



Chelsea Sanker
Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences Program
Wellesley College
cs135@wellesley.edu

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Cornell University

- **Dissertation:** *Patterns of Misperception of Arabic Guttural and Non-guttural Consonants*
- **Committee:** Michael Weiss (chair), Abby Cohn, Alan Nussbaum, Sam Tilsen

2009 B.A. in Linguistics, University of California at Berkeley
High Distinction in General Scholarship
Honors Thesis: “Word Order in Latin Adpositional Phrases”
Minor in Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2025- Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Wellesley College
2022-2025 Acting Assistant Professor, Stanford University
2019-2022 Lecturer, Yale University
2016-2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University
2015-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, Rutgers University

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- under review** Sanker, C. Perceptual evidence for a gestural representation of aspiration.
OnlineFirst Sanker, C. How perceptual learning extends across vowels. *Language and Speech*.
- 2026** Sanker, C. Cross-linguistic patterns in voicing-conditioned vowel duration. *Laboratory Phonology* 17(1).
- 2026** Sanker, C. Acoustic influences on part-of-speech decisions with category-ambiguous words. *Journal of Phonetics* 117. Article 101500.
- 2024** Sanker, C. and AnderBois, S. Reconstruction of nasality and other aspects of A’ingae phonology. *Cadernos de Etnolingüística* 11. Article e110101.
- 2024** Stokes, C., Sanker, C., Cogley, B., and Setlur, V. From delays to densities: Exploring data uncertainty through speech, text, and visualization. *Computer Graphics Forum* 43(3). Article e15100.

- 2023** Sanker, C. How do headphone checks impact perception data? *Laboratory Phonology* 14(1).
- 2022** Sanker, C. Homophone discrimination based on prior exposure. *Journal of Phonetics* 95. Article 101182.
- 2021** **Sanker, C.**, Babinski, S., Burns, R., Evans, M., Johns, J., Kim, J., Smith, S., Weber, N., and Bower, C. (Don't) try this at home! The effects of recording devices and software on phonetic analysis. *Language* 97.4. e360-e382.
- 2020** Repetti-Ludlow, C., Zhang, H., Lucitante, H., AnderBois, S., and **Sanker, C.** A'ingae (Cofán). *Journal of the International Phonetic Association: Illustrations of the IPA*. 50(3). 431-444.
- 2020** Sanker, C. A perceptual pathway for voicing-conditioned vowel duration. *Laboratory Phonology* 11(1). Article 18.
- 2020** *Cohen Priva, U. and ***Sanker, C.** Natural Leaders: Some interlocutors elicit greater convergence across conversations and across characteristics. *Cognitive Science* 44(10). Article e12897.
- 2019** *Cohen Priva, U. and ***Sanker, C.** Limitations of difference-in-difference for measuring convergence. *Laboratory Phonology* 10(1). Article 15.
- 2019** Sanker, C. Influence of coda stop features on perceived vowel duration. *Journal of Phonetics* 75. 43-56.
- 2019** Sanker, C. Effects of lexical ambiguity, frequency, and acoustic details in auditory perception. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics* 81. 323-343.
- 2018** Sanker, C. Hurrian meter and phonology in the Boğazköy Parables. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138(2). 227-253.
- 2018** Sanker, C. A survey of experimental evidence for diachronic change. *Linguistics Vanguard* 4(1). Article 20170039.

* = equal contribution

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND OTHERS

- 2024** Sanker, C. Acoustic characteristics of speech error repairs. *Proceedings of the 35th Western Conference on Linguistics*, 81-92. Eds. M.J. Jaurena and Z. Metzler.
- 2024** Stokes, C., **Sanker, C.**, Cogley, B., and Setlur, V. Mixing modes: Active and passive integration of speech, text, and visualization for communicating data uncertainty. *EuroVis 2024 Short Papers*. Eds. C. Tominski, M. Waldner, and B. Wang.
- 2023** Sanker, C. 4040: Experimental linguistics and language change. *Diachronica* 40.5 (Editorial). 672-674. Ed. C. Bower.
- 2023** Sanker, C. Perceptual discrimination of proper names and homophonous common nouns. *Proceedings of the 34th Western Conference on Linguistics*, 58-69. Ed. S. Akamine.

- 2023** Sanker, C. Data limitations and supplementary methods in placing Egyptian. *Ancient Egyptian and Afroasiatic: Rethinking the origins*. Eds. M.V. Almansa-Villatoro and S. Štubňová Nigrelli. Eisenbrauns.
- 2022** Sanker, C. Frequency-predicted shifts independent of word-specific phonetic details. *Papers in Historical Phonology* 7, 81-101.
- 2021** Sanker, C. Convergence doesn't show lexically-specific phonetic detail. *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2020 Annual Meeting on Phonology*. Eds. R. Bennett, R. Bibbs, M.L. Brinkerhoff, M.J. Kaplan, S. Rich, N. Van Handel and M.W. Cavallaro.
- 2020** Sanker, C. Lexical ambiguity and acoustic distance in discrimination. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 5, 431-445. Ed. P. Farrell.
- 2019** Sanker, C. Effects of coda voicing on vowel phonation. *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne, Australia 2019*, 3323-3327. Eds. S. Calhoun, P. Escudero, M. Tabain, and P. Warren.
- 2018** Sanker, C. Effects of laryngeal features on vowel duration: Implications for Winter's Law. *Papers in Historical Phonology* 3, 180-205.
- 2018** *Cohen Priva, U. and ***Sanker, C.** Distinct behaviors in convergence across measures. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 1515-1520.
- 2018** Yang, S., **Sanker, C.**, and Cohen Priva, U. The organization of lexicons: A cross-linguistic analysis of monosyllabic words. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics 2018*, 164-173.
- 2016** Sanker, C. Phonetic features of the PIE "laryngeals": Evidence from misperception data of modern postvelars. *Proceedings of the 27th UCLA Indo-European Conference*, 163-181. Eds. D. Goldstein, S. Jamison, and B. Vine.
- 2015** Sanker, C. Comparison of phonetic convergence in multiple measures. *Cornell Working Papers in Phonetics and Phonology 2015*, 60-75.
- 2015** Sanker, C. Patterns of misperception of Arabic consonants. *Proceedings of the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, February 7-8, 2015*, 447-471.
- 2012** Tilsen, S., Zec, D., Bjorndahl, C., Butler, B., L'Esperance, M., Fisher, A., Heimisdottir, L., Renwick, M., and **Sanker, C.** A Cross-linguistic investigation of articulatory coordination in word-initial consonant clusters. *Cornell Working Papers in Phonetics and Phonology 2012*, 51-81.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** *Two sides of vowel duration*, Invited talk at the Linguistics Program, Brown University.
- 2024** *Generalization and phonetic details in the representation*, Invited talk at the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, University of Missouri.

- 2022** *What underlies apparent word-specific phonetic details?* Linguistics Department Colloquium, Stanford University.
- 2021** *The Effects of recording devices and software on phonetic analysis*, Invited talk at the SOAS University of London Linguistics Webinars. (Collaborative work with Sarah Babinski, Roslyn Burns, Marisha Evans, Jeremy Johns, Juhyae Kim, Slater Smith, Natalie Weber, Claire Bower.)
- 2020** *Dimensions of convergence*, Invited talk at the NYU Phonetics & Experimental Phonology Lab.
- 2020** *Dimensions of convergence*, Linguistics Department Colloquium, Yale University.
- 2017** *Effects of homophones and syllable structure in lexical processing*, Invited talk at the UConn Phonology Group.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026** Sanker, C. *A gestural analysis for effects of gemination on preceding vowel duration* (Laboratory Phonology, Montréal, Canada, June 2026) [poster presentation]
- 2025** Sanker, C. *Articulatory Phonology and perception of gesture timing in aspiration* (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Palma, Spain, June 2025)
- 2025** Sanker, C. *An autosegmental analysis of A'ingae nasal spreading* (BayPhon 2025, Santa Cruz, California, May 2025)
- 2024** Sanker, C. *Part of speech perception* (The Western Conference on Linguistics, Fresno, California, November 2024)
- 2024** Cohen Priva, U. and **Sanker, C.** *Switchboard speakers' vowels' covary, but they do not converge* (Phonetic Imitation Workshop, 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Seoul, South Korea, June 2024)
- 2024** Stokes, C., **Sanker, C.**, Cogley, B., and Setlur, V. *From delays to densities: Exploring data uncertainty through speech, text, and visualization.* (EuroVis 2024, Odense, Denmark, May 2024)
- 2024** Stokes, C., **Sanker, C.**, Cogley, B., and Setlur, V. *Mixing modes: Active and passive integration of speech, text, and visualization for communicating data uncertainty.* (EuroVis 2024, Odense, Denmark, May 2024)
- 2024** Sanker, C. *Effects of vowel duration and lexical frequency in perceptual word identification* (California Meeting on Psycholinguistics, Stanford, California, January 2024) [poster presentation]
- 2023** Sanker, C. *Acoustic characteristics of speech error repairs* (The Western Conference on Linguistics, Fresno, California, November 2023)
- 2023** Sanker, C. *The Influence of Lexical Frequency, Phonotactic Probability, and Neighborhood Density on Word Identification* (45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, July 2023) [poster presentation]

- 2022** Sanker, C. *Perceptual discrimination of proper names and homophonous common nouns* (The Western Conference on Linguistics, Fresno, California, November 2022)
- 2022** Sanker, C. *Word-specific convergence and effects of repeated exposure* (Annual Meeting on Phonology, Los Angeles, California, October 2022) [poster presentation]
- 2022** Sanker, C. *Normalized formant values are generalized across talkers* (Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Virtual, June 2022) [poster presentation]
- 2022** Sanker, C. *What do headphone checks gain us?* (Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 2022) [poster presentation]
- 2022** Sanker, C. *Dialect-specific phonological features shape perceptual generalization* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington DC, January 2022)
- 2021** Sanker, C. *Frequency-predicted shifts don't require word-specific phonetic details* (Symposium on Historical Phonology, Edinburgh, Scotland, December 2021)
- 2021** Sanker, C. *Comparison of coda voicing effects on perceived vowel duration* (Annual Meeting on Phonology, Toronto, Ontario, October 2021) [poster presentation]
- 2021** Sanker, C. *Perceptual learning in vowel systems* (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Barcelona, Spain, June 2021) [poster presentation]
- 2021** Sanker, C. *Homophone discrimination based on speaker-specific learning* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Virtual, January 2021)
- 2020** Sanker, C. *Vowel systems in convergence* (International Seminar on Speech Production, Providence, Rhode Island, December 2020)
- 2020** Sanker, C. *Convergence doesn't show lexically-specific phonetic detail* (Annual Meeting on Phonology, Santa Cruz, California, September 2020) [poster presentation]
- 2020** Sanker, C. and Karlin, R. *Perceptual evidence for the representation of English coda voicing* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2020)
- 2020** Sanker, C. *Lexical ambiguity and acoustic distance in discrimination* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2020) [poster presentation]
- 2019** Sanker, C. *Behavior of homophones does not support irregular phonological change* (Meaning in Flux, New Haven, Connecticut, October 2019)
- 2019** AnderBois, S., Emlen, N., Lucitante, H., Sanker, C., and Silva, W. *Investigating Linguistic Links between the Amazon and the Andes: The case of A'ingae* (Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America IX (CILLA), Austin, Texas, October 2019)

- 2019** Sanker, C. *Effects of coda voicing on vowel phonation* (International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne, Australia, August 2019) [poster presentation]
- 2019** Sanker, C. *Effects of coda laryngeal features and stimulus language on perceived vowel duration* (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Lecce, Italy, June 2019)
- 2019** Zhang, H. and **Sanker, C.** *Phonetic Convergence in Mandarin* (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Lecce, Italy, June 2019) [poster presentation]
- 2019** Sanker, C. *Perceptual cues to coda voicing contrasts* (Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 2019) [poster presentation]
- 2019** AnderBois, S. and **Sanker, C.** *Reconstruction of A'ingae prenasalized stops* (Third Symposium on Amazonian Languages, Berkeley, CA, March 2019)
- 2019** Sanker, C. *F0 effects on perceived vowel duration* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, New York City, NY, January 2019) [poster presentation]
- 2018** Cohen Priva, U. and **Sanker, C.** *Convergence is predicted by particular interlocutors and interactions, not speakers* (Workshop on Accommodation in Speech Communication, Zurich, Switzerland, December 2018)
- 2018** **Sanker, C.**, Silva, W., Lucitante, H., and AnderBois, S. *Falsetto in A'ingae (Cofán)* (3rd Sound Systems of Latin America, Amherst, Massachusetts, October 2018)
- 2018** Sanker, C. *Effects of following voicing on perceived vowel duration* (Annual Meeting on Phonology, San Diego, California, October 2018) [poster presentation]
- 2018** Cohen Priva, U. and **Sanker, C.** *Distinct behaviors in convergence across measures* (Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Madison, Wisconsin, July 2018) [poster presentation]
- 2018** Sanker, C. *Characterizing contrasts: Features vs. acoustic distance* (Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 2018) [poster presentation]
- 2018** Sanker, C. *Shared innovations and independent developments: Issues in placing Egyptian* (Rethinking the origins: The departure of ancient Egyptian as a branch from the Afroasiatic family, Egyptology and Assyriology Workshop, Providence, RI, April 2018)
- 2018** Sanker, C. *Homophones, lexical retrieval, and sensitivity to detail* (Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2018)
- 2018** Yang, S., **Sanker, C.**, and Cohen Priva, U. *The organization of lexicons: A cross-linguistic analysis of monosyllabic words* (Society for Computation in Linguistics, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2018) [poster presentation]
- 2017** Sanker, C. *Effects of stop laryngeal features on duration of preceding vowels: Implications for Winter's Law* (Symposium on Historical Phonology, Edinburgh, Scotland, November-December 2017, Satellite Workshop: LaryngFringe)

- 2017** Zhang, H., Gutman, R., Lucitante, H., Repetti-Ludlow, C., AnderBois, S., and **Sanker, C.** *A phonetic sketch of A'ingae (Cofán)* (Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America VIII (CILLA), Austin, Texas, October 2017)
- 2017** Sanker, C. *Experimental evidence for diachronic change* (International Conference on Historical Linguistics, San Antonio, Texas, July-August 2017)
- 2017** Sanker, C. *Lexical retrieval and effects of homophones* (Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, Cologne, Germany, June 2017) [poster presentation]
- 2017** Sanker, C. *Linking phonetic convergence and sound change* (International Workshop on Sound Change, Edinburgh, Scotland, April 2017)
- 2016** Sanker, C. *When phonology is algebra: Solving problems with interacting processes* (North American Phonology Conference, Montreal, Canada, May 2016, Pedagogy Workshop)
- 2016** Sanker, C. *Individual tendencies for phonetic convergence* (North American Phonology Conference, Montreal, Canada, May 2016) [poster presentation]
- 2016** Sanker, C. *An analysis of semitic uvular-pharyngeal correspondences: Inter-dialectal borrowing in Akkadian* (American Oriental Society, Boston, MA, March 2016)
- 2016** Sanker, C. *Patterns of heritage speakers' perception of Arabic consonants* (Old World Conference in Phonology, Budapest, Hungary, January 2016)
- 2015** Sanker, C. *Phonetic features of the PIE "laryngeals": Evidence from misperception data of modern gutturals* (UCLA Indo-European Conference, Los Angeles, California, October 2015)
- 2015** Sanker, C. *Phonetic Convergence in Multiple Features* (Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 2015) [poster presentation]
- 2015** Sanker, C. *Patterns of misperception of Arabic consonants* (Berkeley Linguistics Society, Berkeley, CA, February 2015)
- 2014** Sanker, C. *Patterns of misperception of Arabic consonants* (Mellon Humanities Corridor Workshop in Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics, Syracuse, NY, December 2014)
- 2014** Sanker, C. *Hurrian meter in the Boğazköy Parables* (American Oriental Society, Phoenix, AZ, March 2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

- **Instructor**, *Invented Languages: From Wilkins' Real Character to Avatar's Na'vi* (LING 315). Fall 2026
- **Instructor**, *Sounds of Language* (LING 240). Spring 2026
- **Instructor**, *Historical Linguistics* (LING 248). Fall 2025

- **Instructor**, Introduction to Linguistics (LING 114). Fall 2025, Spring 2026, & Fall 2026

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- **Instructor**, Historical Linguistics (LINGUIST 160). Winter 2023, Fall 2023, & Spring 2025
- **Co-instructor**, Field Methods (LINGUIST 274A). Winter 2025
- **Instructor**, Phonetics (LINGUIST 105/205A). Winter 2024 & Fall 2024
- **Instructor**, Introduction to Phonology (LINGUIST 110). Spring 2023, Fall 2023, & Fall 2024
- **Instructor**, Directed Research (LINGUIST 398). Spring 2024 & Winter 2025
- **Instructor**, Invented Languages (LINGUIST 173). Spring 2024
- **Instructor**, Experimental Evidence for Sound Change (LINGUIST 212). Spring 2023
- **Instructor**, Articulatory Phonetics (LINGUIST 108). Fall 2022

YALE UNIVERSITY

- **Instructor**, Quantitative Linguistics (LING 234/634). Fall 2019, Fall 2020, & Spring 2022
- **Co-instructor**, Illusions of Language (LING 106). Spring 2022
- **Instructor**, Field Methods (LING 241/641). Spring 2020 & Fall 2021
- **Instructor**, Historical Linguistics (LING 112/512). Spring 2020, Spring 2021, & Fall 2021
- **Co-instructor**, Cognitive Science of Language (LING 116/CGSC 216/PSYC 116). Spring 2021
- **Instructor**, Language Contact in the Ancient World (LING 103/503). Fall 2020
- **Instructor**, Indo-European Linguistics (LING 113/513; NELC 354; CLSS 407). Fall 2019

BROWN UNIVERSITY

- **Instructor**, Introduction to Phonological Theory (CLPS 1310). Fall 2016 & Spring 2018
- **Instructor**, Historical Linguistics (CLPS 1365). Spring 2017, Spring 2018, & Spring 2019
- **Instructor**, Laboratory in Phonetics (CLPS 1380). Fall 2017 & Fall 2018
- **Instructor**, Topics in Phonetics and Phonology: Laboratory Phonology (CLPS 1381). Spring 2017
- **Instructor**, Topics in Phonetics and Phonology: Psycholinguistics of Phonetic Perception (CLPS 1381). Spring 2019

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

- **Instructor**, Phonology II (LING 521). Spring 2016

- **Instructor**, Phonology (LING 315). Fall 2015 & Spring 2016
- **Instructor**, Phonology III (LING 522). Fall 2015

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

- **Instructor**, First-year Writing Seminar, Biological Foundations of Language (LING 1100). Fall 2013 & Spring 2014
- **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Linguistics 3314). Fall 2011 & Spring 2013 (Instructor: Michael Weiss)
- **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Linguistics (Linguistics 1101). Fall 2012 (Instructor: Wayne Harbert)
- **Teaching Assistant**, English Words: Histories & Mysteries (Linguistics 1109). Spring 2012 (Instructor: Alan Nussbaum)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS

- 2025-2026** Wellesley Faculty Awards to Support Scholarly Activities
- 2023-2025** Stanford Linguistics Department Research Funding
- 2015** Cornell Graduate School Conference Travel Grant
- 2014-2015** Sage Fellowship
- 2014** Cornell Graduate School Conference Travel Grant
- 2010-2011** Sage Fellowship
- 2009** Departmental Citation for Distinguished Undergraduate Work
- 2005-2009** Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship
- 2005-2009** National Merit Scholarship

ADVISING

- 2024-2025 **Joseph Sarmenta**, Master's thesis co-advisor, Stanford University.
- 2020-2021 **Slater Smith**, Undergraduate honor's thesis advisor, Yale University.
- 2017-2018 **Haoru Zhang**, Master's thesis advisor, Brown University.
- 2017-2018 **Yiming Gu**, Master's thesis advisor, Brown University.
- 2015-2016 **Shu-hao Shih**, Qualifying paper advisor, Rutgers University.

SERVICE

- **Reviewer (journal)** *Frontiers*, *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica*; *Indo-European Linguistics*; *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*; *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*; *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*; *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*; *Journal of Linguistics*; *Journal of Phonetics*; *Laboratory Phonology*; *Language*; *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*; *Language and Linguistic Compass*; *Language and Speech*; *Language Dynamics and Change*; *Languages*; *Linguistic Analysis*; *Linguistics Vanguard*; *Open Mind: Discoveries in Cognitive Science*; *Phonetica*; *Psychology of Language and Communication*; *Second Language Research*; *Speech Communication*

- **Reviewer (conference)** *Annual Meeting on Phonology; California Meeting on Psycholinguistics; Conference on Laboratory Phonology; European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics; International Congress of Phonetic Sciences; Linguistic Society of America*
- **Cornell Linguistics Circle President** 2013-2014
- **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Representative** 2011-2012
- **Cornell Linguistics Circle Colloquium Caterer** 2010-2011

LANGUAGES

- **Native:** English
- **Reading Knowledge:** French, German
- **Research Languages:** English, A'ingae, Arabic, German, Hindi

REFERENCES

Michael Weiss, Professor
 Department of Linguistics
 Cornell University
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Uriel Cohen Priva, Associate Professor
 Linguistics Program
 Brown University
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Arto Anttila, Associate Professor
 Department of Linguistics
 Stanford University
 Stanford, CA 94305
 anttila@stanford.edu