

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* (L. Hall-Lew & J. Nycz, 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.). Essentialist categorizations of language are harmful and inaccurate. *Nature: Human Behavior Perspectives*.

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].
- Coetzee, A. W., & McGowan, K. B. (2008, January). *Allophonic cues to syllabification*.

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) Lexingtonn 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) Lexingtonn 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 Gnevsheva (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