John McGahay
Curriculum Vitae

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Education

2022-present	**Doctor of Philosophy (expected 2027)**
	University of California, Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA
	Program: Linguistics
	Cumulative GPA: 4.00
2015-2019	**Bachelor of Arts**
	University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts and Sciences | Philadelphia, PA
	Majors: Linguistics with Honors
	Cognitive Science (Language and Mind concentration)
	Minors: Computer Science
	German
	Cumulative GPA: 3.94
Spring 2017	**Semester Abroad**
	Berlin Consortium for German Studies | Berlin, Germany
	German-language coursework at the Freie Universität and Humboldt-Universität
2011-2015	**High School Diploma**
	Regis High School | New York, NY

Research Presentations

December 2023	**Poster Presentation**
	Acoustics Sydney 2023, hosted by *Acoustical Society of America*
	"A Theory of Vowel Dispersion Based on Probabilistic Modeling of Optimized Speakers and Listeners"
May 2019	**Senior Honors Thesis in Linguistics**
	University of Pennsylvania
	"The Effect of Conditioned Mergers on Underlying Representations"
	Advised by Prof. Charles Yang
March 2019	**Conference Talk**
	Penn Linguistics Conference 43
	"The Effect of Conditioned Mergers on Underlying Representations"

Grants & Fellowships

Spring 2024	**Biggs Graduate Fellowship**
	UCLA Department of Linguistics
Summer 2023	**Graduate Summer Research Mentorship**
	University of California, Los Angeles
	"Testing a New Probabilistic Theory of Phoneme Dispersion"
	Advised by Prof. Bruce Hayes

Summer 2018	**Jumpstart for Juniors Program for independent summer research**
	Penn Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships
	"The Effect of Conditioned Mergers on Underlying Representations"
	Advised by Prof. Meredith Tamminga

Summer 2016	**Penn Undergraduate Research Mentorship**
	Penn Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships
	Grant for summer RA work for rising second year undergrads, mentored by Prof. Meredith Tamminga

Teaching Experience

Spring 2023	**Teaching Assistant (25%) to Prof. Sun-Ah Jun**
	UCLA Linguistics Department | Los Angeles, CA
	LING C211: Intonation
	• Running weekly discussion section and office hour, grading, and responding to student emails

Winter 2023	**Teaching Assistant (50%) to Prof. Sam Zukoff**
	UCLA Linguistics Department | Los Angeles, CA
	LING 165A: Phonology II
	• Running weekly discussion sections and office hours, grading, and responding to student emails

Winter 2023	**Teaching Assistant (25%) to Dr. Elise Bell**
	UCLA Linguistics Department | Los Angeles, CA
	LING 102: Introduction to Applied Phonetics
	• Running weekly discussion sections and office hours, and responding to student emails

Fall 2023	**Teaching Assistant (50%) to Prof. Sun-Ah Jun**
	UCLA Linguistics Department | Los Angeles, CA
	LING 103: Introduction to General Phonetics, instructed by Prof. Sun-Ah Jun
	• Running weekly discussion sections and office hours, grading, and responding to student emails

Sept 2019 – March 2020	**Fulbright English Teaching Assistant**
	Nicolaus-Cusanus-Gymnasium | Bonn, Germany
	• Fulbright Scholar in Germany assisting English instruction for middle and high school-aged students
	• Ended three months early due to COVID-19 pandemic

Sept 2015 – May 2019	**German Tutor**
	Penn Language Center | Philadelphia, PA
	• One-on-one tutoring of beginning to intermediate German students at the University of Pennsylvania

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018	**Teaching Assistant to Prof. Meredith Tamminga**
	Penn Linguistics Department | Philadelphia, PA
	LING 336: Sound Systems in Use (quantitative corpus sociophonetics)
	• Moderating in-class undergraduate discussions, assisting students with R scripting during in-class lab time, holding weekly office hours, responding to student emails

Experience as Research Assistant

Summer 2023	**Research Assistant to Prof. Sun-Ah Jun**
	UCLA Phonetics Lab | Los Angeles, CA
	• ToBI-based intonation transcription in experiment stimuli and responses

May 2016 – May 2019	**Research Assistant to Prof. Meredith Tamminga**
	Penn Language Variation and Cognition Lab | Philadelphia, PA

- Maintenance and Reorganization of the Philadelphia Neighborhood Corpus
- Processing and analysis of phonetic data using Praat scripting, R, and Python
- Transcription and forced alignment of sociolinguistic interview with ELAN and FAVE

Feb 2016 – May 2016	**Research Assistant to Prof. Jianjing Kuang**
	Penn Phonetics Lab | Philadelphia, PA

- Sound segmentation and labeling of Shanghainese wordlist recordings in Praat

Other Work Experience

June 2021 – July 2022	**Junior Computational Linguist**
	Verbio Technologies | Remote

- Developing intent-classification systems used fall call center automation
- Manipulating large language datasets through bash scripting and the command line

March 2021 – June 2021	**Natural Language Understanding Specialist**
	Cerence | Remote

- Training and testing of neural-network-based language models used for car voice control features
- Left due to job insecurity from budget cuts associated with semiconductor shortage

April 2020 – Aug 2021	**Computational Linguistics Temporary Worker**
	Linguistic Data Consortium | Remote

- Assistant on project to develop a new forced aligner
- Transcription of clinical and experimental linguistic data for research into early language-based markers of neurodegenerative diseases

May 2019 – Aug 2019	**Computational Linguistics Temporary Worker**
	Linguistic Data Consortium | Philadelphia, PA

- Phonetic and phonological analysis of Portuguese dialects for speech recognition applications
- Implementation of grammars in OpenFst-based packages Pynini and Thrax

Awards and Honors

2019-2022	**Fulbright Scholar**
	Fulbright Germany
May 2019	**Summa cum Laude**
	University of Pennsylvania
May 2019	**Major Honors in Linguistics**
	Penn Department of Linguistics
2018-2019, 2017-2018, 2016-2017, 2015-2016	**Dean's List**
	University of Pennsylvania
March 2019	**Best Undergraduate Abstract**
	Penn Linguistics Conference 43
April 2018	**Phi Beta Kappa Inductee**
	Delta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Pennsylvania

Selected Coursework

University of California, Los Angeles:
Winter 2024	LING 203	Phonetic Theory
Spring 2023	LING 209A	Computational Linguistics
	LING C211	Intonation
Winter 2023	LING 104	Experimental Phonetics
	LING 201C	Phonology II
	LING 217	Experimental Phonology
Fall 2022	LING 201A	Phonology I

University of Pennsylvania:
Spring 2019	BIBB 249	Cognitive Neuroscience
	CIS 530	Computational Linguistics
	STAT 431	Statistical Inference
Fall 2018	CIS 421	Artificial Intelligence
	LING 404	Morphology I
Spring 2018	CIS 121	Programming Languages and Techniques II: Data Structures and Algorithms
	CIS 262	Automata, Computability, and Complexity
	LING 302	Linguistic Field Methods
	LING 525	Computer Analysis and Modeling of Biological Signals and Systems
Fall 2017	CIS 160	Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science
	LING 301	Conference: Phonological Theory (independent study equiv. to Phonology I)
	LING 550	Syntax I

Selected Skills

Technical: Python; R; Java; Praat (incl. scripting); Matlab; LaTeX; ELAN; Microsoft Office

Language: English (native); German (fluent); French, Spanish (intermediate, grammatical and phonological familiarity); Irish, Portuguese, Russian, Italian, ASL (basic, grammatical and phonological familiarity); various others (grammatical and phonological familiarity)

References

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Meredith Tamminga, Ph.D.
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