

# 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 2024

M.A., Linguistics

Jan 2023

Data Science Fellow, Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems

Sep 2019 - Present

**Kellogg School of Management**, Evanston, IL

Business Management Certificate for Scientists and Engineers

Aug 2023

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

B.A. Linguistics

Jun 2018

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Phonetics; Phonology; Prosody; Prosody-Pragmatics Interface; Data Science

## APPOINTMENTS & EXPERIENCE

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**Teaching Assistant**

2020 – 2023

*Department of Linguistics*

*Northwestern University*

· 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

**English Instructor**

2021 – 2022

*English Language Programs*

*Northwestern University*

**Volunteer Analyst**

2019 – 2022

*Aphasia and Neurolinguistics Research Lab*

*Northwestern University*

**Research Assistant**

2018 – 2019

*Language Processing Lab*

*The University of Chicago*

## GUEST LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

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### Guest Lectures

Introduction to Intonational Meaning for *Experimental Pragmatics*

Winter 2023

Praat for Prosody Research for *Graduate Prosody Seminar*

Winter 2023

NLP Applications for Intonational Meaning for *Graduate Prosody Seminar*

Winter 2023

Introduction to Praat for *Introduction to Laboratory Phonology*

Fall 2020

Phonological Perspectives on Aphasia for *Introduction to Laboratory Phonology*

Fall 2020

### Workshops

Introduction to R

*Cognitive Science Workshops* 2023

How to Give Poster Presentations

*Cognitive Science Workshops* 2023

Structure of Experimental Papers

*Cognitive Science Workshops* 2023

Presentation Skills and Slide Design

*Cognitive Science Workshops* 2023

Applying to Graduate Programs in Cognitive Science

*Cognitive Science Workshops* 2023

Data Visualization in R

*Linguistics Noon Colloquium* 2023

Introduction to Simulations

*Prosody and Speech Dynamics Lab* 2022

Contrast Coding for Categorical Variables  
 Introduction to Ordinal Regression  
 Stimulist: A Package for Counterbalancing Experiments  
 Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
 Diversity and Inclusion at Northwestern  
 Introduction to Version Control

*Linguistics Noon Colloquium* 2022  
*Prosody and Speech Dynamics Lab* 2021  
*Data Science Research Sessions* 2021  
*Linguistics Noon Colloquium* 2021  
*Linguistics Summer Workshop Series* 2020  
*Linguistics Summer Workshop Series* 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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Walenski, M., **Sostarics, T.**, Mesulam, M., & Thompson, C. (submitted). The production of adjectives in narratives by individuals with primary progressive aphasia. *Submitted to Journal of Neurolinguistics*

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023a). Pitch Accent Variation and the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English. In *Interspeech 2023*

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023c). Testing the Locus of Speech-Act Meaning in English Intonation. In *International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences 2023*

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021b). 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

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023b). *Pitch Accent Variation and the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English*. Oral presentation at Interspeech 2023

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023d). *Testing the Locus of Speech-Act Meaning in English Intonation*. Poster presentation at International Congress of the Phonetic Sciences 2023

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2023e). *Tonal center of gravity predicts variation in the interpretation of rising and falling intonation in american english*. Poster presentation at 184th Acoustical Society of America. **1st Place Best Paper in Speech Communication Award.**

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2022a). *Exploring the voice quality of nuclear tunes*. Poster presentation at 27th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2022b). *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.

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021c). *Epistemic meaning and the LLL tune in american english*. Poster presentation at 1st International Conference on Tone and Intonation.

**Sostarics, T.**, & Cole, J. (2021a). *Assessing contrasts in intonation through contrasts in speaker commitment*. Oral presentation at 26th Mid-Continental Conference on Phonetics and Phonology.

**Sostarics, T.**, Walenski, M., Mesulam, M., & Thompson, C. (2020a). *Adjective use by individuals with agrammatic primary progressive aphasia*. Poster presentation at Society for the Neurobiology of Language 2020.

**Sostarics, T.**, Walenski, M., Mesulam, M., & Thompson, C. (2020b). *Adjective use by individuals with agrammatic primary progressive aphasia*. Oral presentation at Academy of Aphasia 2020.

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

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**Sostarics, T.** (2023). *Priming perspectives on pitch accents and rise-fall-rise*. Seminar in Semantics/Pragmatics. The University of Chicago, Apr 12 2023.

**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

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

## SERVICE & LEADERSHIP ROLES

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

**University of Chicago**  
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

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

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

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**Acoustical Society of America**  
1st Place Best Paper in Speech Communication at 2023 Annual Meeting (\$250) May 2023

**Northwestern University**  
Graduate Research Grant (\$2970) December 2022  
Dept. of Linguistics Graduate Research Grant (\$490) October 2022  
Dept. of Linguistics Graduate Research Grant (\$435) October 2022  
Data Science Fellowship (\$12,500) September 2019

**University of Chicago**  
Sapir Scholar Award (\$500) March 2018  
Sapir Scholar Award (\$500) January 2018

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

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

**University of Chicago** Spring 2021  
Traveling Scholar: Cue Integration in Language Processing

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**R Expertise:** Package development, reproducible workflows, RMarkdown/Quarto reporting, tidyverse  
**Other Programming:** Python, SQL, JavaScript, bash scripting, automated signal processing  
**Statistics:** Regression, classification, ordinal data analysis, hypothesis testing, Bayesian modeling  
**Data Science:** Data collection, wrangling, and analysis; code review; data quality assurance  
**Graphic Design:** Data visualization and communication, ggplot, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator