

JONAH KATZ

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Employment

University of California Los Angeles

Dept. of Linguistics

Associate professor

2024-

The rotting corpse of West Virginia University

Dept. of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Associate Professor

2020-24

Assistant Professor

2014-20

I was laid off from my 'tenured' position at WVU without cause, without financial exigency, and without shared governance. I consider every individual involved in the administration of this institution to be a bad actor in violation of ethical and professional norms. I do not associate with this institution and do not recognize it as a legitimate university.

University of California Berkeley

Dept. of Linguistics

Mellon post-doctoral fellow & Visiting Assistant Professor

2012-14

CNRS - Institut Jean Nicod

École Normale Supérieure Paris

Post-doctoral researcher

2010-12

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology / PhD / 2010

PhD in linguistics (concentration in phonetics and phonology)

Dissertation: *Compression effects, perceptual asymmetries, and the grammar of timing*

Committee: Edward Flemming (chair), Adam Albright, Donca Steriade

University of Massachusetts Amherst / 2 BAs / 2004

BA degrees *cum laude* in linguistics and music performance; Minor in Spanish

Research assistantships with John Kingston, Elisabeth Selkirk

External grants

2023- NSF BCS-2234368

The causal structure of intervocalic lenition in English and Spanish

J. Katz and S. Robles-Puente, co-PIs. ≈ \$250k. Currently on hiatus with one year remaining.

2022-24 Duolingo, Inc.

Duolingo as a tool for second/foreign language maintenance

N. Tracy-Ventura (PI), J. Katz, W.J. Morgan, A. Huensch (co-PIs). ≈ \$80k.

Peer-reviewed journal papers

- 2025 Grosz, P.G., R.T. Solberg, J. Katz, M.H. Vu, A.R. Jensenius & P. Patel-Grosz. (2025). An outline of the narrative grammar of electronic dance music. *Musicae Scientiae*, published online: <https://doi.org/10.1177/10298649251321709>
- 2025 Tracy-Ventura, N., A. Huensch, J. Katz, & R. Mitchell. (2024). Is L2 Attrition Inevitable After Instruction Ends? A Longitudinal Exploratory Study of Advanced Instructed L2 Users. *Language Learning* 75(1), 42-76. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lang.12665>
- 2023 Katz, J. Musical grouping as prosodic implementation. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46, 959-988. Pre-print: <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003938>
- 2022 Katz, J. Meter, grouping, and event hierarchies in music: A tutorial for linguists. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 16(9), e12472. Pre-print: <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006752>
- 2021 Katz, J. Intervocalic lenition is not phonological: Evidence from Campidanese Sardinian. *Phonology* 38(4), 651-692.
- 2021 Katz, J. & M. Moore. Phonetic Effects in Child and Adult Word Segmentation. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research* 64(3), 854-869.
- 2021 Morgan, W.J. & J. Katz. Mindfulness meditation and foreign language classroom anxiety: Findings from a randomized control trial. *Foreign Language Annals*, 54(2).
- 2019 Katz, J. & G. Pitzanti. The phonetics and phonology of lenition: A Campidanese Sardinian case study. *Laboratory Phonology* 10(1), 16.
- 2018 Katz, J. & M. Fricke. Auditory disruption improves word segmentation: a functional basis for lenition phenomena. *Glossa* 3(1), 38.
- 2017 Katz, J. Harmonic syntax of the 12-bar blues: A corpus study. *Music Perception* 35(2), 165-192.
- 2017 Katz, J. & J. Salerno. Epistemic modal disagreement. *Topoi* 36(1), 141-153.
- 2016 Katz, J. Lenition, perception, and neutralisation. *Phonology* 33(1), 43-85.
- 2016 Lee, S. & J. Katz. Perceptual integration of acoustic cues to laryngeal contrasts in Korean fricatives. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 139(2), 605-611.

- 2015** Katz, J., E. Chemla & C. Pallier. An attentional effect of musical metrical structure. *PLoS One*. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0140895
- 2015** Katz, J. Hip-hop rhymes reiterate phonological typology. *Lingua* **160**, 54-73. [N.B. this was published at the original journal with the original editorial team, the one which continues as *Glossa*; **not** the ‘zombie’ journal of the same name created by Elsevier.]
- 2013** Katz, J. Asymmetries in English vowel perception mirror compression effects. *Phonetica* **70**, 93-116.
- 2012** Katz, J. Compression effects in English. *Journal of Phonetics* **40**, 390-402.
- 2011** Katz, J. & E. Selkirk. Contrastive focus vs. discourse-new: evidence from prosodic prominence in English. *Language* **87**(4), 771-816.

Other publications

- 2025** Katz, J. (2025). Synchronic Lenition. To appear in *International Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (3rd edition). Currently published online: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00347-1>
- 2022** Patel-Grosz, P., J. Katz, P. Grosz, T. Kelkar & A. Jensenius. From music to dance: the inheritance of semantic inferences. *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics* **14**, 219-238. http://www.cssp.cnrs.fr/eiss14/eiss14_patel-grosz_et_al.pdf. Peer-reviewed conference proceedings. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-95504-1.00347-1>
- 2018** Katz, J. Review of *The Phonetics and Phonology of Geminate Consonants*, H. Kubozono (ed.). *Phonology* **35**(3). Invited book review.
- 2017** Katz, J. Style and flow: A commentary on Duinker & Martin. *Empirical Musicology Review* **12**, 101-108. Invited peer commentary.
- 2017** Katz, J. Exceptional cadential chords and the nature of tonic-marking. In Halpert, Kotek, & van Urk (eds.), *A Pesky Set: A festschrift for David Pesetsky*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Working Papers in Linguistics. 447-456. Invited and peer-reviewed contribution.
- 2016** Bakst, S. & J. Katz. A phonetic basis for the sonority of [χ]. *Proceedings of CLS* **50**.

Conference presentations (refereed abstract)

- 2023** (virtual poster) Evidence for the phonetic basis of Campidanese Sardinian metaphony. *Annual Meeting on Phonology*, online/Johns Hopkins University.
- 2023** (poster) Meter and constituency in old-school hip-hop. *MorrisHalle@100* conference, MIT.
- 2022** (virtual) Generative textsetting and responsion in old-school hip-hop. 29th annual *Manchester Phonology Meeting*, online/Manchester UK..
- 2021** (virtual) Harmony, rhythm, and the syntax-prosody interface. *15th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Language*, workshop ‘Syntax and semantics of music and dance: Formal and experimental approaches’, online/University of Latvia.

- 2021** (virtual poster) Sandhi, geminacy, and lenition in Campidanese Sardinian. *Annual Meeting on Phonology*, online / University of Toronto.
- 2021** (virtual) Campidanese Sardinian lenition as prosodically conditioned duration differences. 28th annual *Manchester Phonology Meeting*, online / Manchester UK.
- 2019** (poster) Aspects of Campidanese Sardinian consonant lenition. *Annual meeting of the LSA*, New York, NY.
- 2018** (poster) Campidanese Sardinian lenition revisited. *LabPhon 16*, Lisbon. [Cancelled due to travel mishaps]
- 2018** (poster w/ Michelle Moore) Examining the effects of phonetic naturalness and cognitive-linguistic ability in the statistical learning patterns of typically-developing children. *Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2018** The phonetics of consonantal length and contrast in Campidanese Sardinian. *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages 48*, York University, Toronto.
- 2016** (poster w/ Melinda Fricke) Lenition and segmentation. *LabPhon 15*, Cornell University, Ithaca.
- 2016** (poster w/ Sarah Lee) Cue integration and fricative perception in Seoul Korean. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC.
- 2015** Continuity Lenition. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Portland OR.
- 2015** (w/ Melinda Fricke) Lenition/fortition patterns aid prosodic segmentation. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Portland OR.
- 2015** (w/ Joe Salerno) Epistemic modal disagreement. *Buffalo Annual Experimental Philosophy Conference*, Buffalo NY.
- 2014** (poster) Continuity Lenition. *Annual Meeting in Phonology 2014*, MIT, Cambridge MA.
- 2014** (w/ Sarah Bakst) A phonetic basis for the sonority of [χ]. *ASA spring meeting*, Providence RI.
- 2014** (w/ Sarah Bakst) A phonetic basis for the sonority of [χ]. *CLS 50*, University of Chicago.
- 2013** (poster) Against a unified sonority scale. *Annual Meeting in Phonology 2013*, UMass Amherst.
- 2012** Spanish consonant clusters and the phonology of timing. *OCP 2012*, ZAS Berlin.
- 2011** (poster w/ Maria Giavazzi) Timing, perceptual distinctiveness, and cluster phonotactics in Spanish and Italian. *Phonetics and Phonology in Iberia*, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona.
- 2011** English duration patterns mirror perceptual asymmetries. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Pittsburgh.
- 2010** Phonetic similarity in an English hip-hop corpus. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Baltimore.
- 2010** (poster w/ Maria Giavazzi) Phonological faithfulness and morphological well-formedness in Kinande loanword adaptation. *LSA Annual Meeting*, Baltimore.
- 2008** (poster) Compensatory Shortening and Phonetic Representations. *Consonant Clusters and Structural Complexity*, Institut für Phonetik und Sprachverarbeitung, Munich.
- 2008** Towards a Generative Theory of Hip-Hop. *Music, Language, and the Mind*, Tufts, Medford MA.
- 2007** Optimal musical grouping. *Language and Music as Cognitive Systems*, University of Cambridge.

- 2006** (w/ John Kingston, Della Chambless, & Daniel Mash) Sequential contrast or compensation for coarticulation? *ASA annual meeting*, Providence RI.
- 2006** (w/ John Kingston, Della Chambless, Daniel Mash, Eve Brenner, & Shigeto Kawahara) Sequential contrast and perception of coarticulated segments. *10th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Paris.

Invited talks

- 2025** Phrasing, templates, and parallelism in early hip-hop. Linguistics colloquium, University College London.
- 2025** Two short talks on tonality and tunes & texts. Music-phonology group, University College London.
- 2024** Weakening, predictability, and representations. Linguistics colloquium, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2024** Prosodic structure, timing, and fortition-lenition patterns. UCLA job talk.
- 2023** Speech sounds, grouping, and temporal coordination. University of Missouri job talk.
- 2023** A prosodic-phonetic model of intervocalic lenition. Phonetics and Phonology Lab, Harvard.
- 2022** A prosodic-phonetic model of intervocalic lenition. Linguistics colloquium, NYU.
- 2022** Gestalt grouping in music and language. LINGUAE research group, Departement d'Etudes Cognitives, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.
- 2021** (virtual) Probing Sardinian phonological representations with acoustic phonetics. Workshop *Linguistic identity of Corsica and Sardinia: areas, strata, systems in the insular and Romance space*, CNRS UMR Structures Formelles du Langage, Université Lyon 3 Jean Moulin, Paris / Lyon.
- 2021** A prosodic-phonetic approach to intervocalic lenition. Linguistics colloquium, MIT.
- 2021** (virtual) Campidanese Sardinian lenition is phonetic and conditioned by duration. Colloquium series Keio x ICU LINC, Keio University / International Christian University, Tokyo.
- 2021** (virtual) A phonetic approach to Campidanese Sardinian lenition. Colloquium series Séminaires de Recherches en Phonétique et Phonologie, Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie, Université de Paris 3 / Sorbonne Nouvelle.
- 2020** Gestalt grouping in phonetics (and phonology?). *Language: Ideas and Provocations*, Max Planck – NYU Center for Language, Music, and Emotion (CLaME). Workshop at NYU.
- 2019** Gestalt grouping, similarity, and disruption. *Third International Workshop on Music, Language, and Computing*, St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation and Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 2019** Grouping in music and language. Super Linguistics colloquium series, University of Oslo.
- 2018** Musical syntax. *Linguistic explorations beyond language: Music, dance, and visual narrative*. University of Crete.
- 2017** Cadence and the syntax-semantics interface. *Meaning in music: a symposium on music semantics*, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland.

- 2017** Continuity Lenition. Linguistics colloquium, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- 2017** Harmonic syntax in a blues corpus. Memorial University of Newfoundland music department.
- 2017** Exceptional cadential chords and tonal interpretation. *David Pesetsky @60*, MIT.
- 2017** Cue integration in Korean fricatives: Intrinsic or learned? Linguistics colloquium, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2016** (w/ Melinda Fricke) The function of lenition/fortition patterns: evidence from word segmentation. University of Edinburgh Phonetics/Phonology Workshop.
- 2015** Exploring a corpus of jazz blues harmonic progressions. *The Music/Language Connection*, NYU.
- 2014** Hip-hop rhyme and the nature of phonology. West Virginia University job talk.
- 2013** Lenition and contrast revisited. The Ohio State University job talk.
- 2012** Syntactic models for Western tonal harmony. UC Berkeley linguistics colloquium.
- 2012** Rhyme patterns reiterate phonological typology. Stanford phonetics and phonology workshop.
- 2011** (w/ Maria Giavazzi) Timing and the phonetics-phonology interface. *Time in Phonology*, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain.
- 2011** (w/ David Pesetsky) Language and Music: same structures, different building blocks. *Music and Language in the Brain*, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
- 2011** (w/ Lisa Selkirk) Contrastive focus vs. discourse-new: evidence from prosodic prominence in English. SIGMA research group (now LINGUAE), Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.
- 2011** English duration patterns mirror perceptual asymmetries. Laboratoire Psychologie de la Perception, Paris.
- 2011** Language and Music: same structures, different building blocks. INSERM-CEA Cognitive Neuroimaging Unit, Saclay, France.
- 2011** Compression effects, perceptual asymmetries, and the grammar of timing. University of Southern California job talk.
- 2011** Compression effects mirror perceptual asymmetries. Institut für Phonetik und Sprachverarbeitung, Munich.
- 2010** Similarity and bias in an English hip-hop corpus. Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.
- 2010** Similarity, timing, and focus. University of Missouri job talk.
- 2009** (w/ David Pesetsky) The Identity Thesis for Language and Music. *Sounds and Structures*, Freie Universität Berlin.
- 2009** (w/ David Pesetsky) The Recursive Syntax and Prosody of Tonal Music. *Recursion: Structural Complexity in Language and Cognition*, UMass Amherst.

Invited seminars/courses

CreteLing (2022)

- 1-week course, co-taught with Philippe Schlenker, on tonality, syntax, and meaning in music.

New York-Petersburg Institute (2021, 2022, 2025)

- 2-week courses on the structure and cognition of musical harmony as it relates to linguistic structure (2021), implicit knowledge of musical structure in untrained listeners (2022), and textsetting (planned 2025)

Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa (2012)

- One-week invited Professorship: three lectures on phonetics and music cognition.

Teaching

UCLA (2024-)

Graduate introduction to phonology (LING 200A), Graduate seminar in phonology (Ling 251), Undergraduate phonology II (LING 165A)

West Virginia University (2014-24)

Phonology I and II (LING 411 and 611); Introduction to Language (LING 101); Research methods in linguistics (LING 610, BIBY 615); Cognitive foundations of language (LING 517); Syntax (LING 412)

UC Berkeley (2012-14)

Phonology II (LING 211b); Seminar in phonetics and phonology (LING 290E); Introduction to linguistic science (LING 100); Meter and rhythm in language and music (LING 290E, w/ Stephanie Shih)

Institut Jean-Nicod, École Normale Supérieure (2010-12)

Music, Language, and Cognition Study Group: General course on basics of music theory, music cognition, relationship between music and language, attended by a diverse array of students and researchers from linguistics, philosophy, cognitive science

Advising

Jacob Reed (PhD expected mid 2020s)

University of Chicago doctoral student in music. Committee member. Dissertation: *Negotiating Grammars: Encounters Between Music and Text*.

Khadijat Abdulrazaq (MA 2024)

WVU MA thesis: *Nasals and nasalization in the Yorùbá Ìjẹ̀bú dialect*. Committee **chair**.

Léo Migotti (PhD 2023)

École Normale Supérieure (Paris) doctoral student. Committee member. Dissertation: *Investigating musical meaning: Empirical evidence for a music semantics*.

Taniya Chawla (PhD 2021)

WVU doctoral student in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Committee member. Dissertation: *The Effect of Bilingual Proficiency in Indian English on Bilabial Plosive*

Caitlyn Ross (PhD 2021)

WVU doctoral student in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Committee member. Dissertation: *Examining the effects of background noise on contextualized word learning*.

Bamidele Oluwabukola (MA 2019)

WVU MA thesis: *The /h/ phenomenon: Overgeneralised or confused?* Committee **chair**.

José Fernando Ramírez (MA 2019)

WVU MA thesis: *Acoustics of vowel articulation in flute playing*. Committee **chair**.

Matías de Paula (MA 2016)

WVU MA thesis: *A Description of the Sound System of Misiones Mbya*. Committee **chair**.

MA and undergraduate thesis committees

Jessica Jurado, 2022 WVU MA thesis: *Clitic doubling: The case of Nariño Andean Spanish*; Ashraf Al-Sad, 2021 WVU MA thesis: *Gendered Language Use in Facebook Status Updates Among Jordanian and American Youth*; Shahd Abu Nahel, 2021 WVU MA thesis: *[k], [g], and [ʔ] in Amman: Social Associations and Identity Perception*; Yuki Hattori, 2020 WVU MA thesis: *Regional Variation on Loanword Adaptation in Japanese*; Yurena Castaño Nuñez, 2019 WVU MA thesis: *DP internal code-switching by Spanish and English bilinguals in the US*; Sarah Cooper, 2019 WVU MA thesis: *An Assessment of Emotional-Force and Cultural Sensitivity: The Usage of English Swearwords by L1 German Speakers*; Wei Zhou, 2019 WVU MA thesis: *Mandarin -guo under control: An experimental study*; Luis Miguel Toquero, 2018 WVU MA thesis: *The semantics of Spanish compounding: an analysis of NN compounds in the Parallel Architecture*; Ruofan Cai, 2014 UC Berkeley undergrad thesis: *The perception of downstep in language and music*; Sarah Lee, 2013 UC Berkeley undergrad thesis: *Cue integration in the perception of Korean fricatives*; Marine Guillanton, 2013 CogMaster (French inter-university cognitive science program) thesis: *Does metrical structure guide attention? A cross-domain language-music comparative study*.

Reviewing

2025

Journal of Phonetics; Language

2024

Phonology; Biolinguistics; Primates; Language and Linguistics Compass; Canada Research Chairs (ad-hoc reviewer); AMP; NELS; GLOW

2023

Phonology; Music & Science; Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition; Cambridge University Press (textbook proposal / chapters); Cambridge University Press (edited volume proposal); Manchester Phonology Meeting; WCCFL; NELS

2022

Language; Laboratory Phonology (journal); Biolinguistics; Language & Speech; MIT Press (scholarly monograph); Cambridge University Press (textbook proposal / chapters); National Science Foundation Linguistics Program (ad-hoc); Manchester Phonology Meeting; AMP; WCCFL; GLOW

2021

Journal of Phonetics (2 rounds); Language & Speech; English Language & Linguistics; Romanica Cracoviensia; AMP; WCCFL; NELS

2020

Journal of Phonetics; Music Perception; Glossa; Linguistic Analysis; Cambridge University Press (textbook prospectus); AMP

2019

Phonology; Language; Linguistic Analysis; Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters; Glossa; Università Ca'Foscari grant evaluation (ad-hoc); NSF CAREER program (ad-hoc); Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting; AMP; NELS; Amsterdam Colloquium; WCCFL; GLOW

2018

Phonology; Glossa; Attention, Perception & Psychophysics; Journal of Hispanic & Lusophone Linguistics; Music Theory Online; Cambridge University Press (textbook proposal); LSA Annual Meeting; AMP; Linguistic Explorations Beyond Music (workshop); NELS; WCCFL

2017

Phonology, Glossa (2 papers), Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, Laboratory Phonology (journal), Empirical Musicology Review, NELS, AMP

2016

Linguistic Inquiry; Laboratory Phonology (journal); Glossa; Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, A Pesky Set: A Festschrift for David Pesetsky (2 papers); WCCFL; NELS; GLOW in Asia

2015

Lingua (2 papers); Open Competition in the Humanities grant (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research); Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement grant (NSF); GLOW; NELS

2014

Lingua; Folia Linguistica; Festschrift for Ray Jackendoff (2 papers); WCCFL; NELS; Exploring the Interfaces

2013

Language; Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience; WCCFL

2010-2012

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance; Review of Philosophy and Psychology; Journal of East Asian Linguistics; Journal of Linguistics

Other professional service

Starting Sept 2025

Editorial Advisory Board, *English Linguistics* (journal of the English Linguistic Society of Japan)

2022-

Member of the Advisory Board for the Manchester Phonology Meeting

2021-22

Guest editor for special issue of *Linguistics & Philosophy* on 'Super Linguistics', the application of linguistic methodology to areas beyond language.

Mensches

Everybody who succeeds in this field has a network of teachers, advisors, mentors, well-wishers, and role models who contribute to that success, especially earlier in one's career. Recent events have caused me to reflect on how lucky I've been to have an amazing network of such people over the years, from my undergraduate career at UMass to the darkest days of my 2023-24 job search. And I decided the positivity of putting this out there in the world outweighs my dread at the certainty that I've left somebody important off this list. So here are some of my helpers (not including peers; that would be a whole other long list): Adam Albright, Emmanuel Chemla, François Dell, Edward Flemming, John Halle, Bruce Hayes, Larry Hyman, Sabine Iatridou, Sharon Inkelas, Keith Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Ellen Kaisse, John Kingston, Paul Kiparsky, Angelika Kratzer, Bob Ladd, Fred Lerdahl, Christophe Pallier, Barbara Partee, Sharon Peperkamp, David Pesetsky, Philippe Schlenker, Lisa Selkirk, Donca Steriade, Sandra Stjepanovic, Ángel Tuninetti