

# Betsy Sneller

Curriculum Vitae

January 2018

Department of Linguistics  
3401-C Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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## Education

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- PhD      **University of Pennsylvania** Linguistics, 2012–Present  
Dissertation: “Mechanisms of Phonological Change: Allophonic restructuring of /æ/ in Philadelphia”  
Advisor: William Labov
- MA      **University of Essex** Sociolinguistics, 2012  
MA with Distinction
- BA      **Calvin College** English Literature, Linguistics, 2010  
Honors in Linguistics

**Research and Teaching Interests:** Sociolinguistics, variation and change, phonology, processing of language variation, dialect contact, experimental phonology.

## Honors and Awards

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- 2017–2018      Critical Speaking Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania  
2017              Student Abstract Bursary Prize, LAGB  
2015–2017      SASgov Travel Grant  
2016–2018      NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (#1628408)  
2013–2016      GAPSA Research Travel Award  
2014              SAS Dean’s Travel Subvention Grant  
2014              Best student paper prize, NWAV 43. With S. Fisher and H. Prichard.  
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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| In Prep.     | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> On the unobservability of structure: Perception of phonology vs. phonetics in an experimental task.  |
| In Prep.     | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Diachronic evidence for an allophonic split in New Zealand English /u/.  |
| Submitted    | <b>Betsy Sneller,</b> Josef Fruehwald, and Charles Yang. The Nasal Invasion: Predicting Phonological Change in Dialect Contact.  |
| Under Review | <b>Betsy Sneller.</b> Phonological rule spreading across hostile lines: (TH)-fronting in Grays Ferry.  |
| 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 Macutec, J. (Eds.). <i>Recent Contributions to Quantitative Linguistics.</i> De Gruyter Mouton. |

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## Proceedings and Edited Volumes

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| 2018 | <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.  |
| 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.   |

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- 2014 | **Betsy Sneller.** Antagonistic contact and inverse affiliation: Appropriation of (TH)-fronting by White speakers in South Philadelphia. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 20.2.

## Invited Talks

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- 2015 | Michigan State University. The systematic incrementation of a phonological change in Philadelphia. MSU Sociolinguistics Talk, Feb. 5.

## Selected Conference Presentations

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- 2018 | **Betsy Sneller.** *Using the Tolerance Principle as a diagnostic of phonological rules.* Poster presented at LSA 92.
- 2017 | **Betsy Sneller.** *How abstract is your variable? Allophonic systems as an intraspeaker variable during phonological change.* Paper presented at NWAV 46. Madison, November 2nd.
- 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.** *Rules with exceptions: Using the Tolerance Principle to diagnose allophones.* Paper presented at FWAV 4. York, June 29.
- 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: /ae/ in Philadelphia.* Paper presented at FWAV 3. New York, May 18.
- 2016 | Josef Fruehwald and **Betsy Sneller.** *Simplicity versus data in phonological change.* Paper presented at the 24th annual meeting of the Manchester Phonology Meeting. May 28.

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- 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** and Gareth Roberts. *Sociolinguistics in an alien language: A laboratory simulation of linguistic behavior in a South Philadelphia neighborhood.* Poster 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 **Betsy Sneller.** *Individual conditioning factors and system knowledge contribute to evaluation of phonological systems.* Paper presented at PLC 39. Philadelphia, March 21.
- 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.
- 2015 William Labov, Sabriya Fisher, Anita Henderson, Hilary Prichard, and **Betsy Sneller.** *A systematic partition of the speech community: Short-a in Philadelphia.* Poster presented at LSA 89. Portland, OR. Jan 9.
- 2014 **Betsy Sneller.** *Phonotactic simplification in borrowed (TH)-fronting.* Paper presented at NWAV 43. Chicago, Oct 24.
- 2013 **Betsy Sneller.** *Hometown affiliation and language change.* Poster presented at UK-LVC 9. Sheffield, Sep 3.

## Teaching & Mentoring Experience

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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 Mentor, NSF project: <i>Influence of Higher Education on Local Phonology</i> , PI: William Labov
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

## Professional Service

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2017	Chair of Equity and Access, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
2016–2017	Volume Editor, Penn Working Papers in Linguistics 23.2
2015–2018	Reviewer, Penn Linguistics Conference
2014–2016	Co-President, Graduate Linguistics Society, University of Pennsylvania
2015	Student rep, Search Committee for tenure-track position in Linguistics
2013–2014	Chair, Penn Linguistics Conference 38
2012–2013	Organizing committee, Penn Linguistics Colloquium 37
2012	Student committee, Essex Language and Asylum Research Conference

## Languages

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Intermediate	Spanish, French
Research	Dutch, Kurdish, Fur
Programming	R, Python, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Praat, CSS, HTML

References available upon request