

EMILY S. MOENG

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Education

- Ph.D. **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill** (*expected June 2018*)
Linguistics, emphasis in experimental phonetics and phonology, and in language acquisition
- M.A. **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill** (2012)
Linguistics, emphasis in experimental phonetics and phonology
- Do phonologically active classes warp the perceptual space?*
Elliott Moreton, Katya Pertsova, and Jennifer L. Smith
- B.A. **University of California, Berkeley** (2009)
Linguistics

Research Interests

Acquisition of phonological patterns

- Study how language learners form implicit phonological patterns, and how language learners sort through large amounts of data to arrive at the correct mental representations of sound categories (“phonetic categories”)
- **Research methods include:** Designing, creating, and running experiments using HTML and PHP, creating synthetic stimulus words in Praat using speech resynthesis, recording natural stimulus words in Praat, splicing, amplitude normalization, working with child language corpora (CHILDES), running participants both in person and over the web using Mechanical Turk, and using Praat and Perl programming to automate phonetic measurements

Language documentation

- Involved with the documentation of S’gaw Karen, an under-documented language spoken primarily in Myanmar and in Thailand
- Involved with the documentation of Tigrinya (Tigrigna), an under-documented language spoken primarily in Ethiopia and Eritrea
- Compiled a searchable translation dictionary for S’gaw Karen speakers learning English, and for English speakers learning S’gaw Karen, using data collected by students from a field methods course

- **Research methods include:** Recording and analyzing speech of native speakers of S’gaw Karen and Tigrinya using Praat, writing Praat scripts to automate the extraction of phonetic information (pitch, vowel formant values, phone duration, etc.) from recordings, analyzing spectrograms to aid in the identification of phones, using an ultrasound machine to analyze the tongue shapes of speakers of Tigrinya while producing ejective fricatives

Community outreach

- **TULIP Language Games:** Creator of TULIP Language Games (Tools for Underrepresented Languages, Immersion, and Preservation), free online games aimed at children whose parents speak minority languages with the aim of encouraging use of minority heritage languages and revitalizing languages such as Cherokee
- **Linguistics Outreach Group:** Member of UNC’s Linguistics Outreach Group, a group which organizes events promoting the understanding of dialectal differences and education dispelling erroneous negative language stereotypes

Teaching Experience

Instructor (2012 – present)

- Linguistics 101: Introduction to Language
- Plan and give all lectures. Plan and grade all exams, assignments, and papers

Instructor (Summer 2017 – Fall 2017)

- Online course of Linguistics 101: Introduction to Language
- Grade all exams, assignments, and papers. Give students feedback online

Teaching Assistant (2009 – 2012)

- Linguistics 101: Introduction to Language
- Linguistics 101H: Introduction to Language, Honors section
- Assisted in giving weekly recitations. Assisted in grading student exams, assignments, and papers

English Tutor (Summer 2009)

- Tutored English at Yelle School in Pisa, Italy

Publications

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| 2017 | Moeng, Emily. Distributional learning on Mechanical Turk and effects of attentional shifts. Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). |
| Submitted | Moeng, Emily and William Carter. Factors in the Affrication of the Ejective Alveolar Fricative in Tigrinya. Proceedings of the 47 th Association of Contemporary Linguistics (ACAL). |

- 2016 Moeng, Emily. Comparing the Distributional Learnability of Stops, Fricatives, Glides, and Vowels. Proceedings of the 40th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD).
- 2016 Moeng, Emily, Jennifer Boehm and Amy Reynolds. Modeling the interlanguage: The effect of frequency in the L2 acquisition of English consonant clusters. Proceedings of the Seventh Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS).
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. "Acquiring Phonemes: Is Frequency or the Lexicon the Dominant Cue?" University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics: Vol. 21: Iss. 1, Article 21.
- 2012 Moeng, Emily. Do phonologically active classes warp the perceptual space? (Master's thesis). University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

Workshops

- Accepted Moeng, Emily. "Introduction to Using Mechanical Turk for Linguistics Research." To be presented at the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning & Teaching (PSLLT) Research Methods Workshop, September 1-2.

Talks and Conferences

- Accepted Moeng, Emily. "Learning non-local and local dissimilation." To be presented at the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF), October 12-15.
- 2016 Moeng, Emily and William Carter. "Variable affrication of the ejective fricative in Tigrinya." Presented at the 47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL), March 23-26.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. "Glides exhibit less variance than vowels: Support for the CV Hypothesis." Presented at the Second Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, October 9-11.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. "Distributional information in child-directed speech depends on the type of phoneme." Presented at the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society's 7th Conference (ILLS), April 17-18.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. "Acquiring phonemes: What distributional information do infants receive in child-directed speech?" Presented at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), April 9-11.
- 2015 Boehm, Jennifer, Emily Moeng, and Amy Reynolds. "Modeling English phonological structures: A case study of frequency effects in S'gaw Karen

- speakers.” Presented at the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), April 9-11.
- 2014 Moeng, Emily. “Acquiring Phonemes: Is Frequency or the Lexicon the Primary Cue?” Presented at the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), March 28-30.
- 2014 Moeng, Emily. “The Acquisition of Phonemes.” Presented at the UNC Linguistics Department Spring Colloquium, March 22.
- 2014 “Classifiers in S’gaw Karen.” Guest lecture. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, March 19.

Poster Presentations

- 2017 Moeng, Emily. “‘Anti’-distributional learning on Mechanical Turk.” Poster presented at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, TX, January 5-8.
- 2017 Moeng, Emily, Jennifer Boehm, and Amy Reynolds. “Defining ‘high quality’ tokens of tone in Mandarin Infant-Directed Speech.” Poster presented at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Austin, TX, January 5-8.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. “Distributions of individual segments and of phonological features.” Poster presented at BUCLD 40, Boston, MA, November 13-15.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily, Jennifer Boehm and Amy Reynolds. “Modeling Frequency Effects in L2 Acquisition of English Consonant Clusters.” Presented at the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society’s 7th Conference (ILLS), April 17-18.
- 2015 Moeng, Emily. “How do infants pick out ‘high quality’ vowel tokens when acquiring phoneme categories?” Poster presented at the 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Portland, OR, January 8-11.

Grants and Awards

- 2016 Grant for developing TULIP Language Games, Carolina Asia Center
- 2016 Department Research Grant, UNC Linguistics Department (Craver Fund)
- 2015 Department Travel Grant, UNC Linguistics Department (Craver Fund)
- 2015 Top Abstract Award, Illinois Language and Linguistics Society 7
- 2015 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant

- 2015 Department Travel Grant, UNC Linguistics Department (Melchert Fund)
- 2014 Department Travel Grant, UNC Linguistics Department (Melchert Fund)
- 2014 Department Research Grant, UNC Linguistics Department (Melchert Fund)

Research Experience

Research Assistant (*Fall 2015, Summer 2016*)

- Worked with Dr. Misha Becker and Holly Shablack
- Recruited and ran participants, ages 3-5 at a children's science museum
- Helped develop experiments in Qualtrics, software for conducting psychology experiments

Research Assistant (*Summer 2014*)

- Worked with Dr. David Mora-Marin
- Helped document S'gaw Karen, an under-documented language spoken in Myanmar and Thailand
- Recorded and analyzed words in S'gaw Karen using Praat
- Organized large amounts of collaborative data and research collected by students from a field methods class studying S'gaw Karen into a grammar and searchable dictionary

Research Assistant (*2008 – 2009*)

- Worked with Sam Tilsen, Ph.D. (UC Berkeley)
- Analyzed the effects of rhythm on speech errors and speech onset time using MEG

Professional Skills

Speech transcription (advanced)

- In-depth knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- Highly skilled in reading and transcribing sounds into IPA symbols

Praat (advanced)

- Advanced experience with reading spectrograms, recording speech, and transcribing speech in Praat
- Skilled in creating synthetic speech and sound continua using resynthesis
- Advanced experience with programming in Praat

Ultrasound imaging (some experience)

- Have some experience in designing and carrying out experiments using ultrasound machines and Ultraspeech, software for analyzing the oral cavity

Editing papers written in non-native English

- Paid freelance editor for Dr. Hang Zhang, an assistant professor specializing in Chinese linguistics, second language acquisition, and Optimality Theory

Web-related programming (proficient)

- Proficient in creating websites and web-based experiments using **HTML** (advanced), **CSS** (advanced), **PHP** (proficient), and **JavaScript** (proficient)

Amazon Mechanical Turk (advanced)

- Experience using Amazon's Mechanical Turk to run participants over the web

jsPsych (advanced)

- Experience using jsPsych to design web experiments
- Experience modifying jsPsych library to fit the needs of my experiment
- Experience analyzing data output from jsPsych-based experiments

Perl (advanced)

- Experience using Perl to read and analyze corpus data (specifically, CELEX-English)
- Experience using Perl to read and analyze output from Praat (TextGrids, FormantTiers, PitchTiers, etc.)

R (proficient)

- Experience using R for statistical analyses
- Experience using R for data visualization (visual displays of clustering data and graphs)

LaTeX (proficient)

Microsoft Office (advanced)

- Advanced experience with Word, Excel, and Powerpoint

Creative software (advanced)

- Advanced experience with graphic design in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator

Department Service and Activities

President of the Linguistics Graduate Student Association (2016 – current)

Organize officer meetings and check in with officers' progress.

Co-Social Media Chair (2016 – current)

Maintain social media presence for the UNC Linguistics Department.

Webmaster (2015 – current)

Maintain department website.

Spectrogram Lunch Coordinator (2014 – 2015)

Social hour for the UNC linguistics department in which participants read a mystery recording's spectrogram and waveform to infer what utterance was recorded, without listening to the audio

Social chair (2012 – 2014)

Organize socials for the UNC Linguistics Graduate Student Association

Colloquium co-organizer

Co-organizer for the 2012 Spring Colloquium for UNC Linguistics. (2011 – 2012)

- Co-organizer for a one-day conference hosted at the University of North Carolina
- Responsibilities include sending a call for papers, evaluating submitted abstracts, organizing accommodations for incoming speakers, and planning the logistics of the event

Co-organizer for 2011 Spring Colloquium for UNC Linguistics (2010 – 2011)

Language Experience

American English (native speaker), Italian (beginner), Mandarin Chinese (heritage speaker), Russian (studied), Zulu (studied)