

# Kevin B. McGowan

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## Education

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Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Michigan, 2006–2011  
Dissertation: *The Role of Sociindexical Expectation in Speech Perception*  
Patrice Speeter Beddor & Steven P. Abney, co-chairs  
Julie Boland, Benjamin Munson, & Robin Queen, readers

Linguistic Institute, Stanford University, 2007

B.A. Linguistics, University of Michigan, 1996

## Employment

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Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Kentucky, 2021–

Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Kentucky, 2015–2021

Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, 2013–2015

Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, Rice University, 2011–2013

Tech Lead, Web Production & Database Services Team Lead (UM Webmaster), Information Technology Division, University of Michigan, 1997–2007

## Professional Experience

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Invited Faculty, LSA Summer Institute, “Speech Perception”, UC Davis, 2019

Invited Faculty, LSA Summer Institute, “Eye tracking for linguistics research” and “Doing Phonetics Research”, Lexington, 2017

Invited Instructor, LSA Annual Meeting, “Introduction to Praat”, Portland, 2015

Invited Faculty, LSA Summer Institute, “Praat Scripting”, Ann Arbor, 2013

Journal Assistant, *Language Learning Journal*, Blackwell Publishing, 2007–2010

Research Assistant, Professor Patrice S. Beddor, Michigan Phonetics & Phonology Laboratory, 2009–2010

Research Assistant, Professors Patrice S. Beddor & Andries Coetzee, Michigan Phonetics & Phonology Laboratory, 2007–2008

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Professor Richard W. Bailey, Department of English, University of Michigan, 1993–1994

## Articles, Chapters, and Book

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McGowan, K.B. (in press) Toward an ecologically-valid theory of speech perception. In *Sociophonetics: Implications for Phonetics and Phonology*, ed. by Lauren Hall-Lew and Jennifer Nycz. Oxford University Press

Laycock, K. & McGowan, K.B. (2025) Removing the Disguise: The matched guise technique, incongruity, and listener awareness. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

Babel, A.M., Campbell-Kibler, K., & McGowan, K.B. (2025) Introduction to the thematic issue. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*.

Barrett, E.R., Cramer, J., and McGowan, K.B. (2022) *English with an Accent*, third edition, Routledge

Babel, A.M., McGowan, K.B., & Duque, P.E. (2021) Niveles de percepción de las vocales en contacto: el caso de una variedad de español andino en Bolivia. In *Factores esenciales en el contacto de lenguas: una revisión desde el español*, Sara Gómez Seibane, María Sánchez Paraíso, Azucena Palacios (eds). Madrid: Editorial Iberoamericana.

Baese-Berk, M. M., McLaughlin, D. J.\*, & McGowan, K. B. (2020). Perception of non-native speech. *Language and Linguistic Compass*, 14(7), e12319.

Medeiros, D.J., Mains, P., & McGowan, K.B. (2020). Ceiling Effects on Weight in Heavy NP Shift. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 1-26.

McGowan, K.B. and Babel, A.M. (2020) Perceiving isn't believing: listeners' expectation and awareness of phonetically-cued social information. *Language in Society*, 49(1), 1-26

McGowan, K.B., Johnson, M.T., Combs, A., and Soleymanpoor, M. (2019) Acoustic, non-invasive measurement of velopharyngeal aperture using a high frequency tone, *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.

Beddor, P.S., Coetsee, A., Styler, W., McGowan, K.B., and Boland, J.E. (2018) The time course of individuals' perception of coarticulatory information is linked to their production: Implications for sound change. *Language*, 94(4): 931-968

McGowan, K.B. (2016) Sounding Chinese and Listening Chinese: Perception, Imitation, and Authenticity. In *Awareness and Control in Sociolinguistics Research*, ed. by A.M. Babel. Cambridge University Press.

McGowan, K. B. (2015). Social expectation improves speech perception in noise. *Language and Speech*, 58(4), 502-521. Chicago

Sumner, M., Kim, S., King, E., & McGowan, K. B. (2013). The socially-weighted encoding of spoken words: A dual-route approach to speech perception. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 1015.

Beddor, P.S., McGowan, K.B., Boland, J.E., Coetsee, A., and Brasher, A. (2013) The time course of perception of coarticulation. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 133(4):2350-2366.

McGowan, K.B. (2012) Gradient Lexical Reflexes of the Syllable Contact Law. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society 45*, Volume I, R. Bochnak, N. Nicola, P. Klecha, J. Urban, A. Lemieux and C. Weaver (Eds.), p. 445-454. Chicago Linguistics Society: Chicago.

## Grants, Fellowships & Honors

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Research and Creative Activities grant (with Jennifer Cramer), University of Kentucky, College of Arts & Sciences, \$3,360, March 2019

Igniting Research Collaborations grant (with Michael Johnson, Electrical and Computer Engineering), University of Kentucky OVPR, \$27,726, July 2018

Confucius Institute Curriculum Development Grant, \$1,000, March 2016

College of Arts & Sciences laboratory development grant, \$75,000, August 2015

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, 2010–2011

Humanities Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2010

National Science Foundation, Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2008

Pre-Candidate Research Grant, Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2008

Linguistic Society of America, LSA Linguistic Institute Fellowship, LSA Summer Institute, Stanford University, 2007

NAACL Scholarship for JHU Summer School on Human Language Technology, North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 2006

### Applications not selected for award

Spencer Foundation small grant, Listening to teach: teaching teachers to negotiate barriers to communication in the classroom, Co-PI (\$90,408; submitted November 2019; Co-PIs: Jennifer Cramer, Margaret Rintama)

James S. McDowell Foundation (JSMF) Teachers as Learners Grant, Listening to teach: teaching teachers to negotiate barriers to communication in the classroom, Co-PI (\$1,227,570; submitted pre-proposal May 2019; Co-PIs: Jennifer Cramer, Rusty Barrett, Margaret Rintamaa, and Susan Cantrell)

### Invited Talks & Colloquia

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**March, 2024** Experimental Applications to the Perception and Production of Variation, Houston – Levels of perception, knowledge, and awareness don't have to agree.

**September, 2023** University of Kentucky – Some hard-won insights into social speech perception

**December, 2021** Phondi, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor – Matched Guise Silent Centers

**March, 2019** University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Social expectation and speech perception: mismatch and alignment

**November, 2016** University of Michigan – Subcategorical mismatches can be mismatches of phonetic, phonological, lexical, and social context

**April, 2016** SUNY, Buffalo – Speech perception is social

**March, 2016** North Carolina State University – Socially informed speech perception: context, congruency, and complications

**2014** UC Berkeley, Phorum – Perceiving isn't believing: listeners' expectation and awareness of phonetically-cued social information (with A.M. Babel)

**2012** Rice University – Claims about processing require online tasks: disjunction of AXB and interview results in a Bolivian crossroads. (with A.M. Babel)

**2012** University of Texas, Austin – Social expectation and theories of speech perception.

**2011** Rice University – The role of socioindexical expectation in speech perception.

## Presentations & Posters

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- 2023** Laycock, K. and McGowan K.B. *We're worrying about the wrong thing: the matched guise technique and social speech perception* MidPhon 28, Purdue University
- 2022** McGowan, K.B. *The Limits of Perception* 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Methods in Dialectology
- 2019** McGowan, K.B., Johnson, M.T., Combs, A., and Soleymanpoor, M. Acoustic, non-invasive measurement of velopharyngeal aperture using a high frequency tone. 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Phonetic Sciences.
- 2019** McGowan, K.B., Johnson, M.T., Combs, A., and Soleymanpoor, M. Acoustic, non-invasive measurement of velopharyngeal aperture using a high frequency tone. Poster, 177<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2019** McGowan, K.B. and Johnson, M.T. Apparatus and procedure for ultrasound investigation of velopharyngeal port aperture. University of Kentucky, Igniting Research Collaborations Symposium
- 2018** Wright, K. and McGowan, K.B. Covert Segregation: Dialect Discrimination in the Housing Market. 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society
- 2018** Wright, K. and McGowan, K.B. Covert Segregation: Investigating Dialect Discrimination in the Housing Market. 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Five Minute Linguist competition. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America
- 2015** McGowan, K.B. and Sumner, M. A phonetic explanation of pronunciation variant effects. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2015** Sumner, M., McGowan, K.B., D'Onofrio, A., and Pratt, T. The contribution of form and meaning to the processing of careful and casual speech. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2015** Mains, P., McGowan, K.B., and Medeiros, D. Gradient acceptability by length in heavy NP shift. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2015** Moores, N.P., McGowan, K.B., Sumner, M. and Frank, MC. Children use phonetically-cued talker information to infer speaker meaning. Poster, 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2014** Moores, N.P., McGowan, K.B., Sumner, M., and Frank, M.C. Children use phonetically-cued talker information to disambiguate similar objects. The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Long Beach, CA
- 2014** McGowan, K.B. Sumner, M., D'Onofrio, A., and Pratt, T. The contribution of form and meaning to the processing of careful and casual speech. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, OH
- 2014** Sumner, M., Calder, J., D'Onofrio, A., McGowan, K.B., and Pratt, T. Top-down vs. bottom-up processing depends on the acoustic composition of an utterance. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2013** Sumner, M.; D'Onofrio, A.; McGowan, K.; Pratt, T.; and Calder, J. Differences in the recognition of careful and casual speech. Poster, 166<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2013** McGowan, K.B. and Babel, A.M. Perception of Spanish in Contact: Bolivian listeners' expectation and awareness of socioindexical variation. Workshop on Sound Change Actuation, University of Chicago
- 2013** McGowan, K.B. Sounding Chinese and Listening Chinese: Imitation, Perception, and Awareness of Non-Native Phonology. Part of panel, *Awareness & control in sociolinguistic research*. 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2012** Babel, A.M. and McGowan, K.B. Social Categorization and Levels of Awareness: A Cross-Disciplinary Study. Part of panel, *Voices in Movement: Phonetic Border Crossings*. American Anthropological Association annual meeting.
- 2012** McGowan, K.B. The influence of socioindexical expectations on speech perception in noise. 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America

- 2011** McGowan, K.B. The influence of socioindexical expectations on speech perception in noise. Poster, 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2011** McGowan, K.B. and Medeiros, D. J. Tongues don't twist –mental representations do. 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2011** McGowan, K.B. Are you experienced? Socio-indexical knowledge and naïve listeners. Poster, 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2010** McGowan, K.B. Examining Listeners' Use of Sociolinguistic Information During Early Phonetic Judgments: Evidence from eye-tracking. New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV 39)
- 2010** McGowan, K.B. Listener Expectations and the Processing of Foreign-Accented Speech. Mid-Continental Workshop on Phonology (MCWOP 16)
- 2010** Beddor, P.S., McGowan, K.B., Boland, J., and Coetzee, A. The Perceptual Time Course of Coarticulation. Poster, Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon 12)
- 2010** McGowan, K.B. Aerodynamic Modeling of Coarticulation for Unit Selection Synthesis. Poster, 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America
- 2009** Beddor, P.S., McGowan, K.B., Boland, J., and Coetzee, A. The Perceptual Time Course of Coarticulatory Nasalization. Poster, 158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2009** McGowan, K.B. Aerodynamic Modeling for Concatenative Speech Synthesis. Poster, 158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America
- 2008** McGowan, K.B. Pointwise Mutual Information and the Syllable Contact Law. Mid-Continental Workshop on Phonology (MCWOP 14)
- 2008** Coetzee, A. and McGowan, K.B. Allophonic cues to syllabification. CUNY Conference On The Syllable
- 1994** Bailey, R.W. and Kevin B. McGowan The Michigan Academy – “English in Michigan: A Century of Scholarship” with Richard W. Bailey

## Teaching

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- How Do Muppets Work?: a hands-in introduction to speech perception** University of Kentucky, Spring 2021
- Introduction to Syntax** University of Kentucky, Spring 2021
- Phonetics** University of Kentucky, Fall 2015 – 2020
- Introduction to the Study of Language** University of Kentucky, Fall 2020
- Advanced Phonetics** University of Kentucky, Spring 2020
- Research Methods in Linguistics** University of Kentucky, Fall 2018
- Phonological Analysis** University of Kentucky, Spring 2017 & 2018
- Sociophonetics** University of Kentucky, Spring 2016 & 2018
- Computational Linguistics** Linguistics 511, University of Kentucky, Fall 2017, Spring 2020; Linguistics 409, Rice University, Spring 2013
- Eye Tracking for Linguistics Research** LSA Linguistics Institute, Lexington, 2017

**Doing Phonetics Research** LSA Linguistics Institute, Lexington, 2017 (cotaught with Melissa Baese-Berk, Melinda Fricke, & Natasha Warner)

**Intro To Ling I: Theoretical Foundations & Analysis** University of Kentucky, Fall 2015 & 2016

**Language in U.S. Society** University of Kentucky, Spring 2016 & 2017

**Introduction to R** University of Kentucky, Spring 2016 & 2017

**Praat Scripting** LSA Linguistics Institute, Ann Arbor, 2013; Stanford University, Stanford, 2014; LSA Annual Meeting, Portland, 2015

**Introduction to Phonetics** Linguistics/Anthropology 301/501, Rice University, Fall 2011 & 2012

**Hearing & Speech Perception** Graduate Seminar, Linguistics 555, Rice University, Spring 2012

**Introduction to Phonology** Linguistics 311/511, Rice University, Spring 2012 & Spring 2013

**Advanced Phonology** Linguistics 427, Rice University, Fall 2012

**Introduction to the Scientific Study of Language** Linguistics/Anthropology 200, Rice University, Fall 2011

**Language & the Human Mind** Linguistics 209/Psychology 242  
Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Sam Epstein, University of Michigan, Fall 2009

**College Writing** Writing and the Politics of English, English 125, University of Michigan, Fall 2008

**Introduction to Language** Linguistics 111, University of Michigan, Spring 2008

**Javascript Programming** Introductory JavaScript Programming Workshop, University of Michigan, School of Information, Winter 2006, Winter 2007

**Computing workshops** UNIX, Perl programming, SQL, HTML, etc., University of Michigan, Information Technology Division, 1997 - 1999

## Selected Guest Teaching

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**Listeners' awareness and control and levels of speech perception** in Norma Mendoza-Denton's Anthrophonetics course at UCLA, Spring 2020

**Perception of social identity in voices** in Jennifer Cramer's LIN 506 Sociolinguistics, Fall 2019

**Syllables, Vowels & Consonants, and Intonation** appearing in Andrew Byrd's online course LIN 200 How to create your own language, Spring 2019

**American Sign Language and Deaf Culture** in Jennifer Cramers LIN 331 Language in US Society, Spring 2019

**Probabilistic Grammars, Optimality Theory, and Noisy Harmonic Grammar** in Andrew Byrd's Advanced Phonology, November 2018

**Exploring German phonetics in the lab** in Brenna Byrd's German Linguistics, October 2016

**Acoustics: Basics of Analysis** Linguistics 601, October 2015 & 2016

**Speech Synthesis** in Andrew Hippisley's Computational Linguistics, December 2015

**Acoustics** in Meghan Sumner's Experimental Phonetics, November 2014

**Fricatives & Source/Filter Theory** in Meghan Sumner's Graduate Phonetics, May 2014

**Political Correctness & Hate Speech** in Joseph C. Tyler's Language & Discrimination, March 2011

**Exemplar Theories and Social Perception of Speech** in Patrice S. Beddor's Advanced Phonetics, September 2010

**Montana Salish and Ultrasound Field Research** in Jonathon Yip's Languages of the World, July 2010

**Processing Figurative Speech** in Julie Boland's Talking Minds, March 2010

**Phonology, Speech Perception and Perceptual Illusions** in Sam Epstein's Language and Mind, October 2009

**Sound Change** in Sarah G. Thomason's Historical Linguistics, October 2008

**Aerodynamic Measurement of Nasalization** in Patrice S. Beddor's Graduate Phonetics, September 2008

## Advising

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Monica Chulde Guayasamin, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2022

Jarred Brewster, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2020

Ollie Combs, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2020

Kyler Laycock, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2020

Jaycee Taylor, Lexington STEAM Academy high school internship, 2018 – 2019

Robert Bell, MALTT masters thesis committee co-chair, 2019

Jamison Nielsen, Lexington STEAM Academy high school internship, 2016 – 2018

Collin Smith, with Brenna Byrd, MALTT masters thesis cochair, 2019

Mikhayla Sheeley, Undergraduate honors thesis chair, 2018

Philip Barnett, with Andrew Byrd, MALTT masters thesis cochair, 2018

Aidah Aljuran, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2017

Kelly Wright, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2017

Jo Mackby, MALTT masters thesis co-chair, 2016

Kait Lee, MALTT masters thesis chair, 2016

Mariama Mallah, Directed undergraduate research. Stanford University. 2013

Penelope Howe, Investigation of cues to fricative voicing in dialects of Malagasy. Rice University. Qualifying Paper, chair. 2012–2013

Ling Ma, Native Mandarin perception of English word boundary consonant overlap. Rice University. Masters Thesis, chair. 2012–2013

Ru-ping Ruby Tso, Chinese Characters and Speech Recognition. Rice University. Qualifying Paper, reader. 2012

Obi Nwabueze, Frame Switching between Registers and Dialects. Rice University. Undergraduate Research. 2012–2013

Sheri-Ann Peckham, Investigation of age-related perceptual plasticity using Jamaican Creole. Rice University. Undergraduate Research. 2011–2013

## Academic Service

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Grant reviews, National Science Foundation, periodic and ongoing

Co-organizer, Phonetics/Phonology Interest Group, University of Kentucky, 2017-2019

Director, University of Kentucky Phonetics Lab, University of Kentucky 2015–2019

Colloquium committee chair, Department of Linguistics, University of Kentucky, 2016–2019

Peer reviews, *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, *Journal of Phonetics*, *Language & Speech*, *Lingua*, etc.

Conference Abstract Reviews, Speech Science and Technology 2012 – 2014; Michigan Linguistics Society; Experimental Approaches to Optimality Theory (ExpOT)

Workshop for Rice Linguistics Society: Eye-tracking for linguistics research, 2012

Organizer, Statistics for Linguistics Reading Group, Rice University, Department of Linguistics, 2011–2013

Faculty Associate, Hanszen College, Rice University, Department of Linguistics, 2011-2013

Member, Linguistics Executive Committee, University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics, 2010–2011

Board Member, *Language Learning Journal*, Blackwell Publishing, 2007–2010

Workshop: Introduction to R, University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics with S. Lin & A. Brasher, 2010

Co-chair of Michigan Linguistics Colloquium Committee, 2007–2009

## Community Outreach

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Elected Representative, School based decision making council, Ashland Elementary School, 2019–2021

Presenter, “How Words Do (and Mostly Don’t) Color Our View of the World”, Everything is Science, Lexington 2020

Presenter, Lexington Living Arts & Science Center: teaching phonetics for a general audience of children and adults, 2019

Faculty Mentor, Kentucky Young Scholars Program & Lexington STEAM Academy High School, 2016–2019

Ashland Elementary School FACT Fridays: “The Science of Speech” for fourth and fifth grade students, teaching the anatomy and physics of producing speech sounds and signs, how the brain controls and processes speech, and how sociocultural factors help us make sense of what we hear, 2017–2019

## Technical Expertise

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**Laboratory** Eyelink 1000 Plus, Eyelink II head-mounted eye tracker, Tobii tx300 remote eye tracker, EG2-PCX Electroglossograph, EVA 2 pneumotachograph, Telemed Echo Blaster 128 Ultrasound, Zonare Ultrasound, Praat, Wavesurfer, E-Prime, Inquisit, Qualtrics, Amazon Mechanical Turk, OpenSesame, sox, etc.

**Programming** Python, Perl, C, Bourne shell, JavaScript, awk, sed, tcl, SQL, PL/SQL

**Systems** RDBMS systems (Oracle, MySQL, PostgreSQL), UNIX administration & programming (Linux, \*BSD, MacOS, Solaris, etc.),  $\text{\LaTeX}$



## Professional Affiliations

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Linguistic Society of America, 2006–

Acoustical Society of America, 2009–

Last updated: May 22, 2025