

Curriculum vitae

Kevin B. McGowan

1669 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington KY 40506-0027
USA

kbmcgowan@vowel.space
<https://vowel.space/>
+1 (734) 678-4245

Education

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 2006 - 2011 | Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Michigan Dissertation: The Role of Socioindexical Expectation in Speech Perception Patrice Speeter Beddor & Steven P. Abney, co-chairs Julie Boland, Benjamin Munson, & Robin Queen, committee members |
| 2007 | Linguistic Institute, Stanford University |
| 1996 | B.A. Linguistics, University of Michigan |

Employment

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2021 - | Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Kentucky |
| 2015 – 2021 | Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Kentucky |
| 2013 – 2015 | Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University Meghan Sumner, PI |
| 2011 - 2013 | Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, Rice University |
| 1997 - 2007 | Webmaster, Web Production & Database Services Team Lead, Information Technology Division, University of Michigan |

Professional Experience

| | |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Invited Faculty, “Speech Perception”, Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of California, Davis |
|------|---|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 2017 | Invited Faculty, “Doing phonetics research” and “Eye tracking for linguistics research” Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of Kentucky |
| 2013 | Invited Faculty, “Introduction to Praat” Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of Michigan |
| 2007 - 2010 | Journal Assistant & Student Board Member, Language Learning Journal, Blackwell Publishing |
| 2009 - 2010 | Research Assistant, Professor Pam Beddor, Michigan Phonetics & Phonology Laboratory |
| 2007 - 2008 | Research Assistant, Professors Pam Beddor & A. Coetzee, Michigan Phonetics & Phonology Laboratory |
| 1997 - 2007 | Programmer &, System administrator, Manager of Web and Database production services, University of Michigan |
| 1993 - 1994 | Undergraduate Research Assistant, Professor Richard W. Bailey, Department of English, University of Michigan |

Publications

McGowan, K. B. (n.d.). *Toward an ecologically-valid theory of speech perception* (J. Nycz & L. Hall-Lew, Eds.). Oxford University Press.

McGowan, K. B., & Takvoryan, S. (n.d.). *The perception of linguistic features* (M. Baranowski, P. D. Decker, & J. Nycz, Eds.). Oxford University Press.

Namboodiripad, S., Kutlu, E., Babel, A., Babel, M., Baese-Berk, M., Bassuk, P. B., Block, A., Carlson, M. T., Cheng, A., Combiths, P., Hayes-Harb, R., Frederiksen, A. T., Kendro, K., Koulidobrova, E., Lin, C.-J. C., Lin, Z., Luque, A., McGowan, K. B., Muegge, J. B., ... Wright, K. E. (n.d.). Finding our ROLE: How and why to reframe essentialist approaches to language. *Cognition*.

Takvoryan, S., & McGowan, K. B. (n.d.). *The dynamic, social specification of coarticulated vowels* (R. V. Roeder & G. Alfaraz, Eds.). Benjamins.

Babel, A. M., Campbell-Kibler, K., & McGowan, K. B. (2025). Introduction to the thematic issue. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, 29(1), 44–58. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josl.12690>

Laycock, K., & McGowan, K. B. (2025). Removing the Disguise: The Matched Guise Technique, Incongruity, and Listener Awareness. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, 29(3), 194–209. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josl.12700>

- Barrett, R., Cramer, J., & McGowan, K. B. (2023). *English with an accent: language, ideology and discrimination in the United States* (Third edition). Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003332886>
- 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* (S. G. Seibane, M. S. Paraíso, & A. Palacios, Eds.). Editorial Iberoamericana. <https://doi.org/10.31819/9783968692340-008>
- Medeiros, D. J., Mains, P., & McGowan, K. B. (2021). Ceiling effects on weight in heavy NP shift. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 52(2), 426440.
- Baese-Berk, M. M., McLaughlin, D. J., & McGowan, K. B. (2020). Perception of non-native speech. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 14(7), e12375. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lnc3.12375>
- McGowan, K. B., & Babel, A. M. (2020). Perceiving isn't believing: Divergence in levels of sociolinguistic awareness. *Language in Society*, 49(2), 231256.
- McGowan, K. B., Johnson, M. T., Combs, A., & Soleymanpour, M. (2019). *Acoustic, non-invasive measurement of velopharyngeal aperture using a high frequency tone*. 755759.
- Beddor, P. S., Coetzee, A. W., Styler, W., McGowan, K. B., & Boland, J. E. (2018b). The time course of individuals' perception of coarticulatory information is linked to their production: Implications for sound change. *Language*, 94(4), 931968.
- Beddor, P. S., Coetzee, A. W., Styler, W., McGowan, K. B., & Boland, J. E. (2018a). The time course of individuals' perception of coarticulatory information is linked to their production: Implications for sound change. *Language*, 94(4), 931–968. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2018.0051>
- McGowan, K. B. (2016). Sounding chinese and listening chinese: Awareness and knowledge in the laboratory. *Awareness and Control in Sociolinguistic Research*, 2561.
- McGowan, K. B. (2015). Social expectation improves speech perception in noise. *Language and Speech*, 58(4), 502521.
- Sumner, M., Kim, S. K., King, E., & McGowan, K. B. (2014). 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., Coetzee, A. W., & Brasher, A. (2013). The time course of perception of coarticulation. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 133(4), 23502366.
- McGowan, K. B. (2012). *Gradient lexical reflexes of the syllable contact law* (C. L. Society, Ed.; pp. 445–454). Chicago Linguistic Society.
- McGowan, K. B. (2011). *The role of socioindexical expectation in speech perception* [PhD thesis].

Advising & Supervision

- Stella Takvoryan (2025) Listening to cursive: The roles of regional identity and folk beliefs in perceptual cue-weighting, MA thesis chair
- Kaitlin Young (2025) Cognate Facilitation and Processing in English-Speaking Learners of German, MA thesis co-chair with Brenna Byrd

- Emily Ramirez (2024) Modeling the Role of Social Information in Speech Perception, UC Berkeley PhD thesis, co-chair with Keith Johnson
- Nour Kayali (2023) "This Make Sense?" The Effect of Congruent Guise in Regional Accent on Grammatical Acceptability Judgments, MA thesis chair
- Jarred Brewster (2021) Language Contact and Covert Prominence in the Šherēt-Jibbāli Language of Oman, MA thesis chair
- Monica Chulde Guayasamin (2021) Face Masks and Speech Perception: Emotions and Intelligibility Perceived by Monolingual and Bilingual Speakers, MA thesis chair
- Kyler Laycock (2021) The Influence of Socioindexical Information on the Speech Perception-Production Link: Evidence from a Shadowing Task, MA thesis chair
- Ollie Combs (2020) Relevant Angry Affect Slows Response Time To Commands, MA thesis chair
- Robert Bell (2019) Limón Patwa: A Perceptual Study to Measure Language Attitudes Toward Speakers of Patwa in Costa Rica, MA thesis co-chair
- Andy M Gibson (2019) Sociophonetics of popular music: insights from corpus analysis and speech perception experiments, External Examiner (not advisor)
- Mikhayla Sheeley (2019) Linguistic Relativity and the L2 Learner: An Investigation of the Effects of L2 Grammatical Gender on L1 Conceptual Gender, Undergraduate honors thesis chair
- Jaycee Taylor (2019) Lexington STEAM Academy High School Internship, Supervisor
- Philip Barnett (2018) A Markedly Different Approach: Investigating PIE Stops Using Modern Empirical Methods, MA thesis co-chair with Andrew Byrd
- June Nielsen (2018) Lexington STEAM Academy High School Internship, Supervisor
- Aidah Aljuran (2017) "Listening with an Attitude" The Role of Attitude on Native and Non-Native Intergroup Communication, MA thesis chair
- Kelly E. Wright (2017) The Reflection and Reification of Racialized Language in Popular Media, MA thesis chair
- Kaitlyn Lee (2016) The Perception of Creaky Voice: Does Speaker Gender Affect our Judgments?, MA thesis chair
- Jo Mackby (2016) Cries from The Jungle: The Dialogic Linguistic Landscape of the Migrant and Refugee Camps in Calais, France, MA thesis co-chair with Mark Lauersdorf
- Ksenia Gnevshcheva (2015) Variation in passing for a native speaker: accentedness in second language speakers of English in production and perception, External Examiner (not advisor)
- John Galindo (2014) A psychoacoustic study of the influence of L1 lexical tone and pitch perception, Rice University, Qualifying Paper, chair
- Penelope Howe (2014) Investigation of cues to fricative voicing in dialects of Malagasy, Rice University, Qualifying Paper, chair

- Hussein Hizazi (2013) Formant Analysis of Jordanian Arabic Vowels: Emphasis Effect on F2 in Jordanian Arabic, Rice University, Qualifying Paper, chair
- Ling Ma (2013) Native Mandarin perception of English word boundary consonant overlap., Rice University, Qualifying Paper, chair
- Mariama Mallah (2013) Directed undergraduate research, Stanford University
- Obi Nwabueze (2013) The use of eye-tracking in speech perception research, Undergraduate Research
- Sheri-Ann Peckham (2013) Investigation of age-related perceptual plasticity using Jamaican Creole, Undergraduate Research

Selected Software Projects

- CoSign, Open Source Web Single SignOn (co-founder, developer)
- ChomskyBot, Pseudo-random Sentence Generator and Gentle Mockery Engine
- ldapweb, Web-based LDAP Directory Client
- kpasswd.cgi, Web-based Kerberos password changer

Technologies

- Eyelink II head-mounted eye tracker,EG2-PCX Electroglottograph, EVA 2 pneumotachograph, Zonare Ultrasound, Praat, Wavesurfer, OpenSesame, sox, etc.
- Python, Perl, C, Bourne shell, JavaScript, awk, tcl, SQL, PL/SQL
- RDBMS systems (Oracle, MySQL, PostgreSQL)
- UNIX administration & programming (Linux, OpenBSD, MacOS, Solaris, etc.)
- HTML, XML, CSS, LaTeX, Markdown, Typst

Professional affiliations

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 2009 - | Acoustical Society of America |
| 2006 - | Linguistic Society of America |