmatism Workshop, University of Sheffield, October 14.
- . 2012. “Peirce on Habit and Self-Control.” Presented at the New Zealand AAP Conference, Victoria University of Wellington, December 6.
- . 2011. “Formalism and Lakatos’s Philosophy of Mathematics.” Presented at the University of Canterbury Philosophy Retreat, Hokitika, New Zealand.

Other Outputs

- Wilson Black, Joshua.** 2025. *NZILBB R, Stats and Open Science Workshops*. doi:[10.5281/zenodo.14708984](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14708984).
- . 2022. “Visualising Vowel Space Change with GAMMs.” *LingMethodsHub*, October. doi:[10.5281/zenodo.7261966](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7261966).

Scholarships and Awards

- 2024 | Faculty of Arts Digital Research Seed Fund | University of Canterbury
- 2023 | Faculty of Arts Digital Research Seed Fund | University of Canterbury
- 2021 | aaDH Highly Commended Conference Paper | Australasian Association for Digital Humanities
- 2016 | Royal Institute of Philosophy Bursary | Royal Institute of Philosophy
- 2013 | University of Sheffield Faculty Scholarship | University of Sheffield
- 2011 | University of Waikato Masters Research Scholarship | University of Waikato

2011 | Oxford Study Abroad Programme | Mansfield College, University of Oxford and the University of Canterbury

2009 | Mathematics Department Summer Research Scholarship | University of Canterbury