

# 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***

**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

IN PROGRESS

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**Cutler, M.\***, Mitra, A.\*, Barnard, M., Cojocaru, V., Göbel, J., MacKenzie, L. Both (of) the variants show a couple (of) different patterns: Social conditioning of 'of'-variation across multiple linguistic environments. (under review)

\*co-first authors

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 dialect of Kulaale without previous formal documentation (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*

Organized research materials on endangered Jewish languages. Designed elementary-level lesson plans from the data.

TEACHING

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**'Language' (introduction to linguistics) at NYU** Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant for Prerna Nadathur

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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**NYU Sociolinguistics Lab Manager** Sept. 2024 - present  
Organizing and leading subfield group meetings. Soliciting and scheduling presenters.

**Linguistics Association at NYU (LANYU)** Sept. 2024 - present  
Secretary and Treasurer  
Leadership for graduate student organization. Managing communications and event scheduling, overseeing budget and applying for funding, liaising with Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

**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. Led writers' meetings, helping contributors refine ideas and match diverse coverage goals. Collaboratively developed projects with co-editors.

### **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 high school science tournament. Designed inaugural remote format and expanded event, virtually hosting 73 teams. Led 26-person executive board and developed 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/Hwanyle (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