

# Betsy Sneller

Curriculum Vitae, January 2020

Learning & Development Lab  
Building D, Suite 145  
4000 Reservoir Road, N.W.,  
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Georgetown University  
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## Employment

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2018 - Present      **Georgetown University**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Learning and Development Lab  
Advisor: Elissa Newport

## Education

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PhD            **University of Pennsylvania** Linguistics, 2018  
Dissertation: "Mechanisms of Phonological Change"  
Advisor: William Labov  
MA            **University of Essex** Sociolinguistics, 2012  
BA            **Calvin College** English Literature, Linguistics, 2010

**Research and Teaching Interests:** Sociolinguistics, Language Variation and Change, Phonology, Experimental Sociolinguistics, Quantitative methods.

## Awards, recognition, honors & research support

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2016–2018      NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (#1628408)  
2018            University of Pennsylvania IDEAL Council Award for Structural Improvements in  
Diversity and Inclusion  
2017–2018      Critical Speaking Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania  
2017            Student Abstract Bursary Prize, LAGB  
2015–2017      SASgov Travel Grant  
2013–2016      GAPSA Research Travel Award  
2014            Best student paper prize, NWAV 43. With S. Fisher and H. Prichard.  
2014            SAS Dean's Travel Subvention Grant  
2013            NSF EAPSI Summer Research Grant to New Zealand (#1308902).  
2013            Joseph M. Bennet Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.  
2012–2017      Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 5 years.  
2011            Fulbright Postgraduate Fellowship to the University of Essex.

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**Publications**


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| Under<br>Revision | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Individuals in the crowd: Joint roles of structure and agency in the adoption of a sound change.                                                                                                        |
| In Press          | Gareth Roberts and <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Empirical foundations for an integrated study of language evolution. <i>Language Dynamics and Change</i> .                                                                           |
| In Press          | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Phonological rule spreading across hostile lines: (TH)-fronting in Grays Ferry. <i>Language Variation and Change</i> .                                                                                  |
| 2019              | <b>Betsy Sneller,</b> Josef Fruehwald, and Charles Yang. Using the Tolerance Principle to predict phonological change. <i>Language Variation and Change</i> .                                                                 |
| 2019              | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Allophonic systems as a variable within individual speakers. In Lightoot, D. (Ed.). <i>Variable properties in language: Their nature and acquisition</i> . Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. |
| 2018              | <b>Betsy Sneller</b> and Gareth Roberts. Why some behaviors spread while others don't: A laboratory simulation of dialect contact. <i>Cognition</i> 170:298–311.                                                              |
| 2016              | William Labov, Sabriya Fisher, Duna Gylfadottir, Anita Henderson and <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Competing Systems in Philadelphia Phonology. <i>Language Variation and Change</i> 28:3 273-305.                                    |
| 2014              | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Using rate of change as a diagnostic of vowel phonologization. In Tuzzi, A., Benešová, M., and Macutek, J. (Eds.). <i>Recent Contributions to Quantitative Linguistics</i> . De Gruyter Mouton.         |

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**Proceedings**


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| 2019 | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Where our Fathers are From: Place and Conflict in Sociolinguistic Borrowing. <i>University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics</i> 25.2.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2016 | <b>Betsy Sneller</b> and Gareth Roberts. Alien species and alienable traits: An artificial language game investigating the spread of cultural variants between antagonistic groups. In Papafragou, A., Grodner, D., Mirman, D., and Trueswell, J.C. (Eds.). <i>Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society</i> . Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society. |
| 2015 | Sabriya Fisher, Hilary Prichard and <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> The apple doesn't fall far from the tree: Incremental change in Philadelphia families. <i>University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics</i> 21.2.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2015 | <b>Betsy Sneller</b> and Sabriya Fisher. When GET got noticed: The emerging salience of GET-passives. <i>University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics</i> 20.1.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2014 | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Antagonistic contact and inverse affiliation: Appropriation of (TH)-fronting by White speakers in South Philadelphia. <i>University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics</i> 20.2.                                                                                                                                                                      |

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**Invited Talks**


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- 2020 Edinburgh University. Title TBA. Linguistics Society Lecture, March 11.
- 2020 Michigan State University. *Phonological change via probabilistic variation*. Department of Linguistics, Germanic, Slavic, Asian, & African Languages, Feb. 15.
- 2020 Queen Mary University London. *Social meaning and language change*. Linguistics Department, Feb. 3.
- 2020 Georgetown University. *Ideology of place in the adoption of a sound change*. Speaker series, Jan. 20.
- 2019 University of Pennsylvania. *Acquisition of phonological variation: Evidence from artificial language*. Integrated Language Science and Technology seminar. Sept. 20.
- 2019 Linguistics Association of Great Britain. *Phonological change via probabilistic variation*. Queen Mary University London, Sept. 9-12.
- 2019 Stanford University. *Social meaning and language change: A multifaceted approach*. Linguistics Department, Feb. 8
- 2019 Stanford University. *Agency, structure, and sound change: Locating the individual within the community*. Linguistics Department, Feb 7
- 2019 Georgetown University. *Phonological change through competing grammars*. Phonology Lab Meeting, Jan 25.
- 2015 Michigan State University. *The systematic incrementation of a phonological change in Philadelphia*. MSU Sociolinguistics Talk, Feb. 5.

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**Selected Conference Presentations**


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- 2019 **Betsy Sneller** and Elissa Newport. *The Acquisition of Phonological Variation: Evidence from artificial language learning*. Paper presented at BUCLD 44. Boston.
- 2019 **Betsy Sneller**. *There's no place like home: Ideology of place in the adoption of a sound change*. Paper presented at NWAV 48. Eugene.
- 2019 **Betsy Sneller**. *Individuals in the crowd: The joint roles of agency and structure in sound change*. Paper presented at UKLVC 12. London.
- 2019 **Betsy Sneller** and Gareth Roberts. *Indexicality, sociolinguistic awareness, and language change*. Poster presented at UKLVC 12. London.
- 2019 **Betsy Sneller**. *The role of social network and social identity in language change*. Paper presented at LSA 93. New York City.
- 2018 **Betsy Sneller**. *Interracial conflict as a source of feature borrowing*. Paper presented at NWAV 47. New York City.

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- 2018 **Betsy Sneller** and William Labov. *Does phonetic reversal lead to phonological reversal?*. Poster presented at NWAV 47. New York City.
- 2018 Gareth Roberts and **Betsy Sneller**. *How different kinds of social meaning affect the spread of linguistic variants: A laboratory-language approach*. Paper presented at Sociolinguistic, Psycholinguistic and Formal Perspectives on Meaning Conference. Paris.
- 2018 **Betsy Sneller**. *Using the Tolerance Principle as a diagnostic of phonological rules*. Poster presented at LSA 92. Salt Lake City.
- 2017 **Betsy Sneller**. *On the unobservability of structure: Perception of phonology vs. phonetics in experimental data*. Paper presented at LAGB 2017. Kent, September 2nd.
- 2017 **Betsy Sneller**. *Dialect contact in South Philadelphia: Indexing “street” with an outside variant*. Paper presented at UKLVC 11. Cardiff, August 30th.
- 2017 **Betsy Sneller**. *Intraspeaker competition of two allophonic subsystems*. Paper presented at LSA 91. Austin, Jan 8.
- 2017 Gareth Roberts and **Betsy Sneller**. *The role of indexicality in phonological feature adoption: A novel experimental approach*. Paper presented at LSA 91. Austin, Jan 8.
- 2016 **Betsy Sneller**, Josef Fruehwald, and Charles Yang. *The Nasal Invasion: Predicting systemic change in dialect contact*. Paper presented at NWAV 45. Vancouver, Nov 4.
- 2016 **Betsy Sneller** and Josef Fruehwald. *Evaluating the inevitability of phonological change: /æ/ in Philadelphia*. Paper presented at FWAV 3. New York, May 18.
- 2016 **Betsy Sneller**. *Retention of two phonological subsystems in adult speakers*. Paper presented at BLS 42. Berkeley, Feb 6.
- 2015 William Labov, Sabriya Fisher, Duna Gylfadottir, Anita Henderson, Hilary Prichard and **Betsy Sneller**. *The re-organization of short-a systems in Philadelphia*. Paper presented at NWAV 44. Toronto, Oct 23.
- 2015 **Betsy Sneller**. *A community divided: co-occurrence in salient feature shift*. Poster presented at UKLVC 10. York, Sep 2.
- 2015 **Betsy Sneller** and Sabriya Fisher. *The limits of the sociolinguistic monitor*. Paper presented at FWAV 2. Reykjavik, May 28.
- 2015 **Betsy Sneller** and Joel Wallenberg. *Allophonic emergence: three ways allophonic rules come to be*. Paper presented at FWAV 2. Reykjavik, May 28.
- 2015 Laura Walker, **Betsy Sneller** and Sabriya Fisher. *Untangling language attitudes from linguistic knowledge in self-reports of stigmatized speech*. Paper presented at PLC 39. Philadelphia, March 21.
- 2015 **Betsy Sneller**. *Phonotactics of (TH)-fronting in AAVE*. Paper presented at LSA 89. Portland, OR. Jan 11.
- 2014 **Betsy Sneller**. *Phonotactic simplification in borrowed (TH)-fronting*. Paper presented at NWAV 43. Chicago, Oct 24.

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## Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Spring 2020	LING 441: Instructor, <i>Phonology 1</i>
Spring 2018	LING 152: Instructor, <i>Language and Social Identity in the U.S.</i>
Fall 2017	LING 152: Instructor, <i>Language and Social Identity in the U.S.</i>
2016–2017	Undergraduate Research Mentor, NSF Project: <i>Mechanisms of Phonological Change</i> , PI: Meredith Tamminga and Betsy Sneller
2013–2015	Undergraduate Research Mentor, NSF project: <i>Influence of Higher Education on Local Phonology</i> , PI: William Labov
Summer 2015	Instructor, <i>Mini Course in R</i>
Fall 2014	LING 120: Teaching Assistant, <i>Speech Analysis</i> , Instructor: Tricia Irwin
Spring 2014	LING 102: Recitation Instructor, <i>Introduction to Sociolinguistics</i> , Instructor: Anita Henderson
Fall 2013	LING 001: Recitation Instructor, <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i> , Instructor: Rolf Noyer

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## University Service

2017–2018	Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Leadership (IDEAL) Council Deputy
2017–2018	GAPSA representative on University Council
2017	Chair of Equity and Access, GAPSA
2017	Penn representative to Legislative Action Days in Washington, DC
2015–2018	Finance Committee, GAPSA
2016–2017	Chair, Student Confronting Racism and White Privilege

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## Departmental and Professional Service

2018–	Reviewer, <i>Language Variation &amp; Change</i>
2016–2017	Volume Editor, <i>Penn Working Papers in Linguistics 23.2</i>
2015–2020	Reviewer, Penn Linguistics Conference
2015	Student rep, Search Committee for tenure-track position in Linguistics
2013–2014	Chair, Penn Linguistics Conference 38
2012–2017	Editor, <i>Penn Working Papers in Linguistics</i>
2012–2013	Organizing committee, Penn Linguistics Colloquium 37
2012	Sociolinguistic Outreach at the Franklin Institute
2012–2013	Social Chair, Linguistics Lab at Penn
2012	Student committee, Essex Language and Asylum Research Conference

References available upon request