MAX J. KAPLAN

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SUMMARY

Linguist and cognitive scientist with expertise in quantitative behavioral research, speech perception, phonology, phonetics, eye tracking, and corpus analysis. I design, build, execute, and analyze human subjects research studies, use concise data visualization to effectively communicate findings and implications, and adapt complex information into impactful written reports and presentations for diverse audiences.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Linguistics (pending) University of California Santa Cruz — Sept. 2025

M.A., Applied Linguistics Boston University, Boston, MA — 2018

B.A., German Studies Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT — 2013

SELECTED EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

LINGUISTICS INSTRUCTOR & TEACHING ASSISTANT University of California Santa Cruz — 2019 – 2025

- Lead instructor in Morphology (LING 105) and Introduction to Linguistics (LING 50)
- TA for classes including Phonetics, Phonology 1 & 2, Morphology, Syntax, and other general linguistics courses.
- Received certificate in Teaching for Equity, Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning (CITL) (Spring 2021)
- Awarded 2025 Jorge Hankamer Award for Excellence in Teaching

EXPERIMENT DESIGN, DATA COLLECTION, & DATA ANALYSIS University of California Santa Cruz

Project: Crosslinguistic investigation of systematic mishearing — 2021-2025

Conducted studies on cognitive mechanisms involved in speech perception with English, Spanish (in Mexico), and Mandarin (in China) listeners. Performed statistical analyses and prepared reports and data visualization.

- Performed data wrangling, corpus and statistical analyses, and data visualization (using R and GSuite)
  - Statistical methods: generalized mixed effects regression modeling (linear and logistic), Chi-square, t-testing
- Designed and built eight human subject auditory perception experiments to investigate patterns of mishearing
- Collected behavioral data from participants (using PsychoPy, PCIbex and Pavlovia) and qualitative data about participant language background and attitudes using structured sociolinguistic surveys
- Presented findings at scientific conferences in the United States, Spain, and United Kingdom; see *Publications*.

Project: Mental architecture of the phonological component — 2018 - 2022

Investigated the structure of sound patterns in Southern Pomo (an indigenous language of Northern California) to assess theories of computational complexity in the phonology of natural languages.

- Used archival and corpus resources to develop theory-driven algorithmic explanations for observed sound patterns
- Demonstrated that only a particular family of frameworks are capable of handling output mappings
- Presented findings at scientific conferences including the Annual Meeting on Phonology (2020); see *Publications*.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Experimental softwares: PCIbex, PsychoPy, Pavlovia, SuperLab, OpenSesame, TOBII Studio, Experiment Builder
Scripting and statistical analysis: R, SQL, LaTeX, HTML, SAS, MATLAB
Office and professional softwares: Microsoft Office, GSuite, Keynote, Adobe Creative Suite
Audiovisual & acoustic analysis and editing: Praat, Audacity, Ableton Live Studio, ELAN, Final Cut

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Kaplan, M. J.** (2022). Stratal overgeneration is necessary: metrically incoherent syncope in Southern Pomo. *Phonology, 39*(4), 597-639. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0952675723000234.
- **Kaplan, M. J.**, & Amengual, M. (2024, September). *Crosslinguistic comparison of phonotactic repair in onset clusters.* Presented at Architectures & Mechanisms for Language Processing 30 (AMLaP 30), Edinburgh.