

James Tanner

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Employment

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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| accepted | Tanner, J. , Sonderegger, M., Stuart-Smith, J., Mielke, J., and Kendall T. ‘Automatic classification of stop realisation with wav2vec2.0’. <i>Interspeech 2025</i> . Preprint DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2505.23688 |
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- accepted 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', *Interspeech 2025*
- 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](#)

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, US, 19th March 2025.
 - Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK, 11th June 2024.
 - Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK, 29th May 2024.

Conference Presentations

- 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, UK. [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, UK.

- 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, Washington. [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, UK.
- 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.
- 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, UK.
- 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.
- 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, ON, 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.
- 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, UK.

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

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 **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: June 2, 2025