

# James Tanner

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## Employment

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

## Education

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

## Journal Publications

accepted	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , 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> .
2023	<b>Tanner, J.</b> ‘Prosodic and durational influences on the formant dynamics of Japanese vowels’. <i>JASA Express Letters</i> , 3 (8), 085202. <a href="#">10.1121/10.0020547</a>
2020	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , 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. <a href="#">10.1121/10.0001734</a>
2020	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , 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. <a href="#">10.3389/frai.2020.00038</a>
2019	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , Sonderegger, M., and Torreira, F. ‘Durational evidence that Tokyo Japanese vowel devoicing is not gradient reduction’. <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> , 10:821. <a href="#">10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00821</a>
2017	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , Sonderegger, M., and Wagner, M.. ‘Production planning and coronal stop deletion in spontaneous speech’. <i>Laboratory Phonology</i> , 8(1), 15. <a href="#">10.5334/labphon.96</a>

## Conference Proceedings

2024	<b>Tanner, J.</b> , 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 <i>Proceedings of Interspeech 2024</i> , Kos, Greece. Pages 467-471. <a href="#">10.21437/Interspeech.2024-1154</a>
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- 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

- 2024 **Tanner, J.** ‘Speech rate effects on the Japanese stop voicing contrast’. 9th July, 277th NINJAL Salon, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo, Japan. [Slides](#)
- 2024 **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.** and Jane Stuart-Smith. ‘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. 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.

## 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: March 28, 2025