

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. Accepted. A comparative sociosyntax approach to constraints on preposition variation in Philadelphia English and Scots. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*.

Cutler, M.*, Mitra, A.*, Barnard, M., Göbel, J., & MacKenzie, L. 2025. 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. *equal contribution

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. & Cournane, A. "What I'll say and what you're going to say: Children's use of constraints on sociolinguistic variation."

Talk forthcoming at NWAV 54, Oct. 2026

Cutler, M., Göbel, J., & MacKenzie, L. "Can social judgments be sensitive to linguistic structure? A case study of English of-variation."

Talk forthcoming at NWAV 54, Oct. 2026

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

Talk presented 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. *equal contribution

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

TEACHING

‘Language & Society’ (introduction to sociolinguistics) at NYU

Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant for Laurel MacKenzie

‘Bilingualism’ at NYU

Fall 2025, Fall 2026

Course Assistant for Zvezdana Vrzić

‘Language’ (introduction to linguistics) at NYU

Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant for Prerna Nadathur

RESEARCH POSITIONS

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 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.

FUNDING, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

2026 - **Dean's Conference Fund**, New York University

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 & LEADERSHIP

NYU Sociolinguistics Lab Manager

Sept. 2024 - Aug. 2025; Sept. 2026 -

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.

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 to virtually host 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, Kulaale/Hwanyale, Shona, Sora, Yiddish (research)

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, jsPsych, LaTeX, HTML, CSS, Java

Software: Audacity, ELAN, PRAAT

CERTIFICATIONS

CITI program - IRB Social and Behavioral Research