

# Creating an Academic Website

September 20, 2024

Friday Linguistics Colloquium



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL

# What is an academic website for?

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- A good linguist is productive, i.e. contributes to field by making and publishing discoveries about language
- Your website is your portfolio:
  - Tell people about scholarly work you've produced
  - Provide access to scholarly work that you've produced (papers, conference presentation materials, tools)
  - Share news about your academic career (brag about your accomplishments!)

# What should my academic website be like?

# What should my website include?

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Best way to identify elements of a good academic website is to visit others' sites:

- Faculty sites show you what an established academic's web presence is like (and what yours will be like one day!)
- Graduate student sites show you what to highlight / prioritize when you're first starting out in your academic career

# What should my website include?

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## Definitely

- Blurb(s) introducing yourself and your work
- Your CV
- Scholarly work you've produced
- Resources/tools you've developed

## If you like

- Additional CV line items
- News feed/blog
- Picture
- Personal stuff

## Include: a short blurb

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- Include a blurb (or several) on your site to quickly tell people what you're all about
- General overview blurb should be included on your site's home page
- Additional blurbs about specific projects or elements of your research program may be included along with access to produced items from those projects

# Include: a short blurb

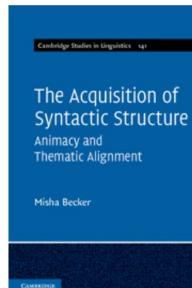
Misha's site has a description of research interests and a few products of that research

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://mbecker.web.unc.edu>. The page content includes:

- ## Research Interests

I study linguistics because I want to understand the formal system of human language. I am fascinated by this wonderfully intricate and complex system that is integral to both our biological and our social selves: language arises in all members of our species because our DNA provides the blueprint for the cognitive structures to support language, yet it only arises if the right social and interpersonal conditions are present: we have to be part of a community of humans whose language we can perceive. Language is probably unique among biologically driven human developments in that we are driven to acquire it because of our biology, but we can also develop infinite varieties of it and we can do so both early in life and throughout our lives. I think that is cool.

My background is in syntactic theory and the acquisition of syntax, both morphosyntax and argument structure, in children (monolingual first language). I'm also interested in bilingualism, language revitalization, Specific Language Impairment, computational modeling of language learning, and experimental methodologies for studying implicit linguistic knowledge. I've recently written a textbook on first language acquisition in children (with Kamil Ud Deen), now available from MIT Press.

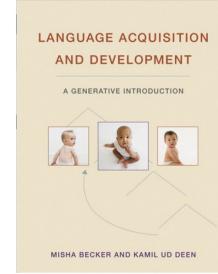


From about 2000–2014 my research focused on how children learn “displacing” predicates. These are verbs and adjectives that do not select an external argument (subject) and thus allow another NP to be “displaced” into the subject position. Displacing predicates include raising verbs (e.g. *seem* or *appear*), tough adjectives (*easy*), and unaccusative verbs (*arrive*). My main question is how children distinguish these predicates from control verbs (*want* or *claim*), control adjectives (*eager*), and unergative verbs (*laugh*). These are predicates that do select an external argument but occur in superficially similar sentence environments (e.g. *John seems/claims to like pizza*). The answer I have pursued is that NP animacy provides a crucial cue: encountering a predicate with an *inanimate* subject should tell learners that the predicate is a displacing predicate. This work culminated in a book about how NP (in)animacy helps children acquire displacing predicates (Cambridge).

More recently my research has turned to collaborations in new directions:

  - [Dr. Benjamin Frey](#) (UNC American Studies) on Cherokee language revitalization in conjunction with New Kituwah Academy in western North Carolina
  - [Dr. Kristen Syrett](#) (Rutgers) and [Dr. Kristen Lindquist](#) (UNC Psychology and Neuroscience) on children’s acquisition of emotion adjectives

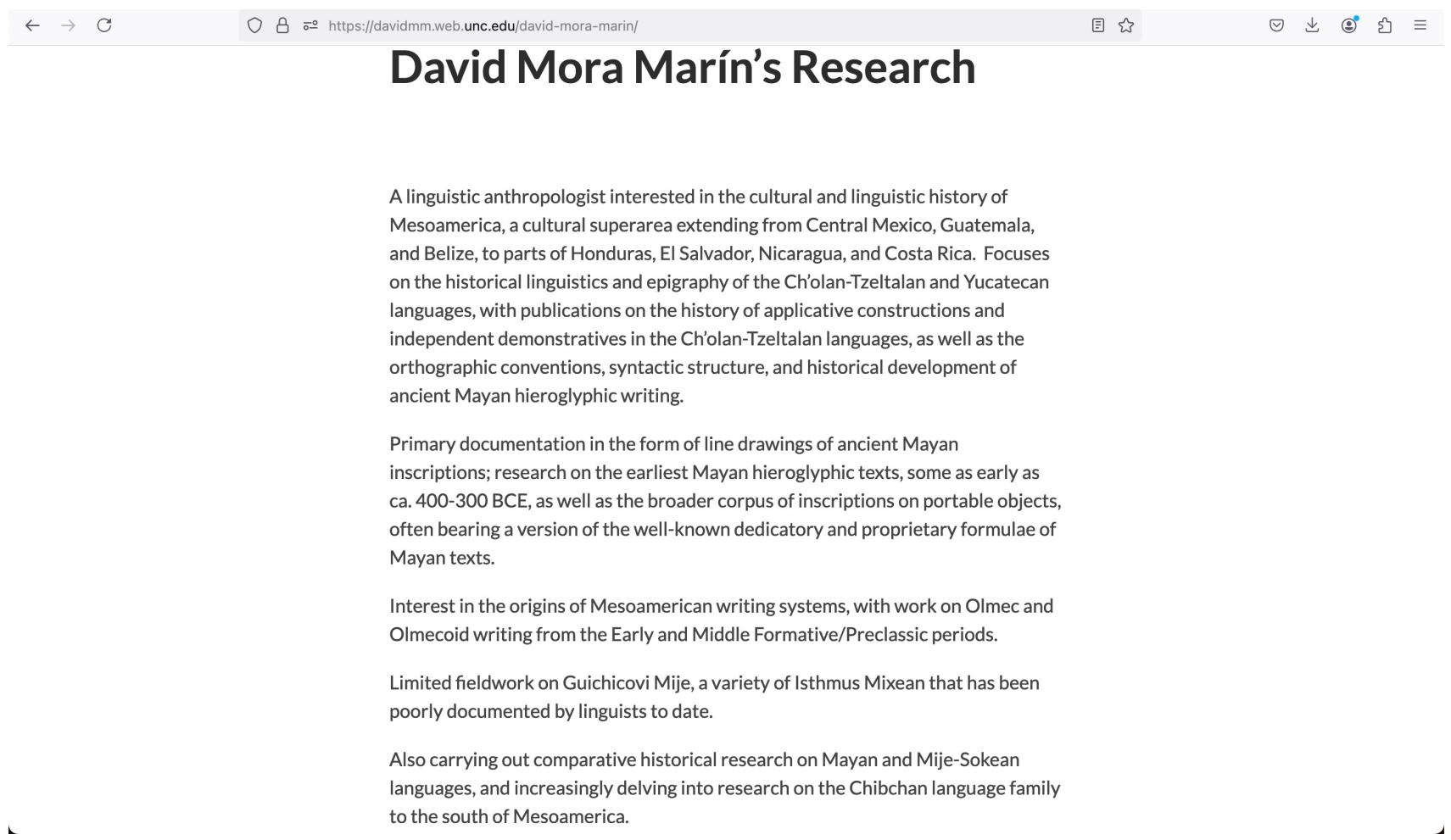
As part of my research on language revitalization, I recently spent 6 months at the Universidad del País Vasco in Vitoria–Gasteiz (Spain) where I studied attitudes of parents and teachers in this city towards Spanish and Basque. While I was there I gave a talk [\[link 1\]](#) [\[link 2\]](#) [\[link 3\]](#) about Cherokee as well as a [radio interview](#).



# Include: a short blurb

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David's site has a research description



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://davidmm.web.unc.edu/david-mora-marin/>. The page title is "David Mora Marín's Research". The content includes a bio paragraph, sections on Mayan research, Olmec/Olmecoid writing, Mixean fieldwork, and Chibchan language research.

A linguistic anthropologist interested in the cultural and linguistic history of Mesoamerica, a cultural superarea extending from Central Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, to parts of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Focuses on the historical linguistics and epigraphy of the Ch'olan-Tzeltalan and Yucatecan languages, with publications on the history of applicative constructions and independent demonstratives in the Ch'olan-Tzeltalan languages, as well as the orthographic conventions, syntactic structure, and historical development of ancient Mayan hieroglyphic writing.

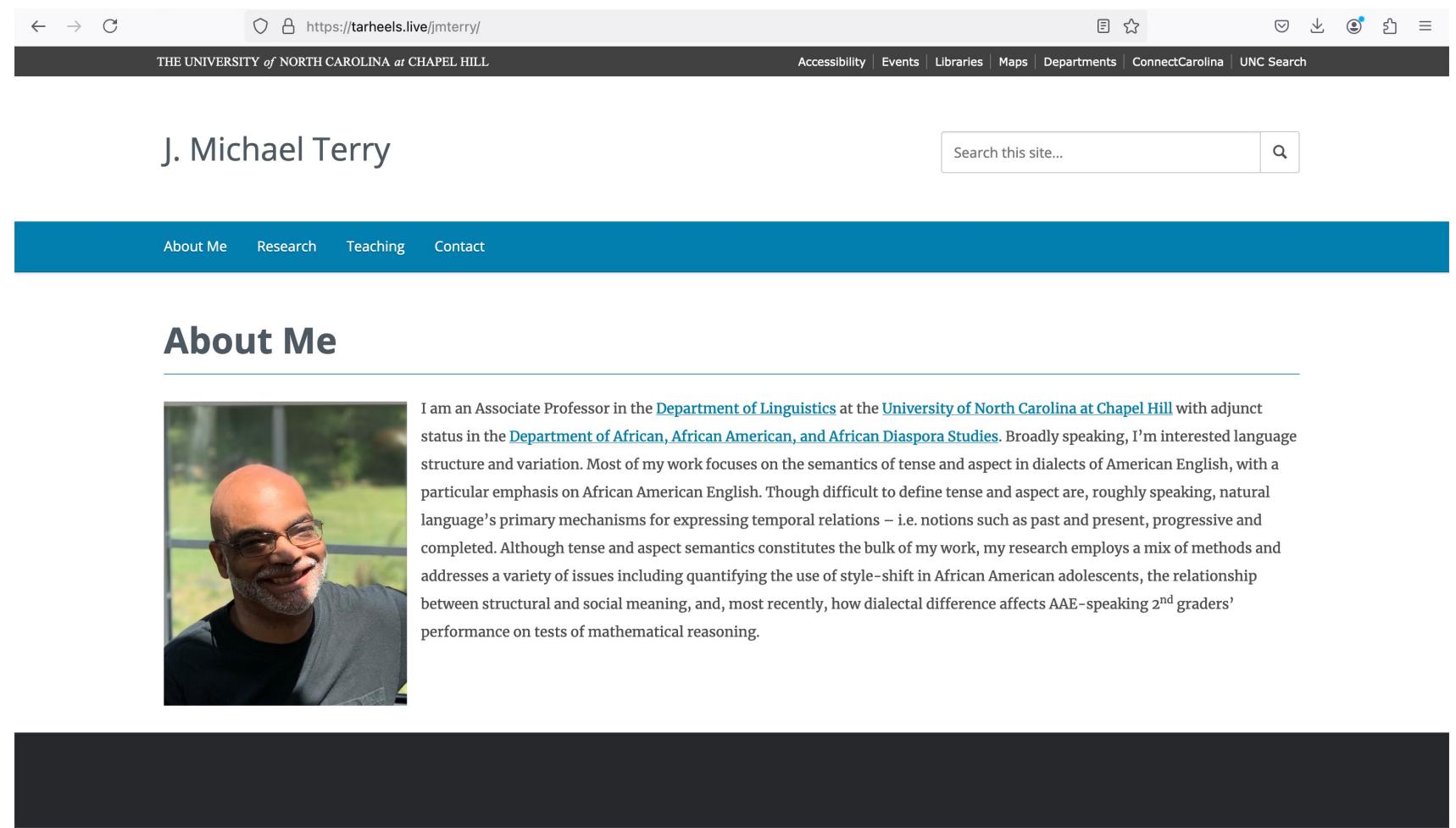
Primary documentation in the form of line drawings of ancient Mayan inscriptions; research on the earliest Mayan hieroglyphic texts, some as early as ca. 400-300 BCE, as well as the broader corpus of inscriptions on portable objects, often bearing a version of the well-known dedicatory and proprietary formulae of Mayan texts.

Interest in the origins of Mesoamerican writing systems, with work on Olmec and Olmecoid writing from the Early and Middle Formative/Preclassic periods.

Limited fieldwork on Guichicovi Mije, a variety of Isthmus Mixean that has been poorly documented by linguists to date.

Also carrying out comparative historical research on Mayan and Mije-Sokean languages, and increasingly delving into research on the Chibchan language family to the south of Mesoamerica.

# Include: a short blurb



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a UNC website. The URL in the address bar is <https://tarheels.live/jmterry/>. The page title is "THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL". A navigation bar at the top includes links for Accessibility, Events, Libraries, Maps, Departments, ConnectCarolina, and UNC Search. Below the navigation bar, the name "J. Michael Terry" is displayed, along with a search bar containing "Search this site...". A blue header bar contains links for About Me, Research, Teaching, and Contact. The main content area features a large heading "About Me" above a portrait photo of a man with glasses and a beard. To the right of the photo is a descriptive text block.

## About Me



I am an Associate Professor in the [Department of Linguistics](#) at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) with adjunct status in the [Department of African, African American, and African Diaspora Studies](#). Broadly speaking, I'm interested language structure and variation. Most of my work focuses on the semantics of tense and aspect in dialects of American English, with a particular emphasis on African American English. Though difficult to define tense and aspect are, roughly speaking, natural language's primary mechanisms for expressing temporal relations – i.e. notions such as past and present, progressive and completed. Although tense and aspect semantics constitutes the bulk of my work, my research employs a mix of methods and addresses a variety of issues including quantifying the use of style-shift in African American adolescents, the relationship between structural and social meaning, and, most recently, how dialectal difference affects AAE-speaking 2<sup>nd</sup> graders' performance on tests of mathematical reasoning.

# Include: a short blurb

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://tarheels.live/jmterry/research/>. The page title is "J. Michael Terry". The navigation bar includes links for "About Me", "Research", "Teaching", and "Contact". A search bar on the right says "Search this site...". The main content area is titled "Research" and contains a detailed paragraph about the author's research interests in Formal Semantics and African American English (AAE).

...and a research  
blurb

## Include: a CV

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- Your CV (curriculum vitae; the academic version of a resume) should be as close as possible to an exhaustive list of accomplishments and scholarly work you've produced
- Put a downloadable PDF of your CV on your website (and maybe an in-page text version as well)
- Keep it up to date! (and possibly even inclusive of upcoming and in-progress work)

# Include: a CV

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Home page of Elliott Morton  
[Department of Linguistics](#)  
Smith Building, Room 101  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3155  
U.S.A.

My email address is my last name (note spelling) at unc.edu. My CV is [here](#).

I am the Department's [Director of Graduate Admissions](#) (2005--) and [Director of Graduate Studies](#) (2009--).

Sign up [here](#) for the Linguistics Department's soundproof chamber in Dey 103.

If I am writing a letter of recommendation for you, you'll need to fill out a [FERPA release form](#) and return it on paper or scanned.

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## Classes I regularly teach

- Linguistics 101, [Introduction to Language](#) (Fall 2019) (Undergraduate)
- Linguistics 200, [Phonology](#) (Spring 2024) (UG)
- Linguistics 202, [Language Change](#) (Spring 2022) (UG)
- Linguistics 333, [Human Language and Animal Communication Systems](#) (Spring 2023) (UG)
- Linguistics 422, [Research Methods in Experimental Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology](#) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 444, [Language Evolution](#) (with Paul Roberge; Fall 2023) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 460, [Textual Data Analysis with R](#) (Fall 2024) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 520, [Linguistic Phonetics](#) (Fall 2024) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 523 [Phonological Theory I](#) (Spring 2023) (G/UG)
- Linguistics 526, [Second-Language Phonetics and Phonology](#) (Fall 2022) (UG/G)

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## Undergraduate research mentoring

- Herlant, Annika (2024). *Sporadic regressive vowel harmony in Turkish*. Senior honors thesis.
- Wrenn, Emma (2024). *Phonetics of Purepecha*. Senior honors thesis.
- Carter, William (2017). *Phonological activeness effects in language acquisition and language structuring*. Senior honors thesis.
- Prickett, Brandon (2014). *The effect of complexity vs. the effect of naturalness on phonological learning*. Senior Honors thesis. Presented at the 22nd Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM), May 29--31.
- Hauser, Ivy (2013). *Sonority as a primitive: Evidence from phonological inventories*. Presented at the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), 2013 February 8--10. [UNC SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship)]
- Reyes, Kayleigh E. (2012). *Inventory size and complexity in the song of the American Robin*. Abstract in: Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 132 (3):1979. [LING 333; independent study]

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## Graduate theses supervised

- Bao, Yuanchen Blaine (2022). *The acquisition of Mandarin Chinese tone by American heritage speakers and second-language learners of Chinese*. (MA, UNC-Chapel Hill)
- Foley, Sean (2022). *Control and biomechanics in coarticulation: insights from an ultrasound study of Standard Mandarin apical vowels*. (MA, UNC-Chapel Hill, co-advised with Jeff Mielke of NCSU Linguistics)
- Carter, William J. T. (2019). *Explicit and implicit acquisition of opacity: initial evaluations of a dual-system model of grammar*. (MA, UNC-Chapel Hill)
- Moeng, Emily (2018). *The acquisition of phonetic categories* (PhD, UNC-Chapel Hill).
- Eisenbarth, Brent (2018). *Reading lips and learning sounds: the effect of visual cue saliency on phonological production in a second language* (MA, UNC-Chapel Hill)
- Deena Ulay (2019). *Phonetic motivation for diachronic sound change in Bantu languages as evidenced by pairwise reanalysed stop consonants by native Somali Chiricahua speakers* (MA, UNC-Chapel Hill)

# Include: a CV

Caitlin's CV page displays a PDF (which is also downloadable)

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a CV page. The URL in the address bar is <https://caitlinsmith14.github.io/cv.html>. The page title is "Caitlin Smith" and the subtitle is "Department of Linguistics, UNC Chapel Hill". There are three navigation links: "Home", "Research", and "CV", with "CV" being the active link. Below the links is the heading "CV". A link "Click here to download as a PDF." is present. The main content area contains the following information:

Updated September 19, 2024

**Caitlin Smith**  
Department of Linguistics  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Smith Building CB #3155  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3155

<https://caitlinsmith14.github.io>  
[csmith14@email.unc.edu](mailto:csmith14@email.unc.edu)

**Education**

2018	Ph.D., Linguistics, University of Southern California Dissertation: Harmony in Gestural Phonology Chair: Rachel Walker
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## **Include: access to scholarly work you've produced**

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- Research page / section should include links to downloadable content and citation information
- May also include blurbs about your research as a whole and/or specific projects within your research program
- Organize materials chronologically (like a CV) or thematically

# Include: access to scholarly work you've produced

Misha organizes  
(selected)  
downloadable  
materials  
chronologically

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://mbecker.web.unc.edu>. The page title is "Selected Recent Publications". Under the "Books" section, there are three entries: "2020. (with Kamil Ud Deen) *Language Acquisition and Development: A Generative Introduction*. MIT Press.", "2014. *The Acquisition of Syntactic Structure: Animacy and Thematic Alignment*. Cambridge University Press.", and "2013. (with John Grinstead and Jason Rothman) *Generative Linguistics and Acquisition: Studies in Honor of Nina M. Hyams*. John Benjamins.". Under the "Papers and Presentations" section, it says "Please e-mail me to request any papers without links!". Under the "Papers" section, there is a long list of publications from 2014 to 2024, each with a DOI or link provided.

Selected Recent Publications

**Books**

- 2020. (with Kamil Ud Deen) *Language Acquisition and Development: A Generative Introduction*. MIT Press.
- 2014. *The Acquisition of Syntactic Structure: Animacy and Thematic Alignment*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2013. (with John Grinstead and Jason Rothman) *Generative Linguistics and Acquisition: Studies in Honor of Nina M. Hyams*. John Benjamins.

**Papers and Presentations**

Please e-mail me to request any papers without links!

**Papers**

- Syrett, K. and M. Becker (2024) "More Hard Words: Learning Emotion and Mental State Adjectives from Linguistic Context, *Language Acquisition*. DOI: 10.1080/10489223.2024.2329071
- Pertsova, K. and M. Becker (2020) "In Support of Phonological Bias in Implicit Learning," *Language Learning & Development*.
- Becker, M. (2020) "Language Attitudes of Primary School Teachers in Vitoria-Gasteiz. *International Multilingual Research Journal*, 14(2): 114–129.
- Shabrack, H., M. Becker and K. Lindquist (2020) "How do Children Learn Novel Emotion Words? A Study of Emotion Concept Acquisition in Preschoolers." *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*.
- Becker, M. (2017) "Innate Mechanisms for Acquiring Syntactic Displacement." *Biolinguistics* vol. 11.
- Becker, M. (2017) "Learning the 'tough' Constructions," *Contact Magazine*. ([link](#))
- Becker, M. (2017) "Resetting the Polysynthesis Parameter: A Preliminary Proposal," in N. LaCara, K. Moulton and A.-M. Tessier (eds.), *A Schrift to Fest Kyle Johnson*, Linguistics Open Access Publications 1. ([link](#))
- Becker, M. (2017) "Reaction Time as a Measure of Implicit Grammaticality Judgment," in L. Escobar, V. Torrens and T. Parodi (eds.), *Language Processing and Disorders*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Gotowski, M. and M. Becker (2016) "An Information-Structural Account of Children's Wh-In Situ Questions in French," talk presented at GALANA 6, University of Maryland, February 2015. ([slides](#)), ([link](#))
- Becker, M. and S. Kirby (2016) "A-Movement in Language Development" in J. Lidz, J. Pater and W. Snyder (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics*, Oxford University Press.
- Becker, M. and M. Gotowski (2015) "Explaining Children's Wh-in situ Questions: Against Economy," in *Proceedings of BUCLD 39*, Cascadilla Press. ([pdf](#))
- Becker, M. (2015) "Learning structures with derived arguments" in A. Trotzke and J. Bayer (eds.), *Syntactic Complexity across Interfaces* Mouton de Gruyter. ([pdf](#))
- Becker, M. (2014) "Animacy and the Acquisition of Tough-Adjectives" *Language Acquisition* ([link](#)) DOI: 10.1080/10489223.2014.928298.

# Include: access to scholarly work you've produced

Katya organizes  
downloadable  
materials  
chronologically

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://users.castle.unc.edu/~pertsova/#download>. The page title is "Papers, handouts". Under "Categorization, cross-domain cognitive biases", there are several entries, each with a link and a PDF icon. Under "Morphology and morpho-phonology", there are many entries, some with DOI links and PDF icons. Under "Learning of inflection", there are three entries. Under "Dissertation (UCLA, 2007)", there are two entries, one with a PDF icon and another with an abstract link.

Papers, handouts

Categorization, cross-domain cognitive biases

- "Learning repetition, but not syllable reversal" with Elliott Moreton, Brandon Pricket, Josh Fennell, Joe Pater and Lisa Sanders in Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Phonology ([link](#))
- "In support of phonology bias in implicit learning" with Misha Becker. 2020. Language Learning and Development. 17(2). pp. 128-157. (preprint version) [pdf](#)
- "Phonological concept learning" with Elliott Moreton and Joe Pater. 2016. *Cognitive Science* 41 (1), pp. 4-69. ([offprint](#))
- "Implicit and explicit processes in phonotactic learning" with Elliott Moreton. 2016. Proceedings of BUCLD 2015 [pdf](#)
- "Pastry phonotactics: Is phonological learning special?" with Elliott Moreton. 2013. In proceedings of the 43rd annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, CUNY, NY. [pdf](#)
- "Linguistic Categorization and Complexity." 2012. In proceedings of the 12th meeting of the Association of Computational Linguistics Special Interest Group on Computational Morphology and Phonology, pp. 72-81. [pdf](#)
- "Logical Complexity in Morphological Learning: effects of structure and null/overt affixation on learning paradigms." 2012. In proceedings of the 38th meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society. [pdf](#)

Morphology and morpho-phonology

- "The limits of morphological productivity." 2021. Slides for the FASL 2021 conference. [pdf](#)
- "Root and semiphrasal compounds: A syntactic approach." with Dimitrios Ntelitheos. 2019. Proceedings of the 2019 meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Ed. Patrick Farrell. Vol. 4. pp. 301-314. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v4i1.4530>
- "Emergent Positional Faithfulness in Novel English Blends" with J. L. Smith, E. Moreton, R. Broad and B. Pricket. 2017. *Language* 93 (2), pp. 347-380.
- "Transderivational Relations and Paradigm Gaps in Russian Verbs" 2016. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 1(1), 13. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.59>
- "Experimental Evidence for Lexical Conservatism in Russian: defective verbs revisited" 2015. proceedings of FASL 24 [link](#)
- "Emergent faithfulness to proper nouns in novel English blends." with Rachel Broad, Brandon Prickett, Elliott Moreton, and Jennifer Smith. proceedings of WCCFL 33, 2015. [pdf](#)
- "Interaction of morphology and phonology in Russian genitive plural allomorphy" 2015. *Morphology* 25, pp. 229-266. DOI 10.1007/s11525-015-9256-1 ([offprint](#))
- "Emergent noun faithfulness in novel English blends" with Jennifer Smith, Elliott Moreton, and Rachel Broad. from presentation at the 22nd Manchester Phonology Meeting; University of Manchester, May, 2014 ([handout](#))
- "Asymmetries in priming of verbal and nominal inflectional affixes in Russian" with Sarah VanWagenen 2014. In the special issue of UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics 18, *Connectedness. Papers by and for Sarah VanWagenen*. C. Schuetze and L. Stockall (eds.) Papers in Linguistics, no. 18, Carson Schutze and Linnaea Stockall (eds.)
- "Morphological Markedness in an OT-Grammar: zeros and syncretism" 2014. In supplemental proceedings of Phonology 2013, John Kingston, Claire Moore-Cantwell, Joe Pater, and Robert Staubs (eds.), Linguistic Society of America, Washington DC. [link](#)
- "How lexical conservatism can lead to paradigm gaps" 2005. In UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics, no. 11 [pdf](#)

Learning of inflection

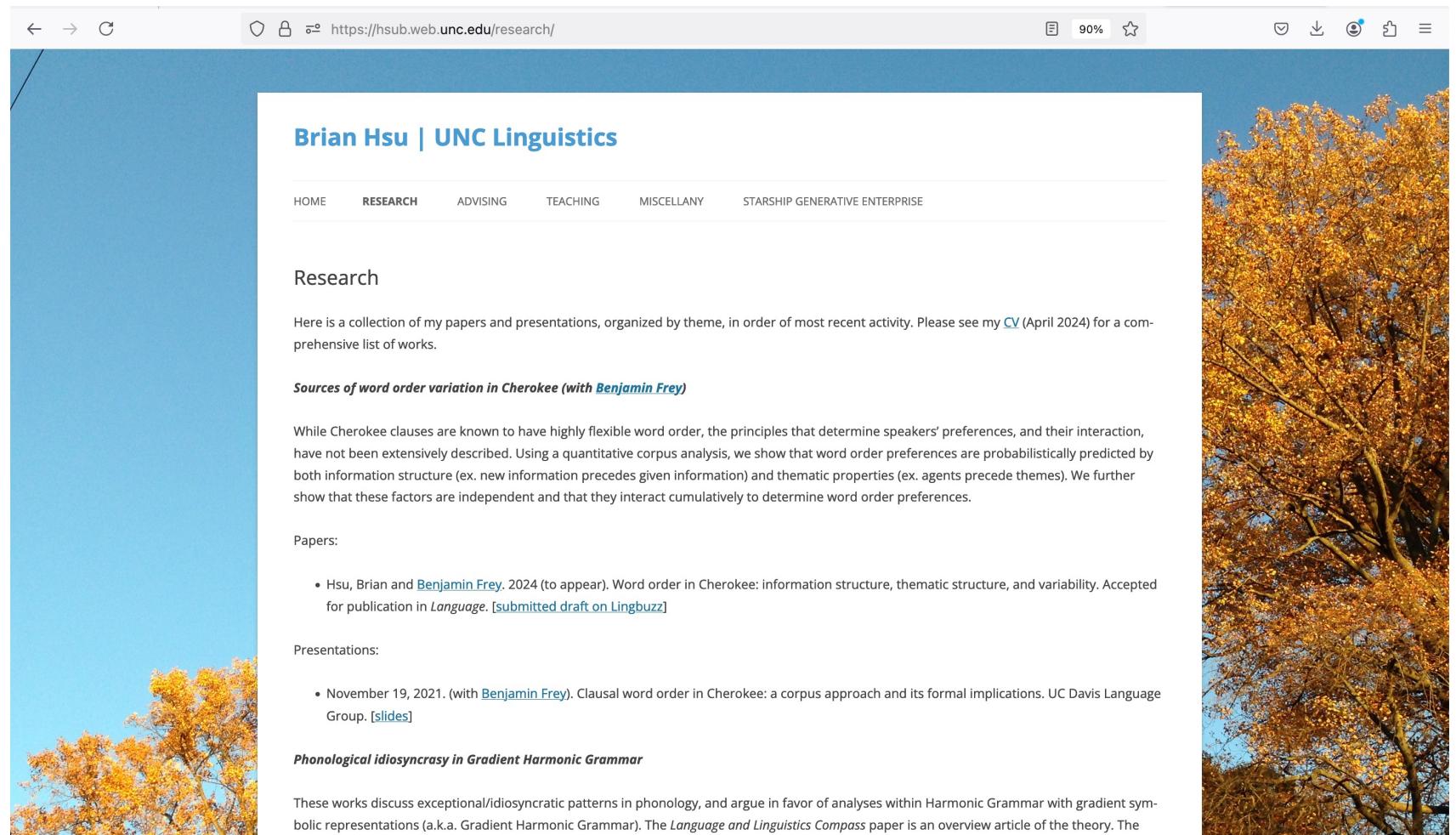
- "Machine learning of inflection," to appear in the Oxford Handbook of Inflection, M. Baerman (ed.) ([pdf](#)) (comments are still welcome)
- "Grounding systematic syncretism in learning" (2011). *Linguistic Inquiry*, 42:2
- "Comparing learners for Boolean partitions: implications for morphological paradigms." (2009). In Proceedings of a workshop on Grammatical Inference, EACL 2009 ([pdf](#))

Dissertation (UCLA, 2007)

- *Learning Form-Meaning Mappings in Presence of Homonymy*
- ([abstract](#))

# Include: access to scholarly work you've produced

Brian organizes materials thematically / by project



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a research page from Brian Hsu's website. The URL in the address bar is <https://hsub.web.unc.edu/research/>. The page has a blue header with the text "Brian Hsu | UNC Linguistics". Below the header is a navigation menu with links to HOME, RESEARCH (which is currently selected), ADVISING, TEACHING, MISCELLANY, and STARSHIP GENERATIVE ENTERPRISE. The main content area is titled "Research" and contains a paragraph about a collection of papers and presentations organized by theme. It also includes sections for "Sources of word order variation in Cherokee (with Benjamin Frey)" and "Papers:" which lists an accepted publication. There is also a section for "Presentations:". At the bottom, there is a link to "Phonological idiosyncrasy in Gradient Harmonic Grammar" with a brief description.

https://hsub.web.unc.edu/research/

Brian Hsu | UNC Linguistics

HOME RESEARCH ADVISING TEACHING MISCELLANY STARSHIP GENERATIVE ENTERPRISE

## Research

Here is a collection of my papers and presentations, organized by theme, in order of most recent activity. Please see my [CV](#) (April 2024) for a comprehensive list of works.

**Sources of word order variation in Cherokee (with Benjamin Frey)**

While Cherokee clauses are known to have highly flexible word order, the principles that determine speakers' preferences, and their interaction, have not been extensively described. Using a quantitative corpus analysis, we show that word order preferences are probabilistically predicted by both information structure (ex. new information precedes given information) and thematic properties (ex. agents precede themes). We further show that these factors are independent and that they interact cumulatively to determine word order preferences.

Papers:

- Hsu, Brian and [Benjamin Frey](#). 2024 (to appear). Word order in Cherokee: information structure, thematic structure, and variability. Accepted for publication in *Language*. [\[submitted draft on LingBuzz\]](#)

Presentations:

- November 19, 2021. (with [Benjamin Frey](#)). Clausal word order in Cherokee: a corpus approach and its formal implications. UC Davis Language Group. [\[slides\]](#)

**Phonological idiosyncrasy in Gradient Harmonic Grammar**

These works discuss exceptional/idiomatic patterns in phonology, and argue in favor of analyses within Harmonic Grammar with gradient symbolic representations (a.k.a. Gradient Harmonic Grammar). The *Language and Linguistics Compass* paper is an overview article of the theory. The

# Include: access to scholarly work you've produced

Caitlin organizes materials thematically / by project

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a GitHub page at <https://caitlinsmith14.github.io/research.html>. The page is titled "Caitlin Smith" and is associated with the "Department of Linguistics, UNC Chapel Hill". A navigation bar includes links for "Home", "Research", and "CV". The main content discusses research aims related to phonology and gestures. Below this, a section titled "Harmony" is described, mentioning its nature and the Gestural Harmony Model. It also notes a dissertation available on LingBuzz. At the bottom, there is information about a poster presentation and a talk at the Society for Computation in Linguistics.

**Caitlin Smith**  
Department of Linguistics, UNC Chapel Hill

[Home](#) [Research](#) [CV](#)

My research aims to answer a fundamental question within phonology: which units of representation provide the best fit to the cross-linguistic phonological patterns that we observe? I focus primarily on investigating the advantages and insights gained by adopting sub-segmental units of representation known as gestures. One of the aims of my research involves the reanalysis of persistent theoretical puzzles in phonology within the framework of gestural phonology. I also work to build on some of the core representational concepts of gestural phonology. This includes modifying and expanding upon the established set of gestural parameters, proposing novel types of relations that exist between gestures, and developing a phonological grammar that operates over gestural representations.

On this page, you'll find some of my written work and conference presentation materials, organized thematically. Click one of the tags below to jump directly to a section.

[ Harmony ] [ Machine Learning ] [ Opacity ] [ Phonological Exceptionality ] [ Computational Complexity ]  
[ Morphological Consonant Mutation ] [ Speech Production ]

## Harmony

Harmony is a widely studied phonological phenomenon that continues to spark debate regarding the nature of triggers (segments that initiate harmony), undergoers (segments that are affected by harmony), so-called neutral segments (segments that apparently do not participate in harmony), and directionality (whether a trigger affects preceding or following segments), among other issues. I address all of these issues via formal phonological analysis and computational modeling. The Gestural Harmony Model that I propose provides long-sought solutions to the representation of harmony that are not available to many feature-based analyses.

In addition to the written works cited below, my 2018 USC dissertation, *Harmony in Gestural Phonology*, is available on [Lingbuzz](#).

Adelino, Lucas, Caitlin Smith (2024) Height Harmony and Nasal Vowels: An Argument for Agreement by Correspondence. To appear in *Proceedings of NELS 54*.

[ poster January 2024 ] [ paper coming soon ]

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Smith, Caitlin (2022) Grammar and Representation Learning for Opaque Harmony Processes (joint work with Charlie O'Hara). Invited talk presented at the Society for Computation in Linguistics.

# Include: access to scholarly work you've produced

Jen organizes materials thematically / by project

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/home/research.html>. The page title is "Research interests" and it is associated with "Jennifer L. Smith | Department of Linguistics | UNC Chapel Hill". The content discusses the study of linguistics, focusing on phonology and its constraints. It lists several key questions about phonological constraints, such as their ranking, referents, and universality. The page also mentions specific projects like "lexical-category effects in phonology" and "loanword phonology".

**Research interests**  
Jennifer L. Smith | Department of Linguistics | UNC Chapel Hill

In a nutshell, **linguistics** is the study of the structure and use of human language, of the implications of this structure and use for our understanding of human cognition, and of the interaction between human language and human culture and society. Within linguistics, my research focus is **phonology**, the study of sound-structure systems in language. Work in phonology over the last few decades strongly supports a model of the phonological grammar in which the sound patterns of each individual language are enforced by a set of **violable constraints** that can be prioritized differently in different languages.

What, then, are these constraints like? My research program is organized around the following key questions:

- Can constraints in the phonological component of the grammar (or their ranking/weighting) refer to, or be restricted by, **information from other components of the grammar**? What is the role of factors such as phonetic naturalness, morphosyntactic word class, status as a loanword, or syntactic/semantic structure?
- What elements of **phonological representation** can constraints refer to? For example, can constraints refer to **prosodic constituents** such as syllables, prosodic words, and phonological phrases? Can they refer specifically to **salient positions** (or non-salient positions)?
- To what extent are the phonological constraints **universally available** (either innately specified, or universally induced by all learners), versus language-specific?

I address these broad questions through projects on more specific topics, such as (follow these links for more information and relevant publications): **positional effects** in phonology (including **lexical-category effects/"noun faithfulness"**); **loanword phonology**; **Fukuoka Japanese intonation** and other work on the **phonology of Japanese**; and **sonority and syllable structure**.

Some of my work is experiment-based, involving **recording speakers** producing utterances in the phonetics laboratory, experiments on **blend phonology**, or other **experimental phonology** methods such as artificial-language and surfeit-of-the-stimulus experiments.

Past research projects have also addressed the **phonology of other East Asian languages** and **phonology and reading**.

[View a list of all downloadable papers and handouts](#) [Download my CV \(PDF\)](#)

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**Lexical-category effects in phonology (including "noun faithfulness")**

(This topic is related to the general research area of **positional effects**.)

While the morphosyntactic differences between nouns, verbs, and adjectives have long been important in linguistic theory, there are also intriguing differences in the **phonological behavior** of words of different lexical categories. For example, I have found typological evidence for a hierarchy of phonological privilege, N > A > V. Another typological finding is that category-specific phonological effects are overwhelmingly prosodic rather than segmental. My most recent work on this topic recruits **artificial-language learning** methodology to investigate whether there is evidence for a bias toward either noun privilege or prosodic effects in category-specific phonology. My collaborative research on **blend phonology** also explores aspects of category-specific phonological privilege.

[Papers, handouts, or posters on lexical-category effects in phonology](#)

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**Loanword phonology**

My work approaches **loanword phonology** from several angles.

One project looks at the **productivity of core-periphery structure** in languages with many loanwords, and its implications for the phonological grammar. I have collaborated with Justin Pinta on Guarani, and with Yuka Muratani Tashiro on Japanese, to carry out nonce-loan nativization experiments investigating these questions.

Another project addresses the debate over whether and how the phonological grammar is involved in the process of loanword adaptation, which is clearly also influenced by phonetic and sociocultural factors. I argue that loanword phonology involves a correspondence relation between outputs and the **posited source-language (pLs) representation**. The pLs representation includes all the information that a borrower has about a loanword's

# Include resources / tools you've developed

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- Contributions to the field aren't confined to written work
- If you develop a resource or tool for linguistic analysis and/or teaching, share it with the world!
- Making these resources and tools available:
  - Shows off your impressive technical skills
  - Shows that you care about contributing to the community

# Include resources you've developed

Elliott's site has a  
'Useful stuff'  
section, including a  
compendium of  
synchronic chain  
shifts



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a personal homepage. The URL in the address bar is <https://users.castle.unc.edu/~moreton/>. The page content includes:

Home page of Elliott Moreton  
Department of Linguistics  
Smith Building, Room 101  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3155  
U.S.A.

My email address is my last name (note spelling) at unc.edu. My CV is [here](#).

I am the Department's [Director of Graduate Admissions](#) (2005--) and [Director of Graduate Studies](#) (2009--).

Sign up [here](#) for the Linguistics Department's soundproof chamber in Dey 103.

If I am writing a letter of recommendation for you, you'll need to fill out a [FERPA release form](#) and return it on paper or scanned.

**Classes I regularly teach**

- Linguistics 101, [Introduction to Language](#) (Fall 2019) (Undergraduate)
- Linguistics 200, [Phonology](#) (Spring 2024) (UG)
- Linguistics 202, [Language Change](#) (Spring 2022) (UG)
- Linguistics 333, [Human Language and Animal Communication Systems](#) (Spring 2023) (UG)
- Linguistics 422, [Research Methods in Experimental Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology](#) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 444, [Language Evolution](#) (with Paul Roberge; Fall 2023) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 460, [Textual Data Analysis with R](#) (Fall 2024) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 520, [Linguistic Phonetics](#) (Fall 2024) (UG/G)
- Linguistics 523 [Phonological Theory I](#) (Spring 2023) (G/UG)
- Linguistics 526, [Second-Language Phonetics and Phonology](#) (Fall 2022) (UG/G)

**Undergraduate research mentoring**

- Herlant, Annika (2024). *Sporadic regressive vowel harmony in Turkish*. Senior honors thesis.
- Wrenn, Emma (2024). *Phonetics of P'urepecha*. Senior honors thesis.
- Carter, William (2017). *Phonological activeness effects in language acquisition and language structuring*. Senior honors thesis.
- Prickett, Brandon (2014). *The effect of complexity vs. the effect of naturalness on phonological learning*. Senior Honors thesis. Presented at the 22nd Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM), May 29--31.
- Hauser, Ivy (2013). *Sonority as a primitive: Evidence from phonological inventories*. Presented at the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), 2013 February 8--10. [UNC SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship)]
- Reyes, Kayleigh E. (2012). *Inventory size and complexity in the song of the American Robin*. Abstract in: Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 132 (3):1979. [LING 333; independent study]

**Graduate theses supervised**

# Include resources you've developed

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Katya has a link to  
a [pronominal  
paradigms  
database](#)

## Katya Pertsova

Associate Professor in  
Linguistics

[home](#) [papers](#) [projects](#) [teaching](#)

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### Contact Info

308 Smith Building  
Linguistics Department  
University of Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

[pertsova AT email.unc.edu](mailto:pertsova@email.unc.edu)



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**Research areas:** morphology, morpho-phonology, cognitive biases and categorization, computational models of morphological and phonological learning, Russian

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### Current Projects

- artificial grammar learning and cognitive biases (with Elliott Moreton (UNC), Joe Pater (UMass), and Lisa Sanders (UMass))
- acquisition of verbal morphology in Russian with special attention to defectiveness (with Anastasiya Lopukhina (HSE, Russia))
- typology of pronominal morphology (see [this database of pronominal paradigms](#))
- morpho-syntax of compounding in Spanish and Russian (with Dimitrios Ntelitheos (UAE University))

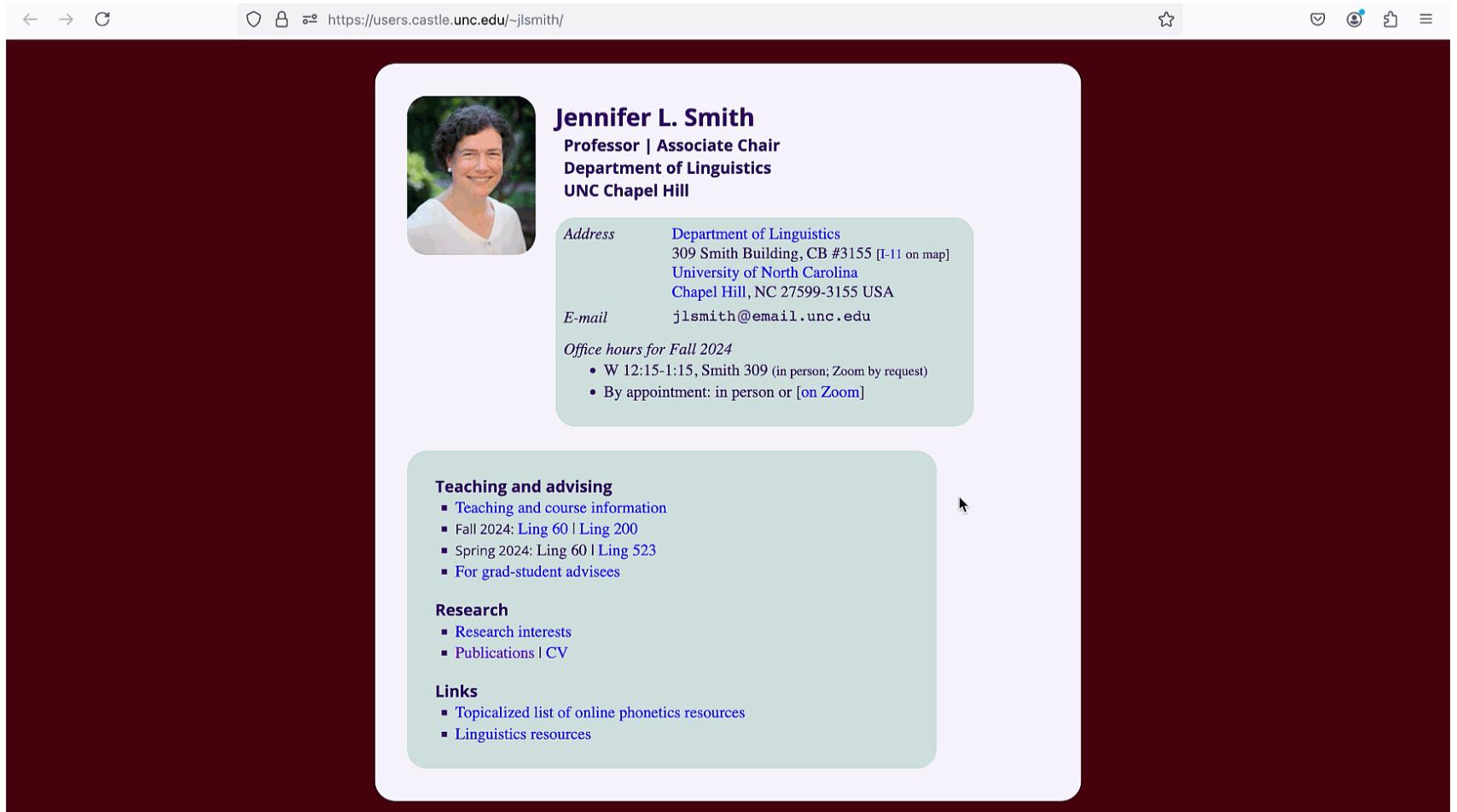
My research lies at the intersection of morphology, computational modeling and psycholinguistics. In particular, I'm interested in questions related to morphological theories, models of language learning, complexity metrics for linguistic patterns, lexical storage and organization.

### Papers, handouts

[Categorization across domain cognitive biases](#)

# Include resources you've developed

Jen's site has a page with [lists of online linguistics-related resources](#)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a profile page for Jennifer L. Smith. The URL in the address bar is <https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/>. The page features a dark red header and a white content area. On the left is a portrait photo of Jennifer L. Smith. To her right, her name is displayed in bold, followed by her title "Professor | Associate Chair" and her department "Department of Linguistics" and location "UNC Chapel Hill". Below this, there are two sections: "Address" and "E-mail", both containing her contact information. A green box below these contains her office hours for Fall 2024. At the bottom of the page are three sections: "Teaching and advising", "Research", and "Links", each with a list of links.

**Jennifer L. Smith**  
Professor | Associate Chair  
Department of Linguistics  
UNC Chapel Hill

**Address**  
Department of Linguistics  
309 Smith Building, CB #3155 [[I-11 on map](#)]  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3155 USA  
**E-mail** [jlsmith@email.unc.edu](mailto:jlsmith@email.unc.edu)

*Office hours for Fall 2024*

- W 12:15-1:15, Smith 309 (in person; Zoom by request)
- By appointment: in person or [[on Zoom](#)]

**Teaching and advising**

- Teaching and course information
- Fall 2024: [Ling 60](#) | [Ling 200](#)
- Spring 2024: [Ling 60](#) | [Ling 523](#)
- For grad-student advisees

**Research**

- Research interests
- Publications | CV

**Links**

- Topicalized list of online phonetics resources
- Linguistics resources

# Include resources you've developed

The screenshot shows a Wix website for Jamilläh Rodriguez. The URL is https://jamillahsrodriguez.wixsite.com/jamillah/copala-triqui. The page features a large title "Jamilläh Rodriguez" with the phonetic transcription "[dʒə.'mi.lə ɹə.'dri.gəz]" below it. A navigation bar at the bottom includes links for Home, CV, Research, Output, Copala Triqui, and other unlabelled items. A banner at the top states "This site was designed with the WIX.com website builder. Create your website today." with a "Start Now" button.

Jamilläh released a  
Copala Triqui  
Dictionary App

If you or someone you know needs Copala Triqui translation or interpretation services, please contact Monica DRamirez. See her website at <https://monicadramirez.wixsite.com/translation> for more details.

Si usted o alguien que conoce necesita servicios de traducción o interpretación del triqui bajo, comuníquese con Mónica DRamírez. Consulte su sitio web en <https://monicadramirez.wixsite.com/translation?lang=es> para obtener más detalles.

## Copala Triqui Dictionary App



Illustration credit to Blare Coughlin

# Include tools you've developed

Caitlin has links to GitHub repositories and Google Colabs for gestural parameter and Maxent learners

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a GitHub page for Caitlin Smith. The URL is https://caitlinsmith14.github.io/research.html. The page is titled "Caitlin Smith" and "Department of Linguistics, UNC Chapel Hill". It features a navigation bar with "Home", "Research" (which is currently selected), and "CV". Below the navigation, there is a paragraph about her research aims, followed by a section on "Harmony" with a detailed description and a link to her dissertation. There are also sections for "Machine Learning", "Opacity", "Phonological Exceptionality", "Computational Complexity", "Morphological Consonant Mutation", and "Speech Production". At the bottom, there is a list of publications.

**Caitlin Smith**  
Department of Linguistics, UNC Chapel Hill

[Home](#) [Research](#) [CV](#)

My research aims to answer a fundamental question within phonology: which units of representation provide the best fit to the cross-linguistic phonological patterns that we observe? I focus primarily on investigating the advantages and insights gained by adopting sub-segmental units of representation known as gestures. One of the aims of my research involves the reanalysis of persistent theoretical puzzles in phonology within the framework of gestural phonology. I also work to build on some of the core representational concepts of gestural phonology. This includes modifying and expanding upon the established set of gestural parameters, proposing novel types of relations that exist between gestures, and developing a phonological grammar that operates over gestural representations.

On this page, you'll find some of my written work and conference presentation materials, organized thematically. Click one of the tags below to jump directly to a section.

[ Harmony ] [ Machine Learning ] [ Opacity ] [ Phonological Exceptionality ] [ Computational Complexity ]  
[ Morphological Consonant Mutation ] [ Speech Production ]

**Harmony**

Harmony is a widely studied phonological phenomenon that continues to spark debate regarding the nature of triggers (segments that initiate harmony), undergoers (segments that are affected by harmony), so-called neutral segments (segments that apparently do not participate in harmony), and directionality (whether a trigger affects preceding or following segments), among other issues. I address all of these issues via formal phonological analysis and computational modeling. The Gestural Harmony Model that I propose provides long-sought solutions to the representation of harmony that are not available to many feature-based analyses.

In addition to the written works cited below, my 2018 USC dissertation, *Harmony in Gestural Phonology*, is available on [LingBuzz](#).

Adelino, Lucas, Caitlin Smith (2024) Height Harmony and Nasal Vowels: An Argument for Agreement by Correspondence. To appear in *Proceedings of NELS 54*.

[ poster January 2024 ] [ paper coming soon ]

Smith, Caitlin (2022) Grammar and Representation Learning for Opaque Harmony Processes (joint work with Charlie O'Hara).

## Maybe include: a picture

---

- Many, but not all, academic websites include a picture
- Picture is good for:
  - Making a good first impression in which you appear professional and personable
  - Increasing the chance that someone who has visited your site will recognize and approach you at a conference
- If you include a picture, keep it professional! stick to a nice, simple headshot or something similar

## Maybe include: news items

---

- News feed is great for telling people what you're currently up to and for looking like you're busy and productive
- Keep it up to date! Nothing is sadder than an abandoned news feed
- Alternative: list upcoming presentations and publications in your CV (like Caitlin) or on your home page (like Brian)

## Maybe include: personal stuff

---

- Most academic websites include little or no information about personal interests
- Personal interest information is good for:
  - Cultivating an impression of a department with a healthy culture and relationship with work
  - Connecting with other linguists over shared interests (an important aspect of networking)
- Keep it professional! Pets, safe-for-work hobbies, etc.

# Maybe include: personal stuff

---

Brian posts weekly editions of the  
Starship Generative Enterprise



The image shows a screenshot of a website for "Brian Hsu | UNC Linguistics". The header includes the name "Brian Hsu | UNC Linguistics" and a navigation menu with links to "HOME", "RESEARCH", "ADVISING", "TEACHING", "MISCELLANY", and "STARSHIP GENERATIVE ENTERPRISE". Below the header, there is a section titled "Starship Generative Enterprise" which contains a quote from Star Trek: The Next Generation. The quote is: "Sir, we're about to encounter multiple uninterpretable features at the edge of the CP phase. Derivational crash is imminent." The background of the website is a photograph of a blue sky and yellow autumn leaves.

**Brian Hsu | UNC Linguistics**

HOME RESEARCH ADVISING TEACHING MISCELLANY STARSHIP GENERATIVE ENTERPRISE

Starship Generative Enterprise

Caitlin Smith and I have recently created [Starship Generative Enterprise](#), which reimagines technobabble dialogue in Star Trek: The Next Generation with the discoveries of modern linguistics. Here's an example:



Sir, we're about to encounter multiple uninterpretable features at the edge of the CP phase. Derivational crash is imminent.

# How do I make my own website?

# First: make some decisions

---

- Decide on content / layout / design / functionality of your website
  - What elements do you want to include?
  - How do you want to organize them across your pages?
  - How elaborate do you want your design to be?
  - Do you want to host software tools on your site, or externally?
- Decide on how you want to work with your website's contents
- Pick a hosting service

# Decide on how you want to work with website's contents

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- Websites (collections of web pages) are made up of a few file types:
  - HTML file (required) contains the contents of a page
  - CSS file (optional) styles the contents of one or many pages
  - JavaScript file (very optional) adds animation and interactivity to contents of one or many pages
  - XML file (very optional) contains the contents of a blog/newsfeed
- Create and edit site contents by either
  - Directly working with HTML / CSS / JavaScript files in text editor
  - Using a content management system (CMS) that creates all of the files that make up a website for you

# Pick a hosting service

---

- Websites run on servers that deliver their content to individuals using internet browsers
- Hosting service is organization that gives you access (free or paid) to space on their server where your website will live
- Hosting services may:
  - Be free or paid
  - Be UNC-affiliated or not
  - Allow use of a content management system or not
  - Allow you to include web tools you've developed or not

# Free web hosting options within UNC

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- [TarHeels.live](#) (formerly [web.unc.edu](#))
  - uses WordPress as content management system
  - best for public-facing sites for UNC-affiliated individuals and groups
- [adminliveunc.sharepoint.com](#)
  - uses SharePoint interface for creating pages
  - integrated with all Microsoft products provided by UNC (Office, OneDrive, etc.)
  - best for groups (e.g. lab groups, reading groups) who want private space to collaborate

# Additional free web hosting options

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- [GitHub.io](#)
  - Upload your own HTML / CSS / JavaScript files to public GitHub repository
  - Good for total customization of content beyond what WordPress and SharePoint allow
  - Requires good knowledge of HTML / CSS (use of content management system requires additional tools like [Jekyll](#))
- [WordPress.com](#)
  - Uses WordPress content management system and templates
  - Free and paid options
- [Wix.com](#)
  - Uses its own content management system and templates
  - Free and paid options

## Let's do this

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- Go to [TarHeels.live](https://tarheels.live) to set up your own UNC-affiliated, Wordpress-enabled website
- When you're happy with your site, email Patrick ([pevans@email.unc.edu](mailto:pevans@email.unc.edu)) to ask him to add a link to your site to the department's online list of grad students