

# NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2023



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# Chair's Welcome

Greetings from the Linguistics Department! I'm always surprised at how quickly time passes at the start of the academic year. One moment we are enjoying warm weather as we prepare for our return to campus and the start of classes, and then suddenly we are midway through Fall Quarter, with autumn fading and the end of the term on the near horizon. Indeed, the pace is rapid in the quarter system, but let's pause here for a moment to recognize some of the recent changes and events in our department, starting with our students. We celebrated the accomplishments of our 13 undergraduate majors and 4 graduate students who completed their B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in the 2022-2023 academic year. Our students enliven our classrooms, labs, and offices with their curiosity about language and linguistics and their passion for research, and we appreciate all they contribute to making our department a tangibly vibrant and fun environment for everyone. We bid a bittersweet goodbye to these graduates and to Dr. Jeremy Steffman, a postdoctoral researcher in my lab since 2021, who has now joined the faculty in Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh.



As difficult as it is to say goodbye to our students and postdocs, we also enjoy the pleasure of welcoming new people to our department. We have two new graduate students, Anges Vu and Jingyi Wu, and you can read about their backgrounds and interests in the student highlights section later in this Newsletter. In January we greeted postdoctoral researcher Dr. Seung-Eun Kim, who is working with Matt Goldrick and Ann Bradlow, and over the summer we welcomed Ruth Bagley as a Research Staff working with Rob Voigt, and two new affiliate faculty members from the English Language Program, Tamara Wysocki and Mark Temenak. Our welcome extends to our administrative office with our new Business Coordinator, Charlene Mitchell, who joined us this month.

# Chair's Welcome cont.

In highlighting the accomplishments of our students and postdocs, I must also acknowledge the exciting accomplishments of the faculty who support and guide them. First, we applaud Annette D'Onofrio on her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Annette was also honored with a Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award. Congratulations, Annette! We also proudly recognize Ann Bradlow's election as Vice-President of the Acoustical Society of America. For news about faculty research, I encourage you to follow links on the Department website to faculty and lab webpages, where you can learn about the grants, publications, and exciting research projects underway. To spark your curiosity, I highlight several new grant-supported projects here. Matt Goldrick (Principal Investigator) and Ann Bradlow (co-PI) are collaborating on a new NSF-funded project on *Enhancing research on speech and deep learning through holistic acoustic analysis*. Rob Voigt won funding from the Tides Advocacy/Community Justice Action Fund for work on the *Impact of race in media representations of gun violence*. Rob Voigt and Jennifer Cole (that's me!) are co-PIs on a large NIH-funded project led by Northwestern's Molly Losh (Communication Sciences and Disorders) on *A family-genetic study of language in autism*. And bringing our students back into the spotlight, two projects under Annette D'Onofrio's supervision, with Chantal De Leon and Jennifer Dibbern, were awarded coveted NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants for research in sociolinguistics.

If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and visit us in the Linguistics Department house at 2016 Sheridan. We would be happy to show off the lovely, restored front porch, and the new Multimodal Interaction Lab in Swift Hall. I look forward to meeting you!

-Jennifer Cole

Follow [this link](#) to the Linguistics Research Technology Newsletter for updates on the wonderful resources in the Linguistics Laboratories, and to hear first hand from some of our graduate students about their innovative projects taking place in our labs!



# 2023-2024 Colloquium Schedule

## *Fall Quarter*

**October 27th, 2023:**

Florian Schwarz  
UPenn

**November 10th, 2023:**

Anjalie Field  
Johns Hopkins University



## *Winter Quarter*

**January 26th, 2023:**

Jonathan Brennan  
University of Michigan

**February 16th, 2023:**

Georgia Zellou  
UC Davis

## *Spring Quarter*

**April 12th, 2023:**

Kathryn Franich  
Harvard University

**April 26th, 2023:**

Lal Zimman  
UC Santa Barbara

**May 24th, 2023:**

Meg Cychosz  
UCLA

# Linguistics Demoz Prize Winner 2023

*Joy Fu*

**How did you first become interested in linguistics?**

I have been fascinated by accents and language variations since elementary school. In middle school, I learned that this “hobby” of mine was actually systematically studied by sociolinguists. I started to read extensively about linguistics and decided to major in it in high school.

**Can you briefly describe any research projects in linguistics that you’ve been involved with?**

I did my first research project in linguistics in high school, where I studied the use of the Shanghai dialect in Shanghai Opera. At Northwestern, under the guidance of Prof. Yoshida, I have been investigating grammatical illusions in Mandarin and English locative constructions. I am excited to continue my work on the Chicagoland Language Project with Prof. D’Onofrio this summer.

**How have you been involved in the Linguistics Department outside of your coursework?**

I have worked for Prof. D’Onofrio’s Chicagoland Language Project and am a member of Prof. Yoshida’s Syntax Club. This year, I helped organize NACLO at Northwestern.

**How do you see your linguistics major fitting into your career plans after graduation?**

I’m planning on pursuing a career in law after graduation. My Linguistics coursework has prepared me for both qualitative and quantitative legal research. Through sociolinguistics, I have also had the chance to study social injustices and disparities from a unique perspective.

**What advice would you have for students considering a linguistics major?**

Talk to as many linguistics majors and professors as possible! Take any linguistics class that interests you, as linguistics offers a wide range of branches to explore. There are countless ways to specialize within the field, so follow your interests and passions!

# Faculty Announcements

**Congratulations to Professor Annette D'Onofrio,** who was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure! Professor D'Onofrio was also awarded the Weinberg College distinguished teaching award for the 2022-23 school year.



**Professor Matt Goldrick (right) and Julia Moore (center, PhD alum and Director of English Language Programs)** organized "Changing How We Listen: Accents Across Borders and Professions," supported by a seed grant from the Buffett Institute to Global Affairs. Dr. Devyani Sharma (Queen Mary University of London, left) the keynote speaker, discussed her work on combatting accent bias in Britain. This was followed by a panel discussion of local clinical practitioners that work with second-language English speakers on modifying accents.



## **We welcome two new ELP staff members as affiliate faculty in Linguistics:**

Mark Temenak, MA, MS, CCC-SLP, joined English Language Programs as a full-time Speech-Language Pathologist and lecturer in July 2023. Mark earned his MS in Speech-Language Pathology from Northwestern's School of Communication and an MA in Applied Linguistics/TESOL at the University of Illinois-Chicago. His most recent role was bilingual speech-pathologist position serving Spanish-speaking students from early childhood through 12th grade.



Tamra Wysocki-Niimi, PhD, joined English Language Programs as a full-time Language Pedagogy Specialist and lecturer in June. Tamra earned her doctorate in linguistics at the University of Chicago, specializing in acoustic and articulatory phonetics and phonology, with fieldwork in the former Soviet state of Georgia. She taught Georgian at the University of Chicago for 9 years, and most recently was a full-time communication consultant to MBA students in Kellogg School of Management.



# Faculty Publications

## Eszter Ronai

- 2023. Eszter Ronai & Ming Xiang. Memory Versus Expectation: Processing Relative Clauses in a Flexible Word Order Language. *Cognitive Science*, 47: e13227.
- 2023. Eszter Ronai & Ming Xiang. Degree estimates as a measure of inference calculation. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 8(1), 5537. 2022.
- Eszter Ronai & Lucas Fagen. Exclusives vary in strength and scale structure: experimental evidence. In Marco Degano et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, pp. 258-266.

## Ann Bradlow

- Bradlow, A. R., Bassard, A. M., & Paller, K. A. (2023). Generalized perceptual adaptation to second-language speech: Variability, similarity, and intelligibility. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 154, 1601-1613.
- Bradlow, A. R., Bassard, A. M. and Paller, K.A. (2023). Generalized perceptual adaptation to second-language speech: Variability, similarity, and intelligibility. *Proceedings of the XXth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Prague, Czechia.

## Jennifer Cole

- Goldrick, M., Cole, J. 2023. Advancement of phonetics in the 21st century: Exemplar models of speech production. *Journal of Phonetics*, 99: 101254.
- Im, S., Cole, J., Baumann, S. 2023. Standing out in context: Prominence in the production and perception of public speech. *Laboratory Phonology*, 14(1).
- Cole, J., Steffman, J., Shattuck-Hufnagel, S., Tilsen, S. 2023. Hierarchical distinctions in the production and perception of nuclear tones in American English. *Laboratory Phonology*, 14(1).

## Masaya Yoshida

- Lukic, S., Krauska, A., Yoshida, M., & Thompson, C. K. (2023). The role of category ambiguity in normal and impaired lexical processing: can you paint without the paint?. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 17, 1028378.
- Orth, W., & Yoshida, M. (2023). There is something missing in NP and moving in DP. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 1-19.
- Momma, S., & Yoshida, M. (2023). Planning multiple dependencies in sentence production. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 1-31.

## Matt Goldrick

- Goldrick, M., & Cole, J. S. (2023). Advancement of phonetics in the 21st century: Exemplar models of speech production. *Journal of Phonetics*, 99, 101254.
- Goldrick, M. & Gollan, T. H. (2023). Inhibitory control of the dominant language: Reversed language dominance is the tip of the iceberg. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 130, 104410.
- Gavino, M. F., & Goldrick, M. (2023). Consequences of mixing and switching languages for retrieval and articulation. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 26, 504-515.

## Annette D'Onofrio

- Dibern, J. & D'Onofrio, A. (2023). The influence of raciolinguistic expectations on phoneme categorization in Spanish-English bilinguals. *International Journal of Bilingualism*. Online first.
- Benheim, J. & D'Onofrio, A. (2023). Local features, local meanings: Language ideologies and place-linked vocalic variation among Jewish Chicagoans. *Language in Society*. First view.
- Carmichael, K. & D'Onofrio, A. (2023). "Our Southern is different than Southern Southern": Geographic perceptions of Southern and Northern US English dialect features in New Orleans English. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 29(2).

## Rob Voigt

- Q. Zeng, L. Garay, P. Zhou, D. Chong, Y. Hua, J. Wu, Y. Pan, H. Zhou, R. Voigt, and J. Yang. GreenPLM: Cross-Lingual Transfer of Monolingual Pre-Trained Language Models at Almost No Cost. *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI 2023)*.
- M. Heddaya, S. Dworkin, C. Tan, R. Voigt, and A. Zentefis. The Language of Bargaining. *Proceedings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2023)*.
- S-Y. Lam, Q. Zeng, K. Zhang, C. You and R. Voigt. Large Language Models Are Partially Primed in Pronoun Interpretation. *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2023 Findings)*

## Gregory Ward

- Berman, S., Boulton, M., Clarke, D. S., Condoravdi, C. A., Coward, R., Ellis, J., ... & Ward, G. L. (2022). *Routledge Library Editions: Semantics and Semiology*.



# Student Announcements

## Thomas Sostarics

### Best Paper in Speech Communication at the 184th Acoustical Society of America Meeting

Congratulations to Thomas Sostarics, whose presentation *Tonal Center of Gravity Predicts Variation in the Interpretation of Rising and Falling Intonation in American English* was awarded first place in the Speech Communication category at the Acoustical Society of America's 184th meeting!

## Congratulations to these students on receiving the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant!

Chantal De Leon, for her project on *Integration of social information in sociolinguistic perception*  
Jennifer Dibbern, for her project on *The influence of local social context on speech perception in bilinguals*.

# QP Fest 2023 Recap

Thank you to all who attended the Linguistics Department's QP Fest this June at Chambers Hall and congratulations to our presenters!



## Presenters

**Ziyun Chew:** The Corpus of Mexican American Language (COMAL)

**Cassie Davenport:** *Themselves or Themselves?*  
Lexical and syntactic information in coreference

**Devin Johnson:** Processing of English Reflexives Shows Evidence of Structural Prediction

**Grace LeFevre:** Evaluative expressions in letters of recommendation

**Adrian Ray-Avalani:** Constructing a linguistic classifier of tone policing



# 1st Year Grad Student Intros

## Jingyi Wu

I am very excited to further expand my linguistic knowledge at Northwestern University. My current research interest is the processing mechanism of conversational implicature, especially scalar implicature. I am also interested in content related to sentence information structure, such as the functions of focus markers in different languages.



## AnGES Vu



I'm super excited to learn from and collaborate with the great faculty and fellow graduate students here at Northwestern! I look forward to exploring bilingual language acquisition, retention, and attrition through the lens of speech perception/production, and in particular, I'm interested in studying heritage speakers of Vietnamese. I hope to incorporate interdisciplinary skills and methodologies from fields like socio- and computational linguistics in my investigations of these topics.

# Congratulations to our PhD and MA graduates!

Hyosik Kim      Wesley Orth  
Maria Gavino      Jaime Benheim  
Lisa Cox (M.A.)

Follow [this link](#) to learn more about their research!

## Congratulations to our new PhD candidates!

These are students who advanced to PhD candidate status after successfully defending their thesis prospectus.

Chantal De Leon      Thomas Sostarics      Kate Sandberg

## Congratulations to our undergraduate class of 2023!

Charlise Casas	Joshua Declan Irvin
Citlalli Cazales	Edward Lawson Karppi
Audrey Chisholm	Olivia Iwase Lathrop
Celia Noelle Crompton	Clayton Lamar Lawhead
Briana Cara Crowley	Allison Macdonald
Grace DeAngelis	Sammy Salam Mustafa
Megan Lori Gendelman	Samantha Isabel Noeth Lewis
Marisa Gudiño	John Perales
Elizabeth Eunjung Han	Jamarielle Zhane Ransom-Marks
Rose Marie Haselhorst	Jill Jackson Rawls

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