

Molly I. Cutler

she/her

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas: sociolinguistics, syntax, semantics, language cognition/acquisition

Topics: dialectology & variation; tense & aspect; learning & categorization

EDUCATION

New York University

2023 - present

Ph.D in Linguistics

Princeton University

2019 - 2023

B.A. in Linguistics, certificate in Cognitive Science, *magna cum laude*

Senior Thesis: Performing Performatives: An Analysis of Role-Playing Games' Narration,
Toward an Expansion of the Semantics of English Simple Present Verb Morphology

Senior Thesis Advisor: Dr. Alexander Göbel; **Second Reader:** Prof. Una Stojnić

Junior Paper (Independent Research): "I am Done (with) My Homework": the Semantics,
Syntax, and Sociolinguistic Microvariation of a Dialectal Feature of Philadelphia English

Junior Paper Advisor: Dr. Dunia Catalina Méndez Vallejo

PUBLICATIONS

Zettersten, M., **Cutler, M.**, & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [[preprint](#)]

PRESENTATIONS

"Performing Performatives: An Analysis of Role-Playing Games' Narration, Toward an Expansion of the Semantics of English Simple Present Verb Morphology"

Talk presented at SYNC (Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, CUNY graduate linguistics conference), Dec. 2023

"Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words"

Talk presented at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development, Nov. 2023

Co-authored with Martin Zettersten & Casey Lew-Williams

"I am Done (with) My Homework': the Semantics, Syntax, and Variation of a Feature of Philadelphia English"

Princeton Research Day (remote), April 2022

"Learning Ambiguous Words Through Active Sampling"

Princeton University Summer Research Colloquium (remote), August 2021

IN PROGRESS

Cutler, M.*, Mitra, A.*, Barnard, M., Cojocaru, V., Göbel, J., MacKenzie, L. Both (of) the variants show a couple (of) different patterns: Social conditioning of 'of'-variation across multiple linguistic environments. (under review)

*co-first authors

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Princeton University Program in Linguistics – Research Assistant

Jul. - Aug. 2022

PI: Prof. Florian Lionnet

Digitized and annotated fieldwork notes on Hwanyale, a dialect of Kulaale without previous formal documentation (NSF project #1953310). Translated elicitations from French to English.

Princeton University Baby Lab – Research Assistant

Jun. 2021 - May 2023

PI: Prof. Casey Lew-Williams

Advisor: Dr. Martin Zettersten

Designed and programmed a study on active word-learning, category generalization, and semantic ambiguity. Recruited and scheduled participants for multiple ongoing psycholinguistic studies.

Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages – Research Intern

Jul. - Aug. 2020

Supervisors: Anna Luisa Daigneault, Dr. Gregory Anderson

Annotated elicitations of Sora (Austroasiatic). Assigned semantic domains to lexemes for inclusion in open-access dictionaries.

Hebrew Union College Jewish Language Project – Research Intern

Jun. - Aug. 2020

Supervisor: Prof. Sarah Benor

Organized research materials on endangered Jewish languages. Designed elementary-level lesson plans from the data.

FUNDING, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 - **Paula Menyuk Travel Award**, Boston University Conference on Language Development

2022 - **Winter Research Funding**, Princeton University Program in Linguistics

2021 - **ReMatch+ Summer Funding**, Princeton University Office of Undergraduate Research

2020 - **COVID-19 Response Grant**, Princeton University Pace Center for Civic Engagement

2019, 2020 - **Maureen O'Donnell Scholarship for Academic Excellence**, National Latin Exam

SERVICE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, & LEADERSHIP

NYU Sociolinguistics Lab Manager

Sept. 2024 - present

Organizing and leading subfield group meetings. Soliciting and scheduling presenters.

Linguistics Association at NYU (LANYU)

Sept. 2024 - present

Secretary and Treasurer

Leadership for graduate student organization. Managing communications and event scheduling, overseeing budget and applying for funding, liaising with Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

Princeton Phonology Forum & Symposium on Syntactic Theory

Mar. 2021

Technical Assistant

Facilitated conference talks and provided technical support to speakers and attendees.

The Daily Princetonian

Associate Editor

Jan. 2022 - Jan. 2023

Assistant Editor

Aug. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Edited articles for the *Princetonian*'s arts & culture section, for content, style, and clarity. Led writers' meetings, helping contributors refine ideas and match diverse coverage goals. Collaboratively developed projects with co-editors, spearheading the creation of an improved format for campus arts news coverage.

Princeton University Science Olympiad Executive Board

Co-Director Emerita

Feb. 2021 - Feb. 2022

Co-Director

Aug. 2020 - Feb. 2021

Communications Committee Member

Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2020

Ran a free science tournament for high schoolers. Designed the inaugural remote format and expanded the scale of the event, virtually hosting 73 teams. Led 26-person executive board and developed a new Outreach committee. Wrote tests to introduce students to advanced scientific topics in accessible ways. Mentored subsequent directors.

LANGUAGES _____

English (fluent)

French (intermediate-to-advanced)

Latin, Ancient Greek (reading)

Hebrew (beginner)

Sora, Shona, Kulaale/Hwanyale (fieldwork)

SKILLS _____**Programming:** Python, jsPsych, LaTeX, R, HTML, CSS, Java**Software:** Audacity, ELAN, PRAAT, GitHub**CERTIFICATIONS** _____

CITI program - IRB Social and Behavioral Research