

James Tanner

English Language & Linguistics, University of Glasgow

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Employment

2023-present	Postdoctoral Fellow , English Language & Linguistics, University of Glasgow	Glasgow, UK
2021-2023	Speech Scientist , Resemble AI	Montréal, Canada
2021-2021	Research Analyst , Data Sciences	Montréal, Canada
2020-2021	Research Assistant , Department of Linguistics, McGill University	Montréal, Canada
2017-2018	Language Engineer , Amazon	Gdańsk, Poland

Education

2016-2020	PhD, Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis: <i>Structured phonetic variation across dialects and speakers of English and Japanese</i> (PDF)Advisors: Morgan Sonderegger, Jane Stuart-SmithCommittee: Meghan Clayards, Charles BobergExaminers: Francisco Torreira (internal), Gerry Docherty (external)Defence committee: Heather Goad (chair), Yoonjung Kang (external), Morgan Sonderegger, Meghan Clayards, Francisco Torreira	McGill University
2013-2015	MA, Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis: <i>The representation and processing of inflectional morphology: the prosodic dual-route hypothesis</i>Advisor: Heather Goad	McGill University
2008-2011	BA (Honours), Linguistics (First Class)	University of Kent

Journal Publications

2025	Tanner, J. , Shinohara, Y., and Chiu, F. 'Language-specific phonetic realisation of stop voicing contrasts in English and Japanese synthesised speech'. <i>JASA Express Letters</i> , 5 (8), 085202. 10.1121/10.0039066
2025	Tanner, J. , Igarashi, Y., and Maekawa, K. 'Speech rate effects on the realisation of multiple acoustic cues to the Japanese stop voicing contrast'. <i>Journal of the Acoustical Society of America</i> , 157 (4), 2624-2635. 10.1121/10.0036393
2023	Tanner, J. 'Prosodic and durational influences on the formant dynamics of Japanese vowels'. <i>JASA Express Letters</i> , 3 (8), 085202. 10.1121/10.0020547
2020	Tanner, J. , Sonderegger, M., and Stuart-Smith, J. 'Structured speaker variability in Japanese stops: relationships within versus across cues to stop voicing'. <i>Journal of the Acoustical Society of America</i> , 148 (2), 793-804. 10.1121/10.0001734
2020	Tanner, J. , Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., and Fruehwald, J. 'Toward 'English' phonetics: variability in the pre-consonantal voicing effect across English dialects and speakers'. <i>Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence</i> , 3:38. 10.3389/frai.2020.00038
2019	Tanner, J. , Sonderegger, M., and Torreira, F. 'Durational evidence that Tokyo Japanese vowel devoicing is not gradient reduction'. <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> , 10:821. 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00821
2017	Tanner, J. , Sonderegger, M., and Wagner, M.. 'Production planning and coronal stop deletion in spontaneous speech'. <i>Laboratory Phonology</i> , 8(1), 15. 10.5334/labphon.96

Conference Proceedings

- 2025 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., and Kendall T. 'Automatic classification of stop realisation with wav2vec2.0'. In *Proceedings of Interspeech 2025*, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Pages 2270-2274. [10.21437/Interspeech.2025-491](https://doi.org/10.21437/Interspeech.2025-491)
- 2025 Christodoulidou, P., **Tanner, J.**, Stuart-Smith, J., McAuliffe, M., Murali, M., Smith, A., Taylor, L., Cleland, J., and Kuschmann A. 'A semi-automatic pipeline for transcribing and segmenting child speech', In *Proceedings of Interspeech 2025*, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, Pages 4278-4282. [10.21437/Interspeech.2025-1030](https://doi.org/10.21437/Interspeech.2025-1030)
- 2024 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Kendall, T., Mielke, J., Dodsworth, R., and Thomas, E. 'Exploring the anatomy of articulation rate in spontaneous English speech: relationships between utterance length effects and social factors'. In *Proceedings of Interspeech 2024*, Kos, Greece. Pages 467-471. [10.21437/Interspeech.2024-1154](https://doi.org/10.21437/Interspeech.2024-1154)
- 2022 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and Stuart-Smith, J. 'Multidimensional acoustic variation across English dialects'. In *Proceedings of the 19th SIGMORPHON Workshop on Computational Research in Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology*, Seattle, Washington. Pages 72-82. [10.18653/v1/2022.sigmorphon-1.8](https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2022.sigmorphon-1.8)
- 2019 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and Stuart-Smith, J. 'Structured speaker variability in spontaneous Japanese stop contrast production'. In *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Melbourne, Australia. Pages 666-670. [Access](#)
- 2019 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., and The SPADE Consortium. 'Vowel duration and the voicing effect across English dialects'. *Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics*, 41(1). [10.33137/twpl.v41i1.32769](https://doi.org/10.33137/twpl.v41i1.32769)
- 2015 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and Wagner, M.. 'Production planning and coronal stop deletion in spontaneous speech'. In *Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Glasgow, United Kingdom. [Access](#)

Other Writings

- submitted **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Kendall, T., Mielke, J., Dodsworth, R., and Thomas, E. 'Disentangling the constraints on English speech rate: the role of production and social factors across North American and British Isles Englishes'.

Invited Talks

- 2025 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., and Kendall, T. 'Detecting stops automatically with wav2vec2'. 2nd June, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 **Tanner, J.**, Igarashi, Y., and Maekawa, K. 'Speech rate effects on the Japanese stop voicing contrast'. 9th July, 277th NINJAL Salon, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo, Japan. [Slides](#)
- Tanner, J.**, Stuart-Smith, J., Sonderegger, M., Mielke, J., Thomas, E., Boberg, C., Dodsworth, R., and The SPADE Consortium. 'Vowel variation across English dialects: variation in formant dynamics and duration'. [Slides](#)
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, United States, 19th March 2025.
 - Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom, 11th June 2024.
 - Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom, 29th May 2024.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 Stuart-Smith, J., **Tanner, J.**, Murali, M., Christodoulidou, P., Smith, A., Taylor, L., Cleland, J., and Kuschmann, A. 'Delineating the sociophonetic variation of vowels in Scottish primary school children'. Presented at *UK Language Variation & Change 15*, 2-4th September, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, United Kingdom.

- 2025 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., and Kendall T. ‘Automatic classification of stop realisation with wav2vec2.0’. Presented at *Interspeech 2025*, 17-21st August, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. [Slides](#)
- 2025 Christodoulidou, P., **Tanner, J.**, Stuart-Smith, J., McAuliffe, M., Murali, M., Smith, A., Taylor, L., Cleland, J., and Kuschmann A. ‘A semi-automatic pipeline for transcribing and segmenting child speech’. Poster presented at *Proceedings of Interspeech 2025*, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2025 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., and Kendall, T. ‘Detecting stops automatically with wav2vec2’. Presented at *Promoting fairness for under-represented languages in multilingual LLMs Workshop*, 26th May, Université Paris Cité/University of Washington, Paris, France.
- 2025 **Tanner, J.** and Stuart-Smith, J. ‘The Speech Across Dialects of English (SPADE) Project: Opportunities for variationist research’. Presented at *Unfashionable Language Workshop*, 13th March, Sheffield, United Kingdom. [Slides](#)
- 2024 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Kendall, T., Mielke, J., Dodsworth, R., and Thomas, E. ‘Exploring the anatomy of articulation rate in spontaneous English speech: relationships between utterance length effects and social factors’. Presented at *Interspeech 2024*, 1-5th September, Kos, Greece. [Slides](#)
- 2024 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Kendall, T., Mielke, J., Thomas, E., Dodsworth, R., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Exposing the anatomy of articulation rate across English dialects and speakers’. Presented at *LabPhon 19*, 27-29th June, Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea. [Slides](#)
- 2024 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Kendall, T., Mielke, J., Thomas, E., Dodsworth, R., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Dialect and speaker variation, and the role of the anticipatory shortening effect in English articulation rate’. Presented at *The Colloquium of the British Association of Academic Phoneticians*, 25-27th March, University of Cardiff & Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff, United Kingdom.
- 2022 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Multidimensional acoustic variation in vowels across English dialects’. Presented at *The 19th SIGMORPHON Workshop*, 14th July, Seattle, United States. [Slides](#)
- 2021 Stuart-Smith, J., MacDonald, R., **Tanner, J.**, and The SPADE Consortium. ‘The sociolinguistic dynamics of word-final /r/ in Scottish English’. Presented at *UK Language Variation & Change 13*, 8th-10th September, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- 2020 Stuart-Smith, J., MacDonald, R., **Tanner, J.**, and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Viewing accent variation from a large corpus perspective: rhoticity in Scottish English’. Presented at *The 25th Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference Satellite Workshop on Experimental Phonetics*, 28th December, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2020 Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., MacDonald, R., **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Persuading birds of a feather to flock together – reflections on managing and measuring diverse speech corpora in SPADE’. Presented at *The 2020 Australian Linguistic Society Conference*, 14th December, Australia.
- 2020 Stuart-Smith, J., Sonderegger, M., Mielke, J., **Tanner, J.**, Willerton, V., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Desperately seeking English sibilants: Discovering dialect norms and speaker variability for /s S/ from large-scale multi-dialect analysis’. Presented at *LabPhon 17*, 6-8th July, University of British Columbia/Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2020 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Vowel variation across English dialects’. Presented at *SPADE-PAC-PFC Workshop*, 20-21st February, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- 2019 Stuart-Smith, J., Macdonald, R., **Tanner, J.**, and The SPADE Consortium. ‘Large-scale automatic acoustic analysis of word-final /r/ in Scottish English’. Presented at *R-atics 6*, 7-8th November, Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie, UMR 7018 - CNRS/Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris - 3.

- 2019 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., and The SPADE Consortium. ‘How consistent is the voicing effect across dialects of English?’. Poster presented at *UK Language Variation & Change 12*, 3-5th September, Queen Mary’s University of London & University College London, London, United Kingdom.
- 2019 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and Stuart-Smith, J. ‘Structured speaker variability in spontaneous Japanese stop contrast production’. Presented at *The 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 5-9th August, Melbourne, Australia.
- 2019 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J. and The SPADE Data Consortium. ‘Vowel duration & the “voicing effect” across English dialects and speakers’. Presented at *The Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Workshop*, 29-31 March, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- 2018 Stuart-Smith, J., Sonderegger, M., McAuliffe, M., **Tanner, J.**, and Willerton, V. ‘Integrated Speech Corpus ANalysis (ISCAN): a new tool for large-scale cross-corpus sociolinguistic analysis’. Presented at *NWAV 47*, 17th October, NYU/CUNY, New York, United States.
- 2017 **Tanner, J.** ‘Phonetic and phonological mechanisms of Tokyo Japanese vowel devoicing’. Presentation at *The Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Workshop*, 22-24 March, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, Canada.
- 2015 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., and Wagner, M. ‘Production planning and coronal stop deletion in spontaneous speech’. Presented at *The 18th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, 10-14th August, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Software

- 2025 **Tanner, J.**, Sonderegger, M., Mielke, J., and Kendall, T. *wav2vec2-burst-detection*. <https://github.com/james-tanner/wav2vec2-burst-detection>

Data

- 2020 Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., **Tanner, J.**, Willerton, V., Macdonald, R., and Mielke, J. *SPADE: Speech Across Dialects of English*. [10.17605/OSF.IO/4JFRM](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/4JFRM)

Grants and Awards

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| 2023-2026 | Lord Kelvin/Adam Smith Fellowship , University of Glasgow | £30,000 |
| 2023-2025 | Postdoctoral Fellowship , British Academy – ‘Tracking talker dynamics within and across English dialects’ | £269,000 |
| 2025 | Grant Program for Promotion of International Joint Research , Waseda University | ¥300,000 |
| | • Award to support 3-week research fellowship at Waseda University | |
| 2025 | Early Career Mobility Scheme , University of Glasgow | £5,000 |
| | • Award to support 1-month research fellowship at McGill University | |
| 2022 | Best Paper Award , SIGMORPHON/North American Association for Computational Linguistics | |
| 2020 | Lara Riente Memorial Prize , McGill University Department of Linguistics | C\$500 |
| 2020 | Student Travel Award , Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music | C\$700 |
| 2019 | International Internship Award , Fonds de Recherche Nature et Technologie | C\$7,000 |
| | • Award to support 4-month research fellowship at the University of Glasgow | |
| 2019 | Best Student Paper (Shortlist) , International Congress of Phonetic Sciences | |
| 2015, 2019 | Student Travel Award , International Phonetic Association | £600 |
| 2014, 2016 | McCall McBain Fellowship in Arts , McGill University | C\$15,000 |
| 2013, 2014 | Graduate Excellence Fellowship , McGill University | C\$15,000 |

Teaching

University of Glasgow (as Guest Lecturer)

- *Phonetics: Introductory Concepts* (ENGLANG5099), ‘Connected speech processes’ F2024

McGill University

- *Experimental Linguistics: Methods* (LING 620), Technical Assistant; Guest Lecturer W2020
- *Phonetics* (LING 330), Teaching Assistant W2019
- *Introduction to Linguistics* (LING 201), Teaching Assistant W2015
- *Introduction to the Study of Language* (LING 200), Teaching Assisant F2014

Service

Article review

- *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* (2024)
- *Phonology* (2022)
- *JASA Express Letters* (2022, 2025)
- *Glossa* (2017)

Grant review

- *University of Glasgow internal* (2024)
- *National Science Foundation* (2022)

Conference review

- *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (2019)

Editor

- *McGill University Working Papers in Linguistics* (2013-2015)

Conference organisation

- *North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad* (2014)
- *University of Kent Undergraduate Linguistics Conference* (2011)

Skills

Languages: English (native), French (basic), Japanese (approx JLPT N4/N3, research)

Technical: R, Python, Praat, SQL, \LaTeX , UNIX/shell

Last updated: September 5, 2025