

# Monica Nesbitt

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<https://monnesbitt.github.io/Website>

## Academic Positions

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2021 -	Assistant Professor. Department of Linguistics. Indiana University.
2019 - 2021	Postdoctoral Researcher and Instructor. Linguistics   Society of Fellows. Dartmouth College.
2013 - 2014	Instructor. English Language Institute. University of Texas at Arlington.

## Education

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2019	PhD. Linguistics. Michigan State University. Thesis: <i>The impact of internal social change on local phonology</i> . Chair: Suzanne Wagner.
2013	MA. Linguistics. University of Texas at Arlington.
2010	BA. English (Linguistics concentration). Boise State University.

## Publications

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\* indicates selective invitation; † indicates student co-author

*In press	Nesbitt, Monica & Samson Lotven. Chain Shifts. The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Diachronic Linguistics.
*In press	Nesbitt, Monica & James N. Stanford. New England English. The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of World Englishes.
2023	Roberts, Julie & Monica Nesbitt. What Goes Around: Language Change and Glottalization in Vermont. <i>American Speech</i> . <a href="https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-10867218">https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-10867218</a>
2023	Nesbitt, Monica. Phonological emergence and social reorganization: Developing a nasal /æ/ system in Lansing, MI. <i>Language Variation and Change</i> . 35(2). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394523000182">https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394523000182</a>
*2022	Nesbitt, Monica & Akiyah Watts†. Socially distanced but virtually connected: pandemic fieldwork with Black Bostonians. <i>Linguistics Vanguard</i> . 8(3): 343-352. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2021-0049">https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2021-0049</a>
*2021	Nesbitt, Monica. From an Indicator to a Marker: Urban dialect loss in Michigan. In Arne Ziegler, Stefanie Edler, & Georg Oberdorfer (eds.), <i>Urban Matters. Current approaches in variationist sociolinguistics</i> . 27:159-177. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
2021	Nesbitt, Monica & James N. Stanford. Structure, Chronology, and Local Social Meaning of a Supra-Local Vowel Shift: Emergence of the Low-Back Merger Shift in New England. <i>Language Variation and Change</i> . 33(3): 269-295. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394521000168">https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954394521000168</a>
2021	Tommerdahl, Jodi, John Biggan, Fred McKee, Monica Nesbitt & Christopher Ray. The Relationship between Physical Fitness and Reasoning in Community-Dwelling Older Adults. <i>Activities, Adaptation &amp; Aging</i> . [online first] <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/01924788.2021.1910150">https://doi.org/10.1080/01924788.2021.1910150</a>

- 2021 Nesbitt, Monica. The rise and fall of the Northern Cities Shift: Social and linguistic re-organization of TRAP in 20<sup>th</sup> century Lansing, Michigan. *American Speech* 96(3): 332-370.  
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-8791754>
- \*2019 Nesbitt, Monica, Suzanne Evans Wagner & Alexander Mason. Movement toward the Low-Back-Merger Shift in Lansing, MI. In Kara Becker (ed.), *The Low-Back-Merger Shift -- Uniting the Canadian Vowel Shift, the California Vowel Shift, and Short Front Vowel Rotations Across North America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Publication of the American Dialect Society 104(1): 144-165.  
<https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-8032979>
- 2018 Nesbitt, Monica. Economic change and the decline of Raised TRAP in Lansing, MI. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Selected Papers from NWAV 46*. 24.2. 66-76.
- 2018 Nesbitt, Monica. Acoustic correlates to ambisyllabic representations in American English. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*. 24.1. 131-139.
- 2016 Wagner, Suzanne Evans, Alexander Mason, Monica Nesbitt, Erin Pevan & Matt Savage. Reversal and Re-Organization of the Northern Cities Shift in Michigan. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Selected Papers from NWAV 44* 22.2. 171-179.
- 2016 Tommerdahl, Jodi, Will McKee, Monica Nesbitt, Mark D. Ricard, John R. Biggan, Christopher T. Ray & Robert J. Gatchel. Do Deductive and Probabilistic Reasoning Abilities Decline in Older Adults? *Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research*. 21.4. 225-236.

### *In Preparation*

- Nesbitt, Monica. Less in[tense]: The impact of dialect attrition on Michigan English feature specification.
- Nesbitt, Monica. Ambisyllabic consonants are codas in American English: Evidence from perception and production.
- Stanley, Joey, Nesbitt, Monica & Renwick, Margaret. Movement, Economy, Orientation: 20th Century Shifts in North American Language. Publication of the American Dialect Society. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Nesbitt, Monica. Black Boston Speaks: An atlas of Black pronunciation patterns in the Boston, MA area.

## **Grants, Fellowships & Awards**

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- 2023 Enhanced Mentoring Program with Opportunities for Ways to Excel in Research (EMPOWER). Indiana University. \$10,000.
- 2023 *College of Arts and Sciences Career Connections Fellowship*. Indiana University. \$1,500.
- 2023 *The Eastern Massachusetts life and language project*. Faculty Assistance in Data Science Program. Indiana University. Three data science research assistants during summer.
- 2023 *The phonological atlas of African American Language project*. Social Sciences Research Funding Program. Indiana University. \$38,000.
- 2020 *The Eastern Massachusetts life and language project*. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Venture Funding. Dartmouth College. \$12,000.
- 2019 College of Arts and Letters Dissertation Completion Fellowship. MSU. \$8,000.

2018	Graduate School Writing Fellowship. Michigan State University. \$2,000.
2018	New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47 Student Travel Grant. \$700.
2018	Linguistic Society of America Diversity Travel Award. Honorable Mention.
2017	Cultural Heritage Initiative Summer Fellowship. Michigan State University. \$1,000.
2016, 17, 18	Linguistics Department Summer Research Fellowship. Michigan State University. \$4,500.
2016	New Ways of Analyzing Variation 45 Student Travel Grant. \$700.
2016	Cultural Heritage Initiative Fellowship. Michigan State University. \$4,000.

## Invited Talks

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2023	<i>Language change &amp; North American English</i> . Indiana University. Linguistics Research Profile. April 7.
2020	<i>Exploring the impact of deindustrialization on dialect diversity in the US</i> . Indiana University. February 26.
2019	<i>The impact of internal social change on local phonology in Lansing, MI</i> . Boston University Linguistics Colloquium Series. September 30.

## Conference Presentations

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\*All submissions were papers accepted as talks unless otherwise indicated.

2024	<i>Neutral Tone, Gender, and Place Orientation in Beijing: An Update on Beijing Professionals</i> . Annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. January 4-7. With Xiao Dong, Fengming Liu, and Charles Lin. [poster]
2024	<i>Dialect attitudes influence perceptions of intelligibility in varieties of French</i> . Annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. January 4-7. With Kai Owens and Jeff Lamontagne.
2023	<i>Neutral Tone and neopronouns in English Place Orientation in Beijing: An Update on Beijing Yuppies</i> . New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51. Queens, NY. October 13-15. With Xiao Dong, Fengming Liu, and Charles Lin.
2023	<i>Investigating the link between intelligibility and attitudes towards varieties of French</i> . New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51. Queens, NY. October 13-15. With Kai Owens and Jeff Lamontagne.
2023	<i>Sociolinguistics of tone neutralization</i> . IU-NTU Symposium on Language, Brain and Society. October 6. With Xiao Dong, Fengming Liu, and Charles Lin.
2023	<i>Rhoticity in Black Boston: Examining the Effects of Ethnicity and Ethnic Orientation</i> . 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Chicago, Illinois. May 8-12. With Malachi Henry, Amalia Robinson, Erika Sosa, Xiao Dong, and Jeremy Miller, Clara Miller-Bloomfield. [poster]
2022	<i>Large-Scale Observations of the Low-Back-Merger Shift in New England</i> . New Ways of Analyzing Variation 50. San Jose, California. October 13-15. With James N. Stanford and Sarah Karnes.
2022	<i>A nationwide study of the low-back-merger shift</i> . American Dialect Society. January 6-9. With James N. Stanford and Rolando Coto-Solano.

- 2021 *Eastern Massachusetts Life and Language in the COVID-19 Era*. Workshop on Sociolinguistic research in the time of COVID-19: Methods, Ethics, Theory, Betsy Sneller et al. 95<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Virtual. January 7-10. With James N. Stanford, Akiah Watts and George Stain.
- 2019 *Slowly changing their minds: Evidence of Gradual Phonologization in Michigan*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48. Eugene, Oregon. October 10-12.
- 2019 *Pioneering a dialect shift in the Pioneer Valley: Evidence for the Low-Back-Merger Shift in Western Massachusetts*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48. Eugene, Oregon. October 10-12. With James N. Stanford.
- 2018 *Loss of an urban-rural distinction in Michigan*. Urban Language Conference. Graz, Austria. November 3-5.
- 2018 *Changing accents changes syllables: The effect of diachronic phonetic change on syllabic representations in the Inland North*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 47. New York, New York. October 18 - 21.
- 2018 *Loss of the local dialect in Lansing, MI*. PhonFest. Indiana University, Bloomington. May 29 - June 2. [poster]
- 2018 *Shifting from the shift: Loss of dialect distinction in the US*. 175<sup>th</sup> Acoustical Society of America meeting. Minneapolis, Wisconsin. May 7-11. [poster]
- 2017 *A Rust Belt Dialect Feature: Economic Change and the Decline of Raised TRAP in Lansing, MI*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 46. Madison, Wisconsin. November 2-5.
- 2017 *Acoustic Correlates to Syllabic Representations in American English*. Pennsylvania Linguistics Conference 41. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. March 24-26.
- 2016 *Dialect Leveling Across the US: Evidence of the Third Dialect Shift in the Inland North*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 45. Vancouver, Canada. November 3-6. With Alex Mason.
- 2016 *Rising above the level of awareness: The Northern Cities Shift in Lower Michigan*. Workshop talk. Graduate Linguistics Expo at Michigan State. East Lansing, MI. February 27-28.
- 2016 *Ambisyllabic consonants are codas: Evidence from a syllable tracking task*. Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Washington, DC. January 8-10. With Karthik Durvasula.
- 2016 *Ignorant and annoying: Inland Northerners' attitudes towards NCS*. Annual meeting of the American Dialect Society. Washington, DC. January 8-10. With Suzanne Evans Wagner, Alex Mason, Erin Pevan and Matt Savage. [poster]
- 2016 *Re-organization of the Northern Cities Shift in Michigan*. Annual Meeting of the American Dialect Society. Washington, DC. January 8-10. With Suzanne Evans Wagner, Alex Mason, Erin Pevan and Matt Savage.
- 2015 *Reversal and re-organization of the Northern Cities Shift in Michigan*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44. Toronto, Canada. October 22-25. With Suzanne Wagner, Alex Mason, and Matt Savage.
- 2015 *Ignorant and annoying: Inland Northerners' attitudes towards NCS short-o*. New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44. Toronto, Canada. October 22-25. With Suzanne Evans Wagner, Alex Mason, Erin Pevan and Matt Savage.

- 2013 *The Aging Mind: Physical Fitness and Deductive and Probabilistic Reasoning in Community Dwelling Older Adults*. The Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. New Orleans, LA. Nov. With John Biggan, Bill McKee and Jodi Tommerdahl.

## Teaching

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### Indiana University

#### *Undergraduate*

L111 Dialect & language variation (*focus on African American Language*) - Fall 2023

L441 Field Methods in Sociolinguistics - Spring 2022, Spring 2023

L315 Introduction to Sociolinguistics - Fall 2021

#### *Graduate*

L720 Sociolinguistics Seminar - Spring 2023

L620 Advanced Sociolinguistics - Fall 2022 [students received the 2022-2023 IU Linguistics Householder Best Paper Award]

L520 Sociolinguistics - Spring 2022, Fall 2023

### Dartmouth College

Language and Ethnicity - Fall 2020

### Michigan State University

Language across time, space, and social groups. Teaching Assistant – Spr 2018, Spr 2019

Tracing the globalization of Englishes. Teaching Assistant - Fall 2017

Harry Potter and the Secrets of British English. Teaching Assistant - Sum 2015, Sum 2017

Language and Gender. Teaching Assistant and sole instructor - Fall 2015, Spr 2016, Fall 2016, Spr 2017

### University of Texas, Arlington

English reading, Level 6. Instructor - Spr 2014

English listening/speaking, English grammar/writing, English reading, Levels 2 - 3. Substitute - Fall 2013

Implementing and disseminating classroom research. Teaching Assistant - Spr 2012

### Guest Lectures/Panels

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov 17, 2023   | <i>Navigating the academic job market</i> . CALMS Alumni Workshop. MSU Linguistics.                              |
| Oct 27, 2023   | <i>Applying for academic jobs</i> . Professionalization Workshop Series. IU Linguistics.                         |
| April 21, 2023 | <i>How to do research</i> . L501 Research Methods. Instructor: Anne Bunger. IU.                                  |
| Oct 31, 2022   | <i>African American Language &amp; Linguistics</i> . Instructor: Carolyn Calloway-Thomas. IU. With Stuart Davis. |
| April 07, 2022 | <i>Postdoc talk/Q&amp;A</i> . Linguistics Student Organization. Michigan State University.                       |
| Oct 1, 2021    | <i>Applying for academic jobs</i> . Professionalization Workshop Series. IU Linguistics. With Stuart Davis.      |
| March 12, 2021 | <i>How to do research</i> . L501 Research Methods. Instructor: Anne Bunger. IU.                                  |

## Graduate Committees & Mentoring

\*students are from IU linguistics unless otherwise specified

### *PhD Committee*

Trey Jagiella *The Rhotics in the Salvador, Bahia Dialect of Brazilian Portuguese*

Yi-An Chen *Perceptions and sociolinguistic evaluations of Mainland Mandarin and Taiwan Mandarin on Bilibili*

### *Advisory Committee*

Amalia Robinson

Malachi Henry (IU Speech and Hearing Sciences)

Jennifer Cox (IU French and Italian)

Kai Owens (IU French and Italian)

Xiao Dong

Ariana Gunderson (IU Anthropology)

Joel Jenkins

Justin Fuller

### *Mentoring & Lab Assistants*

- 2022 - L315 Associate Instructor. Fall '22 - Yi-An Chen (2022-2023 Daniel Dinnsen Excellence in Teaching Award)
- 2022 - Amalia Robinson (AY2022, AY2023). Xiao Dong (AY2023). Graduate research assistant. IU Sociolinguistics Lab.
- 2021 - Co-facilitator of IU Sociolinguistics Group. With Manuel Diaz-Campos and Jeff Lamontagne. Indiana University.
- 2020 - PI. Eastern Massachusetts Life and Language Project. Sociolinguistic fieldwork project employs 6-10 Indiana University and Dartmouth College undergraduate research assistants from groups underrepresented in the academy.
- 2019 New Waves of Analyzing Variation 48 Student Travel Award mentor. [Matched as mentor to an outstanding graduate student from a group underrepresented in linguistics, e.g. first generation, African American, First Nations, Latin@ and Native American scholars.]
- 2018 - 2019 Peer Mentor. Michigan State University Linguistics Graduate Program. [Matched as a mentor to a first-year linguistics graduate student.]

## Professional Development

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- 2023 EMPOWER Faculty and Staff Mentoring Dialogues: NRMN/CIMER Level 1 Mentor Training. Bloomington, IN. August 11-12.
- 2023 College of Arts and Sciences faculty-to-faculty network mentoring program. Mentor: Brea Perry.
- 2021 - 2022 Indiana University new faculty learning community.
- 2019 - National center for faculty development and diversity. Fall '22 Faculty Success Program.
- 2018 R statistics bootcamp. May 14-18. Instructor: Stephan Th. Gries.

- 2014 - 2015      Project manager. The influence of higher education on local phonology project. (NSF#1251437). Co-PIs: William Labov and Suzanne E. Wagner.
- 2011 - 2012      Research assistant. Mind, Brain & Education Lab. UT Arlington. PI: Jodi Tommerdahl.

## Service

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### Professional

- 2023 -              Member. Editorial Board. Language Variation and Change.
- 2020 -              Member. Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics. Linguistics Society of America.

### Departmental and Institutional

- 2022 -              Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Representative. Department of Linguistics. Indiana University
- 2022 -              Qualifying Exams Committee. Department of Linguistics. Indiana University
- 2021 -              Co-facilitator. Sociolinguistics Group. Indiana University.
- 2022 - 2023      Graduate Admissions Committee. Department of Linguistics. Indiana University.
- 2016 - 2017      President. Linguistics Student Organization. Michigan State University.
- 2015 - 2019      Member. Linguistics Student Organization. Michigan State University.
- 2015 - 2016      Vice President. Linguistics Student Organization. Michigan State University.
- 2012 - 2013      Vice President. Lingua. University of Texas at Arlington.
- 2011 - 2013      Member. Black Student Association. University of Texas at Arlington.
- 2009 - 2011      Vice President & Co-founder. Boise State Linguistics Association. Boise State University.

### Media appearances

- Mar 7, 2022      [Giving voice to people who have been left out](#). Dartmouth News.
- Feb 17, 2022      [You are how you sound](#). Say that again? Podcast. The Christian Science Monitor.
- Dec 7, 2021      [A bright future for sociolinguistics](#). Fall 2021 Newsletter. IU Linguistics.

### Conference Organization

- 2020              Organizer. New England Variationists Symposium (NEVS). Dartmouth College. [canceled due to COVID-19]
- 2020              Moderator of organized panel: *Black Becoming for Language and Linguistics Researchers*. Linguistics Society of America 2020 annual meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017              Organizing Chair. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Linguistics Expo at Michigan State.
- 2016              Organizing Committee. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference. MSU.
- 2013              Organizing Committee. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Texas at Arlington Student Conference in Linguistics and TESOL. University of Texas at Arlington.

### Reviewing

#### *Journals & Publishers*

American Speech (2021), Routledge (2020), Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews – Cognitive Science (2020)

#### *Conference & Workshop Proposals*

American Dialect Society (2024), Methods in Dialectology (2023), American Association for Applied Linguistics (2022, 2023, 2024); New Ways of Analyzing Variation (2021); Annual Conference on African Linguistics (2020); Great Lakes Expo for Experimental and Formal Undergraduate Linguistics (2015, 2016, 2018, 2019); University of Texas at Arlington Student Conference in Linguistics and TESOL (2012, 2013)

## Database Contributions

2012 *Childes*. <http://childes.psy.cmu.edu/> . Transcribed and contributed to this collection 20 conversational audio recordings of children and their caregivers.

## Professional Memberships

2017 - Acoustical Society of America.  
 2015 - American Dialect Society.  
 2015 - Linguistic Society of America.

## Languages

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Human: English (native), Spanish (reading)  
 Computer: R, Python, Praat, ELAN, Plotnik, PsychoPy, CLAN, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

References available upon request