

## MEGHAN SUMNER

Linguistics Department  
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### POSITIONS

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2014 – present Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University  
2007 – 2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University  
2006 – 2007 Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley  
2003 – 2006 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, NIH National Research Service Award  
“Stimulus variability and perceptual categorization”  
Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University

### EDUCATION

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2003 Ph.D., Linguistics, Stony Brook University  
*Dissertation:* Testing the abstractness of phonological representations in Modern Hebrew weak verbs  
*Committee:* Ellen Broselow (Advisor), Robert Hoberman, Christina Bethin, Arthur Samuel  
1996 B.A., Anthropology, University at Albany

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Influence of phonetically-cued linguistic and social meaning on spoken word recognition
- Word-level phonetic effects on the recognition of words with different pronunciation variants
- Cross-accent variation effects on the perception and representation of spoken words
- Differences in quantitative versus qualitative experience on the encoding of spoken words
- Effects of sub-lexical variation in adjusting to non-native phonetic contrasts
- Learning and generalization of novel contrasts

### AWARDS

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Hellman Faculty Scholar, Stanford University, 2008 – 2009  
Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. Stony Brook University, 2001

### GRANTS

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National Science Foundation Grant 1226963: Understanding spoken words: Effects of phonetics, phonological variation, and speech mode in speech perception, 2012 – 2016, Sole PI, \$399,814.

National Science Foundation, Grant 0642914: The learning and generalization of non-native contrastive cues, 2007 – 2011, Sole PI, \$387,000.

NIH National Research Service Award, Grant 5F32MH06820402: Stimulus variability and perceptual categorization, 2003 – 2006.

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Sumner, M. (2015). The social weight of spoken words. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 19, 238-239.  
Kim, S. K., and Sumner, M. (2015). Effects of emotional prosody on semantic priming. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, to appear.  
King, E., and Sumner, M. (2015). Voice-specific effects in semantic association. *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, to appear.

- King, S., and Sumner, M. (2014). Voices and variants: Effects of voice on the form-based processing of words with different phonological variants. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2913 - 2918). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Sumner, M., Kim, S. K., King, E., and McGowan, K. (2014). The socially-weighted encoding of spoken words: A dual-route approach to speech perception. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 4, 1 – 13.
- Sumner, M., and Kataoka, R. (2013). Effects of phonetically-cued talker variation on semantic encoding. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 134, EL485–EL491.
- Sumner, M. (2013). A phonetic explanation of phonological variant effects. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 134, EL26 – EL32.
- Moon, K., and Sumner, M. (2013). The learning and generalization of contrasts consistent or inconsistent with native biases. *Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association*, to appear.
- Sumner, M., Kurumada, C., Gafter, R., and Casillas, M. (2013). Phonetic variation and the recognition of words with pronunciation variants. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, to appear.
- Sumner, M. (2011). The role of variation in the perception of accented speech. *Cognition*, 119, 131-36.
- de Marneffe, M-C., Tomlinson, J., Tice, M., and Sumner, M. (2011). The interaction of lexical frequency and phonetic variability in the perception of accented speech. In L. Carlson, C. Hölscher, & T. Shipley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2009). The effect of experience on the perception and representation of dialect variants. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 60, 487 – 501.
- Sumner, M. (2009). The learning and generalization of novel contrastive cues. *Proceedings of the 10th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association*, 412 – 418.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2007). Lexical inhibition and sub-lexical facilitation are surprisingly long lasting. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 33, 769 – 790.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2005). Perception and representation of regular variation: The case of final /t/. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 52, 322 – 338.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- Samuel, A. G., and Sumner, M. (2012). Current directions in research on spoken word recognition. In M. Spivey, M. Joanisse, and K. McRae (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Psycholinguistics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Sumner, M. (2003). A psycholinguistic approach to abstractness: The case of Hebrew. In Arunachalam et al. (eds.), *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*, v. 8.1. Philadelphia: Penn Linguistics Club, 150 – 159.
- Sumner, M. (2002). The reality of abstract representations in Modern Hebrew. In L. Mikkelsen and C. Potts (eds.), *Proceedings of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, vol. 21. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press, 429 – 442.
- Sumner, M. (1999). Compensatory lengthening as coalescence: Analysis and implications. In A. Barss et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, vol. 18. Somerville, MD: Cascadilla Press, 532 – 544.
- Sumner, M. (1999). Are you there? Self-interruption and the restructuring of conversation. In Verschueren (ed.), *Pragmatics in 1998: Selected papers from the 6th International Pragmatics Conference*, vol. 2. Antwerp: International Pragmatics Association, 536 – 546.

## INVITED TALKS

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- Title TBA. Sociolinguistic Variation and Language Processing, Virginia Tech, March 31, 2016.
- Social biases in spoken language understanding. Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University, March 19, 2015.
- Effects of differently weighting sound- and meaning-based cues in spoken word recognition. Symbolic Systems Forum, Stanford University, March, 9, 2015.
- A phonetic explanation of phonological variant effects in the perception and recognition of spoken words. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, Stony Brook University, April 26, 2013.
- Speaker-specific effects on the recall and recognition of spoken words. Current Issues and Methods in Speaker Adaptation. Workshop Organized by the Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, April 2013.
- Effects of indexical variation on the perception and recognition of spoken words within and across accents. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, MIT, April 2012.
- Effects of indexical variation on the perception of phonological variants within and across accents. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, Northwestern University, March 2, 2012.
- The representation paradox and the illusion of phonological variant effects in speech perception. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, UCLA, February, 2012.
- Global Frequency, canonical forms, and the representation paradox. UC Berkeley Phonetics and Phonology Forum, September 26, 2011.
- Global Frequency, canonical forms, and the representation paradox. Basque Center for Cognition, Brain, and Language, September 6, 2011.
- Variation-driven effects in speech perception. Testing models of phonetics and phonology workshop, July 13, Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute.
- The perception and representation of unfamiliar accents. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, University of California, San Diego. May 10, 2010.
- The benefit of variation in the perception of speech. Cognition and Language Workshop: The perceptual bases of communication. Stanford University. March 8, 2010.
- The lack of variance problem in the perception of accented speech. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, University of California, Santa Cruz. October 23, 2009.
- The effect of experience on the perception and representation of dialects. Department of Linguistics Colloquium, Stanford University. February 16, 2007.
- Experience, transparency, and unproductive surface alternations. Phonology Phonetics Phorum, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley. December 3, 2006.

## CONFERENCE TALKS

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- McGowan, K.; and Sumner, M. (2015). Putting phonological variants in their phonetic place: Effects of speech style in spoken word recognition. The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Sumner, M.; Calder, J.; D'Onofrio, A.; McGowan, K.; and Pratt, T. (2015). Top-down vs. bottom-up processing depends on the acoustic composition of an utterance. The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Kim, S.-K., and Sumner, M. (2014). When emotion ties you up: Effects of emotion ambiguity on lexical access. The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- King, S., and Sumner, M. (2014). Voices and variants: Effects of voice and dialect on the perception of words with perceived nonstandard speech patterns. The 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- McGowan, K.B. Sumner, M., D'Onofrio, A., and Pratt, T. The contribution of form and meaning to the processing of careful and casual speech. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, OH
- Sumner, M., and King, E. (2013). Different voices prime different words. Talk to be presented at *New ways of analyzing variation* 42, Pittsburgh, PA, October 17 – 20.

- Sumner, M., and King, E. (2013). Voice-specific lexicons: Effects of indexical phonetic variation on semantic activation. Talk accepted for presentation at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, Canada, November 14 – 17.
- Sumner, M., Kataoka, R., & King, E. (2013). Speaker-specific recall of spoken words. *Experimental Approaches to Perception and Production 2013*; Copenhagen, March 20 – 22.
- Sumner, M., & Kataoka, R. (2013). I heard you but didn't listen: Accent-dependent differences in the encoding of spoken words. The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Boston, MA. January 3 – 6.
- Kataoka, R., & Sumner, M. (2013). The prestige effect in the perception of spoken words. The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Boston, MA. January 3 – 6.
- Sumner, M., Gafter, R., Kurumada, C., and Tice, M., (2011). Integrating frequency, phonology, and formality in the perception of spoken words. The 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA. January 6–9.
- Sumner, M. (2010). The saliency of canonical forms. The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Baltimore, MD. January 7–10.
- Gafter, R., Jurafsky, D., and Sumner, M. 2009. Where accommodation to non-native speakers *doesn't* happen: A corpus study of foreigner directed speech. The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of New Ways of Analyzing Variation, Ottawa, Canada. October 22–25.
- Sumner, M. (2009). The learning and generalization of novel phonetic cues. *Interspeech 2009*, Brighton, U.K. September 6–10.
- Sumner, M. (2009). Perceptual learning, bad maps, and the gross category adjustment. The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. San Francisco, CA. January 8–11.
- Sumner, M. (2008). Gross category adjustments and perceptual learning. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the High Desert Linguistic Society, Albuquerque, NM. November 6–8.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. (2007). The effect of experience on the perception and representation of dialectal variants. The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Long Beach, CA. November 15–18.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. (2007). Overcoming perceptual bias in the processing of non-native accent. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Association for Interdisciplinary Learning, Hood River, OR. August 2–6.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. (2005). Long-term activation of lexical and sub-lexical representations. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Association for Interdisciplinary Learning, Hood River, OR.
- Sumner, M. (2002). Testing the abstractness of phonological representations in Modern Hebrew. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Long Island Sounds Conference, New York University, NY. May 8.
- Sumner, M. (2002). The psycholinguistic reality of abstract representations. The 21<sup>st</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of California at Santa Cruz, CA. April 5–7.
- Sumner, M. (2002). Transparency, opacity, and the reality of abstract forms in Modern Hebrew. The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, Chicago, IL. April 25–27.
- Sumner, M. (2001). A psycholinguistic approach to abstractness: The case of Hebrew. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium, Philadelphia, PA. March 2–3.
- Sumner, M. (2001). Colloquial Slovak and Rural Polish: Do we need derivational levels? The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC. January 4–7.
- Sumner, M. (2000). Vowels as onsets in Spanish. The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Chicago, IL. January 6–10.
- Sumner, M. (1999). Compensatory lengthening as coalescence: Analysis and implications. The 18<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. April 9–11.
- Sumner, M. (1998). Are you there? Self-interruption and the restructuring of conversation. The 6<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Conference, Reims, France. July 19–24.

- Kim, S. K., and Sumner, M. (2015). Competition among words and emotional prosody. *The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Portland, OR.
- Moore, N., McGowan, K., Frank, M. and Sumner, M. (2015). The use of phonetically-cued talker information to disambiguate like-objects by children. *The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Portland, OR.
- Moore, N., McGowan, K., Frank, M. and Sumner, M. (2015). The use of phonetically-cued talker information to disambiguate like-objects by children. *The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Long Beach, CA.
- Sumner, M.; Calder, J.; D'Onofrio, A.; McGowan, K.; and Pratt, T. 2013. Top-down vs. bottom-up processing depends on the acoustic composition of an utterance. The 166<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 2 – 6.
- Kim, S. K., and Sumner, M. 2013. When emotion ties you up: Effects of emotion ambiguity on lexical access. The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, Canada, Nov. 14 – 17.
- Kim, S. K., and Sumner, M. 2013. Detangling emotion from the words we speak. Presented at the Current Issues and Methods in Speaker Adaptation Workshop. Columbus, April 6 – 7.
- Sumner, M. 2012. A phonetic explanation of pronunciation variant effects. Presented at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 16 – 19.
- Sumner, M. and King, E. 2011. Perceptual-learning vs. perceptual-shifting: How listeners accommodate to accented speech. Presented at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, Oct. 31 – Nov. 4.
- Sumner, M. and Tilsen, S. 2011. Low-level adjustments to gross-categorical mismatches in the perception of accented speech. Presented at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, Oct. 31 – Nov. 4.
- Sumner, M. and Kataoka, R. 2011. All representations are not equal: Differential activation of words and phonological variants across accents. Presented at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, Oct. 31 – Nov. 4.
- Woodley, M., Tice, M., and Sumner, M. 2011. Does L2 acquisition effect L1 lexical access? Presented at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Diego, Oct. 31 – Nov. 4.
- Spinelli, E., Sumner, M. & Johnson, K. (2011). Phonological variation affects lexicalization of newly learnt words. *ESCOF 2011*, 17th Meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology. Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain. 29th September- 02 Octobre.
- Weber, A., Sumner, M., Krott, A., Huettig, F., and Hanolikova, A. (2011). Sinking about boats and brains: Activation of word meaning in foreign-accented speech by native and non-native speakers. Swedish Cognitive Science Conference, Linköping, Sweden.
- Gafer, R., Kurumada, C., Tice, M., and Sumner, M. (2010). Frequency MADDERS, but formality and phonology MATTER, too. The 2nd Pan-American/Iberian Meeting on Acoustics, Cancun, Mexico. November 15–19.
- Pineda, M., and Sumner, M. (2010). A distributional analysis of VOT in French-accented English. The 159<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Baltimore, MD. April 19–23.
- Moon, K., and Sumner, M. (2010). Generalization of learned cues to speakers with novel accents. The 159<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Baltimore, MD. April 19–23.
- de Marneffe, M-C., and Sumner, M. (2009). The effect of frequency and variation in the perception of non-native phonetic cues. The 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, San Antonio, TX. October 26–30.
- Sumner, M. (2009). The benefit of variation in cross-language speech perception. *Cross-Language Speech Perception and Variation in Linguistic Experience*, Portland, OR. May 22–23.
- Sumner, M. (2008). Learning and generalization of non-native voicing cues. *Acoustics '08*, Paris, France. July 4 – 8.
- Sumner, M. (2006). Learning to use new phonetic cues when processing non-native speech. The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Houston, TX. November 16–19.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2005). The perception and representation of an r-dropping dialect.

- The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Toronto, Canada. November 10–13.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2004). The Effect of Cross-language Variation on Perception and Lexical Access. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Minneapolis, MN. November 18–21.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2004). The Effect on Lexical Access of Phonologically Regular Variation. From Sound to Sense: 50+ Years of Discoveries in Speech Communication, MIT. June 11–13.
- Sumner, M., and Samuel, A. G. (2003). The Effect on Lexical Access of Arbitrary versus Phonologically Regular Variation. The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, Canada. November 6–9.
- Sumner, M. (2002). The phonological status of glottal stops in Modern Hebrew. The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Contrast in Phonology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. May 3–5.

#### TEACHING AND ADVISING

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##### *Undergraduate Courses*

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology  
 Introduction to Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics  
 Introduction to Speech Perception  
 What's your accent? Investigations in Acoustic Phonetics (Freshman Seminar Program)  
 Experimental Phonetics (Freshman Seminar Program)  
 Language in the USA

##### *Graduate Courses*

Introduction to Phonetics  
 Advanced Phonetics Laboratory Seminar  
 Phonetic Variation in Speech Perception and Spoken Word Recognition  
 Qualitative versus Quantitative Experience in Speech Perception Research  
 The perception and recognition of clear and casual speech  
 Complicating Representations: Sociolinguistic production and spoken word recognition (with Penny Eckert)

##### *Short Courses*

Phonetic Variation in Speech Perception  
*Instructor, 2011, LSA Linguistic Institute, Boulder, CO*

Acoustic Phonetics for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)  
*Instructor, 2002, Stony Brook University*

#### DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

##### *Main Advisor/Co-Advisor*

- Ed King, *Advisor*. Voice-specific lexicons: Effects of talker-variation on form and semantic activation, *in progress*.
- Seung-Kyung Kim, *Co-Advisor with Rob Podesva*, The parallel processing of emotional and linguistic cues in spoken word recognition, *in progress*.
- Olga Dmitrieva, *Co-Advised with Arto Anttila*, Geminate typology and perception of consonant length, *2012*.
- Yuan Zhao, *Co-Advised with Dan Jurafsky*, Statistical inference in the learning of novel phonetic categories, *Ph.D. 2009*.

### *Committee Member*

- Annette D'Onofrio, Sociolinguistic Saliency in California English, *in progress*.
- Roey Gafter, Ethnic Identity and linguistic variation in the Tel Aviv area, *Ph.D. 2014*.
- Andrea Kortenhoven, Voicing authority: A sociolinguistic analysis of African-American churchwomen's discursive practices of testifying and preaching, *in progress*.
- Chigusa Kurumada, Inference and interpretation. *Ph.D. 2013*.
- Uriel Cohen-Priva, Sign and signal: Deriving linguistic generalizations from information utility. *Ph.D. 2012*.
- Alessandro Jaker, Word prosody and level ordering in Weledeh Dogrib, *Ph.D. 2011*.
- Inbal Arnon, *Starting Big – The role of sequences in language learning and use*, *Ph.D. 2010*.
- Rebecca Greene, Eastern Kentucky English and ideology, *Ph.D. 2010*.
- Laura Staum Casasanto, Experimental investigations of sociolinguistic knowledge, *Ph.D. 2009*.
- Lauren Hall-Lew, Ethnicity and phonetic variation in a San Francisco neighborhood, *Ph.D. 2009*.

### ACTIVITIES

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#### *Professional Memberships*

Acoustical Society of America; American Academy of Science; International Speech Association; Linguistic Society of America; Psychonomic Society (Member)

#### *Organized Workshop (with Matt Goldrick and Joe Pater)*

Testing models of phonetics and phonology at the LSA Linguistic Institute, July 2011

*Reviewer for Journals:* Acta Psychologica; Applied Psycholinguistics; Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics; Cognition; Cognitive Psychology; Cognitive Science; Journal of the Acoustical Society of America; Journal of Memory and Language; Journal of Phonetics; Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing; Laboratory Phonology; Language; Language and Cognitive Processes; Language and Speech; Lingua; Memory and Cognition; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology; Psychonomic Bulletin and Review; Speech Communication

*Reviewer for Funding Agencies:* Language Learning; National Science Foundation; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

#### *Departmental Service*

2013 – present	Founder and Organizer, Gender Issues in Linguistics
2007 – present	Director, Linguistics Department Laboratory
2009 – present	Organizer, Phonetics Discussion Group
2007 – present	Chair, Lab Committee
2007 – 2008, 2013	Member, Graduate Admissions Committee
2009 – 2011, 2014	Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee
2008 – 2010	Chair, Phonetics-Phonology Curriculum Overhaul Committee
2007 – 2009	Organizer, Speech Lunch

April 2015