

Madeline K Snigaroff

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Citizenship: United States

Research interests

Broadly: Syntax, semantics, fieldwork, language revitalization, Arctic languages
Narrowly: Clausal syntax, finiteness, TAM, speech acts, 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 – 2025 **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.

Proceedings papers Snigaroff, M. K. (To appear). Revisiting “specificity”: An alternative semantics account for Western Samoan. *Proceedings of the Thirty-second Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association*.

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 32nd 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	Cultural Heritage Center Independent Contractor Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, teaching, organization of revitalization activities, ELAN transcription of speaker interviews, language proficiency testing, among other duties Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Remote work</i>
May – June 2025	Summer Language Intensive Co-Leader Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, teaching, and organizing and implementing the revitalization program Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
May – June 2023	Summer Language Intensive Intern Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
July – August 2022	Summer Language Intensive Intern Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>
June – August 2019	Summer Language Intensive Intern Aleut elicitation, curriculum-building, and teaching Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association <i>Anchorage, AK</i>

- June 2019 **Culture Camp Language Teacher**
The Aleut Foundation
Atka, AK
- May 2018 **Culture Camp Language Teacher**
The Aleut Foundation, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Anchorage, AK
- 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
Designed and taught the second part of an introductory Aleut language (*Unangam Tunuu*) course over Zoom
- Fall 2024 **Instructor, AKNS A101I: Elementary Unangam Tunuu I**
University of Alaska, Anchorage
Designed and taught the first part of an introductory Aleut language (*Unangam Tunuu*) course over Zoom
- 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

2025–present **Alumni Admission Ambassador**
Stanford Outreach Volunteer Alumni Link

November 2025 **Conference Organizing Contractor**
Alaska Native Values in Modern Governance: A Training Conference

2022–2025 **Abstract Reviewer**
58th–61st Meetings of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)

February 2024 **Panelist**
Panel on Careers in Linguistics
Stanford University

2022 – 2023 **Central Committee Member**
59th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)

2022 – 2023 **Student Coordinator**
Language Variation and Change Workshop
The University of Chicago

2022 – 2023 **Student Coordinator**
Fieldworkers' Lab
The University of Chicago

Industry experience

2022 **Worldshifter Games (Independent contractor)**
Remote
Gave linguistic, worldbuilding, and story feedback for desktop videogame; constructed dialogue and other elements of the storyline

Technical skills

Programming languages

R, Python

Software

Λ^TE_X, ELAN, SayMore, Pratt

Languages

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

Other interests

Conlanging, worldbuilding