

Yurika Aonuki

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EDUCATION, WORK

- 2022-2027 Ph.D. (Linguistics) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2021-2022 Full-time Research Assistant/Technician at University of British Columbia
2019-2021 M.A. (Linguistics) at University of British Columbia
Thesis: Relative pronominal tense: Evidence from Gitksan, Japanese, and English [[download](#)]
2016-2019 B.A. Honours (Linguistics) at University of British Columbia
Thesis: Adjective intensification in American Sign Language [[download](#)]

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- Bertrand, Anne, Yurika Aonuki, Sihwei Chen, Henry Davis, Joash Gambarage, Laura Griffin, Marianne Huijsmans, Lisa Matthewson, Daniel Reisinger, Hotze Rullmann, Raiane Salles, Michael David Schwan, Neda Todorović, Bailey Trotter, and Jozina Vander Klok (2022). “Nobody’s perfect”. In: *Languages* 7.2, pp. 1–28.
- Tkachman, Oksana, Kathleen Currie Hall, Robert Fuhrman, and Yurika Aonuki (2019). “Visible amplitude: Towards quantifying prominence in sign language”. In: *Journal of Phonetics* 77, pp. 1–23. [Editor’s choice].

Conference proceedings (reviewed by abstract)

- Aonuki, Yurika (forthcoming[a]). “‘Irrealis’ *ji* in Gitksan”. In: *Proceedings of West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)* 43. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- Aonuki, Yurika (forthcoming[b]). “Decomposing ‘minimum-standard gradable adjectives’ in Japanese as verbal -*tei*- predicates”. In: *Proceedings of West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)* 42. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2024a). “Covert relative non-future tense in Gitksan”. In: *Proceedings of West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)* 39. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2024b). “Differential measure phrases with implicit comparatives in Gitksan”. In: *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 34. University of Rochester.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2024c). “Inherently context-sensitive gradable adjectives”. In: *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 28. Ed. by Geraldine Baumann, Daniel Gutzmann, Jonas Koopman, Kristina Liefke, Agata Renans, and Tatjana Scheffler. Ruhr-Universität Bochum, pp. 58–76.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2022a). “Free relatives in Gitksan”. In: *Proceedings of Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas (SULA)* 11. University of Massachusetts Amherst GLSA.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2022b). “Morphological tenselessness and SOT: Evidence for a covert relative pronominal tense in Gitksan”. In: *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 26. Universität zu Köln, pp. 55–73.
- Hall, Kathleen Currie, Oksana Tkachman, and Yurika Aonuki (2022). “Perceived Magnitudes of Movement in American Sign Language”. In: *Proceedings of Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS)* 57. IL: University of Chicago.
- Aonuki, Yurika (2020). “Unifying the ‘still’ and ‘just’ readings of *k’ay* in Gitksan”. In: *Proceedings of West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)* 37. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Aonuki, Yurika (2019). “Adjective Intensification in American Sign Language”. In: *Proceedings of Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA) 2019*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia.

Conference presentations (reviewed by abstract)

Aonuki, Yurika (2025). ‘Irrealis’ particle *ji* in Gitksan. *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 43*, University of Washington, 25-27 April.

Aonuki, Yurika and Kathryn Davidson (2025). On the QUD sensitivity of a third reading. *Sinn und Bedeutung 30*, Goethe University Frankfurt, 24-26 September.

Aonuki, Yurika (2024a). Comparatives and differential measure phrases without *-er* in Gitksan. *Semantics and Linguistics Theory (SALT) 34*, University of Rochester, 28-30 May.

Aonuki, Yurika (2024b). Inherent context sensitivity in two unrelated degreeful languages. *Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) 60*, 26-28 April.

Aonuki, Yurika (2024c). Minimum-standard predicates as resultatives and measure phrase interpretations. *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 42*, University of California Berkeley, 12-14, April.

Aonuki, Yurika (2023). Evaluativity in Japanese degree constructions. *Sinn und Bedeutung 28*, Ruhr University Bochum, 5-8, September.

Aonuki, Yurika (2021a). An account of morphological tenselessness in Gitksan inspired by SOT in English. *Sinn und Bedeutung 26*, University of Cologne, 8-10 September.

Aonuki, Yurika (2021b). Covert relative pronominal tense in Gitksan. *Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas (WSCLA) 25*, Sogang University, 28-30 May.

Aonuki, Yurika (2021c). Decomposing the covert non-future tense in Gitksan. *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 39*, University of Arizona, 8 - 11, April.

Aonuki, Yurika (2021d). Revisiting pronominal vs. existential past tense denotations in English and Japanese. *Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA) 2021*, virtual, 4-7 June.

Kathleen Currie Hall Oksana Tkachman, Yurika Aonuki (2021). Perceived Magnitudes of Movement in American Sign Language. *Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) 57*, 6-8, May.

Aonuki, Yurika (2020a). Free relatives in Gitksan. *Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas (SULA) 11*, El Colegio de México and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, 28-3, May.

Aonuki, Yurika (2020b). Unifying the ‘still’ and ‘just’ readings of *k’ay* in Gitksan. *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 37*, University of British Columbia, March 6-8, 2020.

Aonuki, Yurika (2019a). Adjective Intensification in American Sign Language. *Canadian Linguistics Association*, University of British Columbia, 1-3 June, 2019.

Aonuki, Yurika (2019b). Phonology of adjective intensification in American Sign Language. *Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (LSURC) 2019*, University of British Columbia, 8-9 February. [Best presentation award].

Hall, Kathleen Currie, Oksana Tkachman, and Yurika Aonuki (2019a). Lexical competition and articulatory enhancement in American Sign Language. *Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA) 2019*, University of British Columbia, 1-3 June.

Hall, Kathleen Currie, Oksana Tkachman, and Yurika Aonuki (2019b). Lexical competition correlates with articulatory enhancement in ASL. *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR)* 13, Universität Hamburg, 26-28 September.

Tkachman, Oksana, Robert Fuhrman, Kathleen Currie Hall, Yurika Aonuki, and Bryan Gick (2018). Visible Energy in signed languages: Explaining a trade-off between sign location and sign handedness. *Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon)* 16, Universidade de Lisboa, 19-22 June.

Special issues

Aonuki, Yurika (2024). “Degree constructions in Gitksan”. In: *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Ed. by M. Ryan Bochnak, Eva Csipak, Lisa Matthewson, Marcin Morzycki, and Daniel K. E. Reisinger. Vancouver, BC: UBCOPL, pp. 1–18.

Yurika Aonuki, Kathleen Currie Hall (2024). “Incorporating sign language phonetics and phonology exercises into the Linguistics classroom”. In: *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Ed. by M. Ryan Bochnak, Eva Csipak, Lisa Matthewson, Marcin Morzycki, and Daniel K. E. Reisinger. Vancouver, BC: UBCOPL, pp. 19–38.

Invited talks

Aonuki, Yurika (2025). Differential measure phrases and comparatives in Gitksan. Invited talk at Aoyama Gakuin University, 5 August.

Aonuki, Yurika (2023). Degree semantics in Gitksan and Japanese. Invited talk at University of British Columbia Linguistics Outside the Classroom, 11 August.

Aonuki, Yurika (2022). Relative pronominal tense in Gitksan and Japanese. Invited talk at UC Berkeley Syntax and Semantics Circle, 18 February.

Aonuki, Yurika (2019). Adjective intensification in American Sign Language. Invited talk at The 50th Anniversary of the UBC Linguistics Department, 15-18 May.

Hall, Kathleen Currie, Yurika Aonuki, Oksana Tkachman, Li Ze Choo, Terrance Gatchalian, Cristina Lee, Elizabeth Tiamzon, and Mai Tran (2019). Integrating sign languages into the linguistics classroom. Invited talk at UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Showcase, 2 May.

Aonuki, Yurika (2017). A place for Japanese as a heritage language in Canada. Invited talk at Arts Studies in Research and Writing Annual Student Conference 6, 8 April.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Fieldwork on Gitksan 2018 - present

– Semantic investigation of tense and aspect, free relatives, and degree constructions.

Fieldwork on American Sign Language 2019

– Phonological investigation of adjective intensification with a fluent Deaf signer.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Copy editor for the journal *Semantics Fieldwork Methods* 2021 – 2022

– Copy-edited 12 articles for two special issues.

Research assistant to Dr. Kathleen Currie Hall

2017 – 2019, 2021 – 2022

- Designed and tested parts of a novel transcription software *Sign Language Phonetic Annotator-Analyzer*.
- Coordinator of a sign language linguistics project.
 - Developed a training module for sign language transcription.
 - Trained four undergraduate students.
- Created problem sets on sign languages for the undergraduate phonology curriculum.

Research Assistant for the Tense and Aspect in the Pacific Lab

2019 – 2021

- Organized bi-weekly meetings and created long-term agendas.

Research Assistant to Dr. Lisa Matthewson

2019 – 2021

- Glossed and archived Gitksan data from semantic fieldwork.
- Created a website for the conference *Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas (SULA)*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant

MIT 24.973 ‘Advanced Semantics’	2025 Spring
MIT 24.900 ‘Introduction to Linguistics’	2023 Fall
UBC Ling 333 ‘Research Methods for Linguistics’	2021 Summer 1
UBC Ling 201 ‘Linguistic Theory and Analysis II’ (syntax, semantics)	2020 Winter 2
UBC Ling 200 ‘Linguistic Theory and Analysis I’ (phonology, phonetics)	2020 Winter 1
UBC Ling 100 ‘Introduction to Language and Linguistics’	2020 Summer 1, Winter 1

Tutor

UBC Speech and Linguistics Student Association (SALSA) tutor (volunteer)	2017 – 2018
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REVIEWING

Semantic Fieldwork Methods (journal)	2025 –
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SERVICE

MIT Linguistics colloquia organizer	2023 – 2025
UBC Linguistics undergraduate curriculum committee member	2021
UBC Linguistics research seminar and colloquia organizer	2019 – 2021
UBC Linguistics Assistant Professor search committee, undergraduate representative	2019
UBC Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (LSURC) organizer	2018

HONOURS AND AWARDS

MIT Experimental Fund	2025	\$1,500(USD)
MIT Ken Hale Fund	2024	\$1,500(USD)
MIT Experimental Fund	2023	\$780(USD)
MIT Ken Hale Fund	2023	\$1500(USD)
MIT Kenan Sahin (1963) Presidential Graduate Fellow	2022	\$47,850(USD)
UBC Arts Graduate Research Award	2020	\$980(CAD)
UBC Fellowship Competition	2020	\$16,000(CAD)
UBC LSURC Best Presentation Award	2019	N/A
UBC Faculty of Arts International Student Scholarship	2017	\$5,000(CAD)
UBC Trek Excellence Scholarship	2017	\$4,000(CAD)
UBC Work Learn International Undergraduate Research Award	2017	\$4,000(CAD)
UBC Outstanding International Student Award	2016	\$6,000(CAD)

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Japanese	native
English	proficient
American Sign Language	intermediate; one year of phonological fieldwork
Gitksan	six years of semantic fieldwork
LaTeX	proficient
R	intermediate
Python	basic