

# Dr. Brandon Prickett

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[Personal Website](#) ~ [LinkedIn](#) ~ [GitHub](#)

## EDUCATION

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2015-2021	<b>PhD Linguistics</b> University of Massachusetts Amherst
2014-2015	<b>MA Linguistics</b> University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2010-2014	<b>BA (Honors) Linguistics</b> University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2010-2014	<b>BA (Honors) Archaeology</b> University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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January 2022-present	<b>Lecturer</b> , University of Massachusetts Amherst
August 2021-August 2022	<b>Research Fellow</b> , University of Massachusetts Amherst Grant PI: Joe Pater
June 2019-August 2019	<b>Research Intern</b> , BBN Technologies Supervisors: Matthew Snover, William Hartmann
September 2017-May 2018	<b>Research Assistant</b> , University of Massachusetts Amherst Principal Investigators: Joe Pater, Lisa Sanders
September-December 2016	<b>Research Assistant</b> , University of Massachusetts Amherst Principal Investigator: Joe Pater
May 2014-August 2015	<b>Research Assistant</b> , UNC-Chapel Hill Principal Investigators: Fabian Monrose, Elliott Moreton, Jennifer Smith

## JOURNAL PAPERS

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2023	<b>Prickett, Brandon.</b> Probabilistic Feature Attention as an alternative to variables in phonotactic learning. <i>Linguistic Inquiry</i> 54 (2): 219–249.
2022	<b>Prickett, Brandon,</b> Aaron Traylor, and Joe Pater. Learning reduplication with a neural network that lacks explicit variables. <i>Journal of Language Modelling</i> , 10(1).
2021	<b>Prickett, Brandon.</b> Modeling a Subregular Bias in Phonological Learning with Recurrent Neural Networks. <i>Journal of Language Modelling</i> , 9(1).
2019	<b>Prickett, Brandon.</b> Learning biases in opaque interactions. <i>Phonology</i> 36, no. 4: 627-653.
2017	Moreton, Elliott, Jennifer L. Smith, Katya Pertsova, Rachel Broad, and <b>Brandon Prickett.</b> Emergent positional faithfulness in novel English blends. <i>Language</i> 93(2), 347-380.
2014	Vin Steponaitis and <b>Brandon Prickett.</b> The Natchez Fort at Sicily Island, Louisiana. Dennis Jones [ed.], <i>Louisiana Archaeology</i> , No. 41.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDING PAPERS

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- 2023            **Prickett, Brandon.** Is Sour Grapes Learnable? A Computational and Experimental Approach. *Proceedings of the 2022 Annual Meeting on Phonology.*
- 2022            **Prickett, Brandon** and Joe Pater. Learning Stress Patterns with a Sequence-to-Sequence Neural Network. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics: Vol. 5.*
- 2021            Nelson, Max, **Brandon Prickett**, and Joe Pater. Capturing phonotactic learning biases with a simple RNN. *Proceedings for the 2021 Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics.*
- 2021            **Prickett, Brandon** and Gaja Jarosz. Modeling the acquisition of phonological interactions: biases and generalization. *Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Meeting on Phonology.*
- 2021            **Prickett, Brandon**, Elliott Moreton, Katya Pertsova, Joshua Fennell, Joe Pater, and Lisa Sanders. Learning reduplication, but not syllable reversal. *Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Meeting on Phonology.*
- 2020            Nelson, Max, Hossep Dolatian, Jonathan Rawski, and **Brandon Prickett**. Probing RNN encoder-decoder generalization of subregular functions using reduplication. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics: Vol. 3.*
- 2020            **Prickett, Brandon**, Kaden Holladay, Shay Hucklebridge, Max Nelson, Rajesh Bhatt, Gaja Jarosz, Kyle Johnson, Aleksei Nazarov and Joe Pater. Learning syntactic parameters without triggers by assigning credit and blame. *Proceedings of the 55th annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society.*
- 2019            Hughto, Coral, Andrew Lamont, **Brandon Prickett**, and Gaja Jarosz. Learning exceptionality and variation with lexically scaled MaxEnt. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics: Vol. 2, Article 11.*
- 2018            **Prickett, Brandon**, Aaron Traylor, and Joe Pater. Seq2Seq Models with Dropout can Learn Generalizable Reduplication. *Proceedings of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SIGMORPHON*, 62-71.
- 2018            **Prickett, Brandon.** Similarity-based phonological generalization. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics: Vol. 1, Article 24.*
- 2018            **Prickett, Brandon.** Complexity and naturalness biases in phonotactics: Hayes and White (2013) revisited. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2017.*
- 2017            **Prickett, Brandon.** Post-nasal devoicing as opacity: a problem for natural constraints. *Proceedings of the 35th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 331-340.
- 2015            Broad, Rachel, **Brandon Prickett**, Elliott Moreton, Katya Pertsova, and Jennifer L. Smith. Emergent faithfulness to proper nouns in novel English blends. *Proceedings of the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 77-87.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### TALKS

- 2022 **Prickett, Brandon** and Joe Pater. Learning Stress Patterns with a Sequence-to-Sequence Neural Network. Presented at the 2022 meeting of *The Society for Computation in Linguistics*.
- 2020 **Prickett, Brandon**. Identity Bias and Generalization in a Variable-free Model of Phonotactics. Presented at the *LSA 2020 Annual Meeting*.
- 2020 Nelson, Max, Hossep Dolatian, Jonathan Rawski, and **Brandon Prickett**. Probing RNN encoder-decoder generalization of subregular functions using reduplication. Presented at the 2020 meeting of *The Society for Computation in Linguistics*.
- 2019 **Prickett, Brandon** and Joe Pater. Learning hidden structure with Maximum Entropy Grammar. Presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> *Manchester Phonology Meeting*.
- 2019 **Prickett, Brandon**, Kaden Holladay, Shay Hucklebridge, Max Nelson, Rajesh Bhatt, Gaja Jarosz, Kyle Johnson, Aleksei Nazarov and Joe Pater. Learning syntactic parameters without triggers by assigning credit and blame. Presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> *annual Chicago Linguistic Society*.
- 2019 **Prickett, Brandon**. Intradimensional bias in a variable-free model of phonotactics. Presented at the 2019 *UNC Spring Colloquium*.
- 2019 Hughto, Coral, Andrew Lamont, **Brandon Prickett**, and Gaja Jarosz. Learning exceptionality and variation with lexically scaled MaxEnt. Presented at the 2019 meeting of *The Society for Computation in Linguistics*.
- 2017 **Prickett, Brandon**. Post-nasal devoicing as opacity: a problem for natural constraints. Presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.
- 2015 Broad, Rachel, **Brandon Prickett**, Elliott Moreton, Katya Pertsova, and Jennifer L. Smith. Emergent faithfulness to proper nouns in novel English blends. Presented at the 33<sup>rd</sup> *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

### POSTERS

- 2023 Pertsova, Katya, **Brandon Prickett**, and Esther Chen. Effects of frequency & distribution on learning defaults. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2023*.
- 2023 **Prickett, Brandon**. Explaining sour grapes harmony's unattestedness with agent-based modeling. Presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.

- 2022 **Prickett, Brandon.** Is Sour Grapes Learnable? A Computational and Experimental Approach. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2022*.
- 2022 **Prickett, Brandon.** Boomerang Constraints: A Mechanism for Capturing Duke-of-York in Harmonic Serialism. Presented at the *29<sup>th</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting*.
- 2021 Pater, Joe and **Brandon Prickett.** Typological gaps in iambic nonfinality correlate with learning difficulty. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2021*.
- 2021 Nelson, Max, **Brandon Prickett,** and Joe Pater. Capturing phonotactic learning biases with a simple RNN. Presented at *the 2021 Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*.
- 2021 **Prickett, Brandon.** Learning Sour Grapes Harmony in an artificial language learning experiment. Presented at the *39<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.
- 2020 **Prickett, Brandon.** Learning reduplication, but not syllable reversal. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2020*.
- 2020 **Prickett, Brandon** and Gaja Jarosz. Modeling the Acquisition of Phonological Interactions: Biases and Generalization. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2020*.
- 2019 **Prickett, Brandon.** Variables Must be Limited to a Single Feature. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2019*.
- 2018 **Prickett, Brandon,** Aaron Traylor, and Joe Pater. Learning reduplication with a variable-free neural network. Presented at the *15<sup>th</sup> SIGMORPHON Workshop*.
- 2018 **Prickett, Brandon.** Learning biases in opaque interactions. Presented at the *16<sup>th</sup> Conference for the Association of Laboratory Phonology*.
- 2018 **Prickett, Brandon.** Similarity-based phonological generalization. Presented at the 2018 meeting of *The Society for Computation in Linguistics*.
- 2017 **Prickett, Brandon.** Complexity and naturalness biases in phonotactics: Hayes and White (2013) revisited. Presented at the *Annual Meeting on Phonology 2017*.
- 2014 **Prickett, Brandon.** The Effect of complexity versus the effect of naturalness on phonological learning. Presented at the *22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting*.

## **EDITED VOLUMES**

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- 2023 Hunter, Tim and **Brandon Prickett**, eds. *Proceedings of the 2023 meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics.*
- 2022 Ettinger, Allyson, Tim Hunter, and **Brandon Prickett**, eds. *Proceedings of the 2022 meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics.*
- 2021 Ettinger, Allyson, Ellie Pavlick, and **Brandon Prickett**, eds. *Proceedings of the 2021 meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics.*
- 2016 Hammerly, Chris, and **Brandon Prickett**, eds. *Proceedings of NELS 46.* Amherst, MA: GLSA.

## **TEACHING**

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- August-December 2023* **Co-Instructor**  
Introduction to Phonology  
Teaching with: Michael Becker
- August-December 2023* **Co-Instructor**  
Writing for Linguists  
Teaching with: Magda Oiry
- January-May 2023* **Primary Instructor**  
Computational Linguistics
- January-May 2021* **Teaching Assistant**  
Introduction to Phonology  
Instructor: Kristine Yu
- September-December 2020* **Teaching Assistant**  
Introduction to Phonology  
Instructor: Michael Becker
- January-April 2019* **Primary Instructor**  
How Language Works
- September-December 2018* **Teaching Assistant**  
How Language Works  
Instructor: Lisa Green
- September-December 2018* **Teaching Assistant**  
People and their Language  
Instructor: Magda Oiry
- January-May 2017* **Teaching Assistant**  
Sounds of English  
Instructor: Joe Pater

## **SERVICE**

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- 2021-2023*                      **Co-Chair and Program Committee**  
Society for Computation in Linguistics, 2022 Meeting
- 2020-2021*                      **Program Committee**  
Society for Computation in Linguistics, 2021 Meeting
- 2018-2020*                      **Primary Organizer**  
UMass Linguistics Department Spectro-Lunch
- October 2018*                      **Using Keras for Deep Learning Tutorial**  
Linguistics and Neural Networks Reading Group
- 2016-2018*                      **Linguistics Department Representative**  
UMass Graduate Student Senate
- 2016-2017*                      **Primary Organizer**  
UMass Phonology Reading Group