

# THOMAS SOSTARICS

CURRICULUM VITAE

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tsostarics.com

Department of Linguistics  
Northwestern University

## EDUCATION

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**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

Ph.D., Linguistics

(Expected) Jun 2025

M.A., Linguistics

Jan 2023

Data Science Fellow, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems

Sep 2019 - Present

**The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

B.A. Linguistics

Jun 2018

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Phonetics; Phonology; Prosody; Pragmatics; Intonational Meaning; Psycholinguistics; Data Science

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024 Walenski, M., **Sostarics, T.**, Mesulam, M. M., & Thompson, C. K. (2024). The production of adjectives in narratives by individuals with primary progressive aphasia. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 69, 101179. doi:10.1016/j.jneuroling.2023.101179

### Conference Proceedings

- 2025 Iskarous, K., **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (accepted). The dynamical structure of the nuclear tune: The phrase accent. In *Proc. 3rd international conference on tone and intonation (TAI)*
- 2025 Stanhope, R., **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (accepted). F0 correlates of perceived speaker surprise in American English: Accents vs. Edge Tones. In *Proc. 3rd international conference on tone and intonation (TAI)*
- 2024 Sostarics, T., & Cole, J. (2024). PitchMendR: A Tool for the Diagnosis and Treatment of F0 Irregularities. In *Proc. speech prosody 2024* (pp. 289–293). doi:10.21437/SpeechProsody.2024-59
- 2024 **Sostarics, T.**, Ronai, E., & Cole, J. (2025). Relating scalar inference and alternative activation: A view from the rise-fall-rise tune in american english. In *Proceedings of experiments in linguistic meaning 3* (pp. 383–394). doi:10.3765/elm.3.5768
- 2023 **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). Pitch Accent Variation and the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English. In *Proc. INTERSPEECH 2023* (pp. 97–101). doi:10.21437/Interspeech.2023-315
- 2023 **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). Testing the Locus of Speech-Act Meaning in English Intonation. In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (pp. 1240–1244). Guarant International
- 2021 **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021). Epistemic Meaning and the LLL Tune in American English. In *Proc. 1st international conference on tone and intonation (tai)* (pp. 11–15). doi:10.21437/TAI.2021-3

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Refereed Conference Presentations

(◦=oral, ▼=poster. Filled=presenting author.)

- 2025◦ Iskarous, K., **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2025). *The dynamical structure of the nuclear tune: The phrase accent*. Oral presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI).

- 2025<sup>○</sup> Stanhope, R., **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2025). *F0 correlates of perceived speaker surprise in American English: Accents vs. Edge Tones*. Oral presentation at the 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI).
- 2024<sup>○</sup> Cole, J., & **Sostarics, T.** (2024). *In Search of the Phrase Accent: Nuclear Tunes in Mainstream American English*. Oral presentation at the 29th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.
- 2024<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2024). *PitchMendR: A tool for the diagnosis and treatment of F0 tracking errors*. Poster presentation at Speech Prosody 2024. doi:10.21437/SpeechProsody.2024-59
- 2024<sup>▼</sup> Cole, J., Sandberg, K., **Sostarics, T.**, Stanhope, R., & Ronai, E. (2024). *Intonation and its meaning: Beyond essential differences*. Poster presentation at Intonation at the Crossroads (CROSSIN) Workshop, Speech Prosody 2024
- 2024<sup>○</sup> Iskarous, K., Cole, J., & **Sostarics, T.** (2024). *Intonational tunes as compositional, but also autonomous, dynamical objects*. Oral presentation at Variance and invariance in phonological representation: Insights from articulation workshop, Laboratory Phonology 19
- 2024<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, Ronai, E., & Cole, J. (2024). *Relating scalar inference and alternative activation: A view from the rise-fall-rise tune in american english*. Oral presentation at Experiments in Linguistic Meaning 3.
- 2023<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). *Accommodation of rising and falling intonation in american english*. Poster presentation at the 28th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.
- 2023<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, Ronai, E., & Cole, J. (2023). *Scalar inference and rise-fall-rise in american english: Towards a priming perspective*. Oral presentation at the Voices in Contexts workshop at The University of Cologne, Oct 12-13 2023.
- 2023<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). *Pitch Accent Variation and the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English*. Oral presentation at Interspeech 2023. doi:10.21437/Interspeech.2023-315
- 2023<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). *Testing the Locus of Speech-Act Meaning in English Intonation*. Poster presentation at International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences 2023
- 2023<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023). Tonal center of gravity predicts variation in the interpretation of rising and falling intonation in American English. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 153(3\_supplement), A78–A78. Poster presentation at 184th Acoustical Society of America. **1st Place Best Paper in Speech Communication Award**. doi:10.1121/10.0018225
- 2022<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2022). *Exploring the voice quality of nuclear tunes*. Poster presentation at the 27th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.
- 2022<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2022). *What listeners can tell us about epistemic meaning and the LLL tune in american english*. Oral presentation at 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America.
- 2021<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021). *Epistemic meaning and the LLL tune in american english*. Poster presentation at 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation.
- 2021<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021). *Assessing contrasts in intonation through contrasts in speaker commitment*. Oral presentation at the 26th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.
- 2020<sup>▼</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, Walenski, M., Mesulam, M., & Thompson, C. (2020). *Adjective use by individuals with agrammatic primary progressive aphasia*. Poster presentation at Society for the Neurobiology of Language 2020.
- 2020<sup>●</sup> **Sostarics, T.**, Walenski, M., Mesulam, M., & Thompson, C. (2020). *Adjective use by individuals with agrammatic primary progressive aphasia*. Oral presentation at Academy of Aphasia 2020.
- 2019<sup>▼</sup> Arkhipova, L., **Sostarics, T.**, Law, R., Xiang, M., & WingYee, C. (2019). *‘Nonetheless’ can reverse predictions immediately: Evidence from ERPs*. Poster presentation at AMLAP 2019

## Invited Talks

- 2023 **Sostarics, T.** (2023). *Priming perspectives on pitch accents and rise-fall-rise*. Seminar in Semantics/Pragmatics. The University of Chicago, Apr 12 2023.
- 2023 **Sostarics, T.** (2023). *Pitch Accent Variation and the Interpretation of Rising Declaratives*. Phonatics. Northwestern University, Mar 29 2023.
- 2021 **Sostarics, T.** (2021). *Pragmatic contributions of the L\*L-L% contour in american english*. Language Evolution, Acquisition, and Processing Workshop. The University of Chicago, Feb 19 2023.

## Public Outreach

- 2022 **Sostarics, T.** (2022). *Understanding how it's said: Speech and its melodies*. Taste of Science. Chicago, IL, Sep 12 2022.

## OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

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**contrastable:** R package for setting contrast matrices for categorical factors in regression analyses. Available on CRAN: [CRAN.R-project.org/package=contrastable](https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=contrastable).

**PitchMendR:** A Shiny app written in R that provides a GUI to interactively annotate and correct time-series data. Available at: [github.com/tsostarics/PitchMendR](https://github.com/tsostarics/PitchMendR).

## GUEST LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

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### Guest Lectures

Introduction to Intonational Meaning for <i>Experimental Pragmatics</i>	Winter 2023
Praat for Prosody Research for <i>Graduate Prosody Seminar</i>	Winter 2023
NLP Applications for Intonational Meaning for <i>Graduate Prosody Seminar</i>	Winter 2023
Introduction to Praat for <i>Introduction to Laboratory Phonology</i>	Fall 2020
Phonological Perspectives on Aphasia for <i>Introduction to Laboratory Phonology</i>	Fall 2020

### Workshops

Understanding Ordinal Models for Rating Data	<i>Linguistics Noon Colloquium</i> 2024
Introduction to R	<i>Cognitive Science Workshops</i> 2023
Conferences and Poster Presentations	<i>Cognitive Science Workshops</i> 2023
Structure of Experimental Papers	<i>Cognitive Science Workshops</i> 2023
Presentation Skills and Slide Design	<i>Cognitive Science Workshops</i> 2023
Applying to Graduate Programs in Cognitive Science	<i>Cognitive Science Workshops</i> 2023
Data Visualization in R	<i>Linguistics Noon Colloquium</i> 2023
Introduction to Simulations	<i>Prosody and Speech Dynamics Lab</i> 2022
Contrast Coding for Categorical Variables	<i>Linguistics Noon Colloquium</i> 2022
Introduction to Ordinal Regression	<i>Prosody and Speech Dynamics Lab</i> 2021
Stimulist: A Package for Counterbalancing Experiments	<i>Data Science Research Sessions</i> 2021
Introduction to L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	<i>Linguistics Noon Colloquium</i> 2021
Student Resources at Northwestern	<i>Linguistics Summer Workshop Series</i> 2020
Introduction to Version Control	<i>Linguistics Summer Workshop Series</i> 2020

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

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### International Phonetics Association

(€180) IPA Student Award (for Speech Prosody 2024) May 2024

### Acoustical Society of America

(\$250) 1st Place Best Paper in Speech Communication at 2023 Annual Meeting May 2023

### Northwestern University

(\$2077) Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics December 2023

(\$2970) Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School December 2022

(\$490) Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics	October 2022
(\$435) Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics	October 2022
(\$12,500) Data Science Fellowship, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems	September 2019

#### University of Chicago

(\$500) Sapir Scholar Award	March 2018
(\$500) Sapir Scholar Award	January 2018

#### United Services Automobile Association (USAA)

(\$1500) Air Force ROTC Scholarship Award	November 2016
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### APPOINTMENTS & EXPERIENCE

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<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	2020 – 2023
<i>Department of Linguistics</i>	<i>Northwestern University</i>

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|---|-------------|
| · Experimental Pragmatics (with E. Ronai)                                       | Winter 2023 |
| · Introduction to Computational Linguistics (with R. Voigt)                     | Fall 2021   |
| · Introduction to Programming and Text Processing for Linguists (with R. Voigt) | Winter 2021 |
| · Introduction to Laboratory Phonology (with J. Cole)                           | Fall 2020   |

<b>English Instructor</b>	2021 – 2022
<i>English Language Programs</i>	<i>Northwestern University</i>

<b>Volunteer Analyst</b>	2019 – 2022
<i>Aphasia and Neurolinguistics Research Lab</i>	<i>Northwestern University</i>

<b>Research Assistant</b>	2018 – 2019
<i>Language Processing Lab</i>	<i>The University of Chicago</i>

### SERVICE & LEADERSHIP ROLES

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<b>Northwestern University, Dept. of Linguistics</b>	
Cognitive Science Professional Development Workshop Facilitator	2023
Graduate Student Liaison	2022 – 2023
Admissions Committee Member	2020 – 2022

<b>University of Chicago</b>	
Assistant Residential Director, Summer Session	2018 – 2019
Volunteer Instructor, SPLASH! at UChicago	2018
Resident Assistant, Housing and Residence Life	2016 – 2018
Resident Assistant, Chicago Academic Achievement Program	2017

<b>Illinois Institute of Technology, Air Force ROTC Detachment 195</b>	
Cadet Wing Inspector General	Fall 2017
Physical Fitness Officer	Spring 2017
Big Event Planner	2016 – 2017
Webmaster	2016 – 2017
Flight Commander	Fall 2016

### ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

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<b>Kellogg School of Management</b>	Summer 2023
Business Management for Scientists and Engineers (certificate)	

<b>University of Potsdam</b>	August 2021
Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology: Introduction to Bayesian Data Analysis	

## SKILLS OVERVIEW

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**Statistics:** Regression, classification, ordinal data, Bayesian modeling, FPCA, signal processing

**R Expertise:** Package development, reproducible workflows, RMarkdown, tidyverse, Shiny

**Data Science:** Project management, documentation, automation, tooling, experimental design

**Interpersonal:** Mentoring, teaching, collaboration, adaptability, communication, presentation skills

**Graphic Design:** Data visualization and communication, ggplot2, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator

**Other Technologies:** Python, SQL, C++, JavaScript, bash scripting, git, Qualtrics