Molly I. Cutler

she/her

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RESEARCH INTERESTS ——————————————————————————————

Linguistic variation, across sociolinguistics, syntax, and acquisition.

EDUCATION ——————————————————————————————————

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

PUBLICATIONS ———————————————————————————————

Cutler, M.*, Mitra, A.*, Barnard, M., Göbel, J., & MacKenzie, L. To appear. Both (of) the
variants show a couple (of) different patterns: Social conditioning of 'of'-variation across
multiple linguistic environments. *U. Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 31.2.
*co-first authors

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 ————————————————————————————————

**Cutler, M. "A comparative sociosyntax approach to constraints on preposition variation in
Philadelphia English and Scots."**
Talk upcoming at NWAV 53, Nov. 2025

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."**
Talk presented at NWAV 52, Nov. 2024.   *co-first authors/presenters

**Cutler, M. "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

Cutler, M., Zettersten, M., & Lew-Williams, C. **"Active information-seeking in support of learning extensions of novel words"**
Talk presented at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development, Nov. 2023

Cutler, M. "'I am Done (with) My Homework': the Semantics, Syntax, and Variation of a Feature of Philadelphia English"
Princeton Research Day (remote), April 2022

Cutler, M. "Learning Ambiguous Words Through Active Sampling"
Princeton University Summer Research Colloquium (remote), August 2021

IN PROGRESS ──

Cutler, M. In prep. A comparative sociosyntax approach to constraints on preposition variation in Philadelphia English and Scots.

RESEARCH POSITIONS ──────────────────────────────────────

Princeton University Program in Linguistics – Research Assistant   Jul. - Aug. 2022
PI: Prof. Florian Lionnet
Digitized and annotated fieldwork notes on Hwanyle, 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 implemented an online 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 ──

'Bilingualism' at NYU   Fall 2025
Course Assistant for Zvjezdana Vrzić

'Language' (introduction to linguistics) at NYU   Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant for Prerna Nadathur

FUNDING, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS ──────────────────────────

2023 - 2028 - **Henry MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship**, New York University
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 ────────────────

NYU Sociolinguistics Lab Manager   Sept. 2024 - Aug. 2025
Organizing and leading subfield group meetings. Soliciting and scheduling presenters.

Linguistics Association at NYU (LANYU)   Sept. 2024 - May 2025
Secretary and Treasurer
Leadership for graduate student organization. Managing communications and event scheduling,
overseeing budget and applying for funding.

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 science tournament for high schoolers. Designed inaugural remote format; expanded the event,
virtually hosting 73 teams. Led 26-person exec. board; developed new Outreach committee. Wrote tests to
engage students with advanced scientific topics in accessible ways. Mentored subsequent directors.

LANGUAGES ──────────────────────────────────────

English (fluent)
French (intermediate)

Latin, Ancient Greek (reading)
Korean, Sora, Shona, Kulaale/Hwanyle (fieldwork)

SKILLS ———————————————————————————————————

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

CERTIFICATIONS ———————————————————————————————

CITI program - IRB Social and Behavioral Research