

# Molly I. Cutler

she/her

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Areas:** sociolinguistics, syntax, semantics, language cognition/acquisition

**Topics:** dialectology & variation; tense & aspect; learning & categorization

## EDUCATION

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**New York University**

2023 - present

**Ph.D in Linguistics**

**Princeton University**

2019 - 2023

**B.A. in Linguistics, certificate in Cognitive Science, *magna cum laude*** (GPA 3.93)

**Senior Thesis:** Performing Performatives: An Analysis of Role-Playing Games' Narration,  
Toward an Expansion of the Semantics of English Simple Present Verb Morphology

**Senior Thesis Advisor:** Dr. Alexander Göbel; **Second Reader:** Prof. Una Stojnić

**Junior Paper (Independent Research):** "I am Done (with) My Homework": the Semantics,  
Syntax, and Sociolinguistic Microvariation of a Dialectal Feature of Philadelphia English

**Junior Paper Advisor:** Dr. Dunia Catalina Méndez Vallejo

## PUBLICATIONS

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Zettersten, M., **Cutler, M.**, & Lew-Williams, C. (2023). Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. [[preprint](#)]

## PRESENTATIONS

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**"Performing Performatives: An Analysis of Role-Playing Games' Narration, Toward an Expansion of the Semantics of English Simple Present Verb Morphology"**

Talk presented at SYNC (Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, CUNY graduate linguistics conference), Dec. 2023

**"Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words"**

Talk presented at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development, Nov. 2023

Co-authored with Martin Zettersten & Casey Lew-Williams

**"I am Done (with) My Homework': the Semantics, Syntax, and Variation of a Feature of Philadelphia English"**

Princeton Research Day (remote), April 2022

**"Learning Ambiguous Words Through Active Sampling"**

Princeton University Summer Research Colloquium (remote), August 2021

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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### **Princeton University Program in Linguistics – Research Assistant**

Jul. - Aug. 2022

*PI: Prof. Florian Lionnet*

Digitized and annotated fieldwork notes on Hwanyale, a previously undocumented dialect of Kulaale (NSF project #1953310). Translated elicitations from French to English.

### **Princeton University Baby Lab – Research Assistant**

Jun. 2021 - May 2023

*PI: Prof. Casey Lew-Williams*

*Advisor: Dr. Martin Zettersten*

Designed and programmed a study on active word-learning, category generalization, and semantic ambiguity. Recruited and scheduled participants for multiple ongoing psycholinguistic studies.

### **Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages – Research Intern**

Jul. - Aug. 2020

*Supervisors: Anna Luisa Daigneault, Dr. Gregory Anderson*

Annotated elicitations of Sora (Austroasiatic). Assigned semantic domains to lexemes for inclusion in open-access dictionaries.

### **Hebrew Union College Jewish Language Project – Research Intern**

Jun. - Aug. 2020

*Supervisor: Prof. Sarah Benor*

Collated research on endangered Jewish languages. Created elementary-level lesson plans from the data.

## FUNDING, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

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2023 - **Paula Menyuk Travel Award**, Boston University Conference on Language Development

2022 - **Winter Research Funding**, Princeton University Program in Linguistics

2021 - **ReMatch+ Summer Funding**, Princeton University Office of Undergraduate Research

2020 - **COVID-19 Response Grant**, Princeton University Pace Center for Civic Engagement

2019, 2020 - **Maureen O'Donnell Scholarship for Academic Excellence**, National Latin Exam

## SERVICE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, & LEADERSHIP

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### **Princeton Phonology Forum & Symposium on Syntactic Theory**

Mar. 2021

Technical Assistant

Facilitated conference talks and provided technical support to speakers and attendees.

### **The Daily Princetonian**

Associate Editor

Jan. 2022 - Jan. 2023

Assistant Editor

Aug. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Edited articles for the *Princetonian's* arts & culture section, for content, style, and clarity. Led writers' meetings, helping contributors refine ideas and match diverse coverage goals. Collaboratively developed projects with co-editors, spearheading the creation of an improved format for campus arts news coverage.

**Princeton University Science Olympiad Executive Board**

Co-Director Emerita

Feb. 2021 - Feb. 2022

Co-Director

Aug. 2020 - Feb. 2021

Communications Committee Member

Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2020

Ran a free science tournament for high schoolers. Designed the inaugural remote format and expanded the scale of the event, virtually hosting 73 teams. Led 26-person executive board and developed a new Outreach committee. Wrote tests to introduce students to advanced scientific topics in accessible ways. Mentored subsequent directors.

**LANGUAGES** 

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English (fluent)

French (intermediate-to-advanced)

Latin, Ancient Greek (reading)

Hebrew (beginner)

Sora, Shona, Kulaale/Hwanyale (fieldwork)

**SKILLS** 

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**Programming:** Python, jsPsych, LaTeX, R, HTML, CSS, Java**Software:** Audacity, ELAN, PRAAT, GitHub**CERTIFICATIONS** 

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CITI program - IRB Social and Behavioral Research