

# Madeline K Snigaroff

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Citizenship: United States

## Research interests

Broadly: Syntax, semantics, fieldwork, language revitalization, Arctic languages  
Narrowly: Syntax-semantics interface, clausal syntax, finiteness, TAM, the left periphery  
Languages I've worked with: Western Aleut, Western Samoan, English, Toba Batak

## Education

2020 – present **The University of Chicago** – *Chicago, IL*  
Ph.D. in Linguistics

- Dissertation Proposal: “Aleut insubordination as a window into the finiteness contrast”  
Committee: Chris Kennedy (Chair), Lenore Grenoble, Thomas Grano
- Second Qualifying Paper: “An alternative semantics of the Samoan article system”  
Readers: Karlos Arregi, Chris Kennedy
- First Qualifying Paper: “Head movement from adjunct positions: Evidence from Aleut”  
Readers: Jason Merchant, Erik Zyman

2016 – 2020 **Stanford University** – *Stanford, CA*  
BA with Honors in Linguistics, Minor in Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Honors Thesis: *Constructing Language Revitalization Resources: The Aleut Picture Dictionary*  
Advisor: Paul Kiparsky

## Positions

2024 – present **Adjunct**, Alaska Native Studies Program  
University of Alaska, Anchorage – *Anchorage, AK*

## Publications

Journal articles Snigaroff, M. K. (2024). [Head movement from non-complements: Evidence from Aleut](#). *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 42: 1727–1766.

## Edited volumes

Serova, Kutay & M. K. Snigaroff. (2024). *Proceedings of the Fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Linguistic Society.

## Talks

- Invited talks
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2024, April). [Where Are Your Keys \(WAYK\): A framework for endangered language learning](#). Presented at the Language Revitalization Working Group, University of California, Berkeley.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2023, May). [Revitalization and fieldwork that complements communities: A case study with Aleut](#). Presented at the Linguistic Fieldwork Working Group, University of California, San Diego.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2019, February). Language revitalization in Alaska. Guest lecture at LINGUIST 47N: Languages, Dialects, Speakers, Stanford University.
- Conference talks
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2025, June). [Revisiting Samoan “specificity”: An alternative semantics account](#). Presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association, Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2024, May). [Language-learning tailored to endangered language communities](#). Presented at Language Ideologies and Inequality with a Perspective on the Arctic, Ilisimatusarfik Grønlands Universitet.
- Internal talks
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2024, February). Merge and c-command. Guest lecture at LING 20201: Introduction to Syntax, The University of Chicago.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2022, April). Head movement from adjunct positions: The case of Aleut suffixal adjectives. Presented at the Morphology & Syntax Workshop, The University of Chicago.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2021, May). Aleut language revitalization. Presented at The Workshop on Language Variation & Change, The University of Chicago.
- Snigaroff, M. K. (2017, October). The Presidents Project: Evaluating Metrical Tree. Presented at VPUE Research Initiative Presentations, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

## Honors and scholarships

- 2025 – 2027 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. Project title: “An investigation of clause type and insubordination as a window into ‘finiteness’.” Co-PIs: Chris Kennedy and Madeline K. Snigaroff. Amount: \$14,873
- 2020 – present Humanities Fellowship (The University of Chicago)
- 2020 – 2024 Graduate Scholarship (The Aleut Foundation)
- Oct. 2022 Sapir Scholars Program (The University of Chicago)
- Sep. 2022 Graduate Research Aid Initiative in Linguistics (The University of Chicago)
- June 2022 Graduate Research Aid Initiative in Linguistics (The University of Chicago)

2020	Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study (University of California, Berkeley; declined)
2020	Cota-Robles Fellowship (University of California, Los Angeles; declined)
2016 – 2020	Educational Scholarship with Honors (The Aleut Foundation)
2020	Robert M. Golden Medal for Excellence in the Humanities and Creative Arts (Stanford University)
2019	Dobro Slovo (National Slavic Honor Society)
2019	Phi Beta Kappa (Stanford University)
2017	Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education (VPUE) Research Initiative (Stanford University)

## Language Revitalization

Sep. 2022 – present	<b>Cultural Heritage Center Independent Contractor</b> Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, teaching, organization of revitalization activities, transcription of lessons, language proficiency testing, among other duties Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Remote work</i>
May – June 2025	<b>Summer Language Intensive Co-Leader</b> Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, teaching, and organizing and implementing the revitalization program Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
May – June 2023	<b>Summer Language Intensive Intern</b> Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
July – August 2022	<b>Summer Language Intensive Intern</b> Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
June – August 2019	<b>Summer Language Intensive Intern</b> Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
June 2019	<b>Culture Camp Language Teacher</b> The Aleut Foundation <i>Atka, AK</i>
May 2018	<b>Culture Camp Language Teacher</b> The Aleut Foundation, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>

March – August  
2018 **Summer Language Intensive Intern**  
Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching  
Where Are Your Keys, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association  
*Atka and Anchorage, AK*

## Classroom teaching experience

Spring 2024 **Instructor, AKNS A102I: Elementary Unangam Tunuu II**  
*University of Alaska, Anchorage*

Fall 2024 **Instructor, AKNS A101I: Elementary Unangam Tunuu I**  
*University of Alaska, Anchorage*  
Designed and taught introductory Aleut language (*Unangam Tunuu*) course  
Average rating: 4.9/5

Spring 2024 **Teaching assistant, LING 20301: Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics**  
*Prof. Anastasia Giannakidou, The University of Chicago*  
Led weekly discussion sessions, attended all lectures, graded assignments, designed answer keys, held office hours

Winter 2024 **Teaching assistant, LING 20201: Introduction to Syntax**  
*Prof. Amy Dahlstrom, The University of Chicago*  
Gave a guest lecture, led weekly discussion sessions, attended all lectures, graded assignments, and held office hours

Fall 2022 **Teaching assistant, LING 20001: Introduction to Linguistics**  
*Prof. Erik Zyman, The University of Chicago*  
Led weekly discussion sessions, attended all lectures, graded assignments, and held office hours

## Mentorship

Winter 2023 **Gabriel Correa Ramos Alves (RA)**  
**Lars Nordquist (RA)**  
*The University of Chicago*  
Mentored two undergraduate research assistants in a project gathering, organizing, and annotating Aleut recordings

Fall 2022 **Sarah Kim (RA)**  
**Reagan Sparks (RA)**  
*The University of Chicago*  
Mentored two undergraduate research assistants in a project gathering, organizing, and annotating Aleut recordings

## Leadership and service

February 2025 **Abstract Reviewer**  
61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)

February 2024	<b>Panelist</b> Panel on Careers in Linguistics <i>Stanford University</i>
February 2024	<b>Abstract Reviewer</b> 60 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)
2022 – 2023	<b>Central Committee Member</b> 59 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)
2022 – 2023	<b>Student Coordinator</b> Language Variation and Change Workshop <i>The University of Chicago</i>
2022 – 2023	<b>Student Coordinator</b> Fieldworkers' Lab <i>The University of Chicago</i>
January 2023	<b>Abstract Reviewer</b> 59 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)
February 2022	<b>Abstract Reviewer</b> 58 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)

## Industry experience

2022	<b>Worldshifter Games (Independent contractor)</b> <i>Remote</i> Gave linguistic, worldbuilding, and story feedback for desktop videogame; constructed dialogue and other elements of the storyline
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## Technical skills

### Programming languages

R, Python

### Software

ℒ<sub>TeX</sub>, ELAN, SayMore, Pratt

### Languages

English (L1), Spanish (fluent), Western Aleut (intermediate), Russian (intermediate)

## Other interests

Conlanging, worldbuilding