

Morgan Sleeper

Department of Linguistics
Macalester College
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Research Areas

Language and music, Patagonian Welsh, language in Japanese popular media, language revitalization, linguistic landscapes, manga, solarpunk

Academic appointment

- 2024- Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN
2018–2024 Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN

Education

- 2018 Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
Dissertation: *Musicolinguistics: New Methodologies for Integrating Musical and Linguistic Data*. Committee: Matthew Gordon (chair), Eric Campbell, Timothy Cooley, Marianne Mithun
- 2015 M.A. in Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2011-2012 Fellow, Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, U.K./Argentina/France/Ireland/Canada
Fellowship project: *Ceol agus Comhrá: Music & Language Revitalization in the Celtic Fringe*
- 2011 B.A. in Linguistics/Asian Languages and Cultures, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Publications

- Forthcoming *Language and Music: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2025 “Writing on the Wall: The Ludolinguistic Landscapes of *Umurangi Generation*”. Sleeper, Morgan and James Crayton. *Mechademia* 17(2). 168-189.
- 2025 “*Il pianeta dell’acqua: Aria’s Neo-Venezia as utopian aquapelago*”. Sleeper, Morgan and Emi Boonin. *Shima* 19(1). 317-335.

- 2025 “Climate in the Club: Conveying Sustainable Futures through Eco Grime and Solarpunk Music”.
Sleeper, Morgan and Jessica Love-Nichols. In Maida, Kosatica & Sean P. Smith (eds.), *Framing Sustainability in Language and Communication*. New York: Routledge. 221-239.
- 2024 “Singing Synthesizers: Musical Language Revitalization through UTAUloid”.
Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics 27(2). 52-84.
- 2022 “Musicolinguistic documentation: Tone & tune in Tlahuapa Tù'un Sàví songs”.
Sleeper, Morgan and Griselda Reyes Basurto. *Language Documentation & Conservation* 16. 168-208.
- 2021 ““In the name(s) of the moon!”: ‘Japaneseness’ & Reader Identity in Two Translations of Sailor Moon”.
Sleeper, Morgan and Daphne Iskos. *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* 2. 121-154.
- 2021 “Examining the relationship between vowel quality and voice quality”.
Esposito, Christina, Morgan Sleeper, and Kevin Schäfer. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 51(3). 361-392.
- 2020 “Place-name mutation variation in Wales and Patagonia”.
Journal of Celtic Linguistics 21. 143-172.
- 2020 “Contact effects on voice-onset time (VOT) in Patagonian Welsh”.
Journal of the International Phonetic Association 50(2). 153-167.

Conference Presentations

- 2023 “Writing on the wall: the ludolinguistic landscapes of *Umurangi Generation*”
Talk given with James Crayton at *Faites Vos Jeux: Gioco e spazio nei testi e dei testi / Game and space in texts and of texts*. Udine, Italy. March 22-24.
- 2023 “Track maintenance: ekimelo, authenticity, and participatory fan culture in *Densha de Go!*”
Talk given at *North American Conference on Video Game Music (NACVGM)* 10. Deland, FL. February 4-5.
- 2021 “A musicolinguistic analysis of the imagined futures of ‘eco grime’”
Talk given with Jessica Love-Nichols at *ICE-5: The Fifth International Conference on Ecolinguistics*. Liverpool, England. April 12-14.

- 2020 “Language Revitalization and Music: Interdisciplinarity, Theories, Methods, and Exemplars”
Roundtable presentation given with Heather Sparling (organizer), Kit Ashton, Peter Hoesing, Georgette Nummelin, and Maxwell Yamane at the *Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)* virtual annual meeting. October 22-31.
- 2019 “Multimodal Mist: The Musicolinguistic Landscapes of Vaporwave”
Panel presentation for “Musicolinguistics for a Multimodal World” (Morgan Sleeper & Jessica Love-Nichols, organizers), given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Vancouver, BC, Canada. November 20-24.
- 2019 “Singing Synthesizers: Language Revitalization through UTAUloid”
Talk given at *A' Chànain Cheòlmhor: Language Revitalization through Music*. Cape Breton, NS, Canada. October 8-11.
- 2019 “Climate in the Club: Imagining future oceans through the language and music of eco grime”
Talk given with Jessica Love-Nichols at 15th biennial *Conference on Communication and Environment (COCE)*. Vancouver, BC, Canada. June 17-21.
- 2019 “*Tiocfaimid le chéile lenár dteanga*: The role of TG Lurgan music videos in Language Learning & Revitalization”
Talk given with Maggie Bonsey at 17th *International Conference on Minority Languages*. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Netherlands. May 22-24.
- 2019 “Hot and heavy: The phonetic performance of fatness, *fujoshi*, and femininity in 'Kiss Him, Not Me'”
Talk given at *Lavender Languages and Linguistics 26*. Gothenburg, Sweden. May 2-5.
- 2019 ““How in the world did it go so wrong?”: The chronotopic organization of gender and sexuality in US country music”
Talk given with Jessica Love-Nichols at *Lavender Languages and Linguistics 26*. Gothenburg, Sweden. May 2-5.
- 2018 “A case for musicolinguistics: melody and lexical tone in Tlahuapa Tu'un Sàví”
Talk given at the *Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA)* annual meeting. Salt Lake City, UT. January 4-7.
- 2017 “Hot and heavy: The phonetic performance of fatness and *fujoshi* in 'Kiss Him, Not Me'”
Poster presented at 46th annual *New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV)*. Madison, WI. November 2-5.

- 2017 “Sororithroat: The acoustic and ideological properties of an emerging voice quality”
Poster presented with Jessica Love-Nichols at 46th annual *New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV)*. Madison, WI. November 2-5.
- 2017 “The acoustic correlates of hot and bothered: Fatness and *fujoshi* in 'Kiss Him, Not Me'”
Talk given at 23rd annual *Conference on Language, Interaction and Social Organization (LISO)*. Santa Barbara, CA. May 19-20.
- 2017 “Tone and tune in Tlahuapa Tu'un Sàví songs”
Talk given at 20th annual *Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL)*. Santa Barbara, CA. May 12-13.
- 2016 “Contact effects on voice-onset time in Patagonian Welsh”
Poster presented at the *Acoustical Society of America (ASA)* annual meeting. Honolulu, HI. November 28-December 2.
- 2016 “Code-Switching and Chord Changes: Building Identity through Musicolinguistic Signs in Welsh Rock Music”
Panel presentation for “Playing the changes, saying the changes: The social meaning of musico-linguistic style-shifting” (Morgan Sleeper and Jessica Love-Nichols, organizers), given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Minneapolis, MN. November 16-20.
- 2016 “Nasal Mutation Variation in Patagonian Welsh”
Poster presented at 45th annual *New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV)*. Vancouver, BC, Canada. November 3-6.
- 2014 “Consuming Cool Japan: Constructing Foreignness and Reader Identity in Two Translations of Sailor Moon”
Talk given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Washington DC. December 2-7.
- 2014 “Thither change: Temporal Uses of the Cherokee Translocative *ᵹ w(i)-*”
Talk given at 17th annual *Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL)*. Santa Barbara, CA. May 2-3.
- 2013 “Music and Language Revival: A Case for Cornish”
Talk given at *Why Cornish? Towards a Cornish Language Research Unit* conference. Camborne, Cornwall, UK. December 6.

Invited Presentations

- 2021 “Language and music in concert: The musicolinguistic landscapes of vaporwave”
Colloquium talk given at Carleton College, Northfield, MN. February 25.

- 2019 “Tone, tune, and virtual voices: Musical data in language documentation and revitalization”
Keynote address given at *Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium (MULS)*. Minneapolis, MN. April 13.
- 2016 “Code-switching and chord changes: Music, language, & identity in Welsh Rock”
Colloquium talk given at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. November 16.

Teaching

- 2018– Macalester College, St. Paul, MN:
“Introduction to Linguistics” (LING 100)
“Language and Technology” (LING 194)
“Syntax” (LING 200)
“Language and Music” (LING/MUSI 220)
“Linguistic Analysis” (LING 300)
“Field Methods” (LING 401)

Professional Service

- n.d. Reviewer, *National Science Foundation (NSF)*.
- 2021–2025 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Anime and Manga Studies (JAMS)*.
- 2023 Manuscript Reviewer, *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics/Revue canadienne de la linguistique appliquée (CJAL/RCLA)*.
- 2021–2022 Manuscript Reviewer, *Language Documentation & Conservation (LD&C)*.
- 2021 Manuscript Reviewer, *Frontiers in Psychology (Language Sciences section)*.
- 2019–2021 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association (JIPA)*.
- 2019– Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Internal Selection Committee, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2022– Global Indigenous Studies Steering Committee, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2022– Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Steering Committee, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2018– Cognitive Science Concentration Steering Committee, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2018– Library Representative, Linguistics Department, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2020–2021 Admissions Liaison, Linguistics Department, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.
- 2019–2020 Study Abroad Representative, Linguistics Department, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.

- 2023– Faculty Advisor, Macalester Anime Society, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
- 2019 Discussant, “Musicolinguistics for a Multimodal World”, panel given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Vancouver, Canada, November 20-24.
- 2019 Co-organizer, “Musicolinguistics for a Multimodal World”, panel given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Vancouver, Canada, November 20-24.
- 2015-2018 Webmaster, Linguistics Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA. <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/>
- 2016-2018 Webmaster, Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO) Ph.D. Emphasis, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA. <http://liso.ucsb.edu/>
- 2015-2018 Communications Liaison, Linguistics Department, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2018 Abstract reviewer, 21st annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, CA, April 20-21.
- 2017 Abstract reviewer, 20th annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, CA, May 12-13.
- 2016 Co-organizer, “Playing the changes, saying the changes: The social meaning of musico-linguistic style-shifting”, panel given at the *American Anthropological Association (AAA)* annual meeting. Minneapolis, MN, November 16-20.
- 2016 Co-organizer, 19th annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, CA, May 7-8.
- 2015 Co-organizer, 18th annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages. Santa Barbara, CA, May 8-9.
- 2010-2011 Events Coordinator, Linguistics Department, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN.

Awards

- 2024 Outstanding Educator of the Year Award, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Fellowships

- 2013-2018 Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2011-2012 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, The Thomas J. Watson Foundation.

Ceol agus Comhrá: Music & Language Revitalization in the Celtic Fringe