

# Aaron J. Dinkin

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## Curriculum Vitae

### Current positions

Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College  
Phonetics Laboratory Coordinator, Swarthmore College

### Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA: Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2009  
Dissertation: *Dialect Boundaries and Phonological Change in Upstate New York*  
(supervisor: William Labov)  
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, 2005, Cambridge MA  
Harvard University, Cambridge MA: A.B. in Mathematics, 2002, *magna cum laude*  
Commonwealth School, Boston MA: graduated 1998

### Research Interests

Language variation and change; dialect geography; phonetics and phonology;  
sociolinguistics; historical linguistics; English; Latin; Yiddish

### Publications

- Dinkin, Aaron (to appear). "Settlement Patterns and the Eastern Boundary of the Northern Cities Shift". *Journal of Dialect Geography*.
- ~~ (to appear). "Toward a Unified Theory of Chain Shifting". In Terttu Nevalainen & Elizabeth Closs Traugott (eds.), *Rethinking the History of English*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- ~~ (2011). "Weakening Resistance: Progress Toward the Low Back Merger in New York State". *Language Variation and Change* 23.3:315–345. An earlier version appeared in *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 15.2:60–69 (2010).
- ~~ (2011). "Nasal Short-a Systems vs. the Northern Cities Shift". *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 17.2:71–80.
- Labov, William, Maciej Baranowski, & Aaron Dinkin (2010). "The Effect of Outliers on the Perception of Sound Change". *Language Variation and Change* 22.2:175–190.
- Dinkin, Aaron & Keelan Evanini (2010). "An Elementary Linguistic Definition of Upstate New York". *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 16.2:36–45.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2008). "The Real Effect of Word Frequency on Phonetic Variation". *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 14.1:97–106.
- Friesner, Michael & Aaron Dinkin (2006). "The Acquisition of Native and Local Phonology by Russian Immigrants in Philadelphia". *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 12.2:91–104.

Dinkin, Aaron (2005): "**Mary, Darling, Make Me Merry; Say You'll Marry Me: Tense-Lax Neutralization in the *Linguistic Atlas of New England***". *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 11.2:73–90.

## Conference Presentations

Handouts are available at <http://ling.upenn.edu/~dinkin>.

Dinkin, Aaron, William Labov, & Ingrid Rosenfelder (2011). "**What's Really Happening to Short A Before L in Philadelphia?**" Paper presented at NWAV 40, Washington, D.C.

Dinkin, Aaron (2011): "**Toward a Unified Theory of Chain Shifting**". Paper presented at Methods XIV, London, Ont., and at NWAV 40, Washington, D.C.

~~ (2010): "**Nasal Short-a Systems vs. the Northern Cities Shift**". Paper presented at NWAV 39, San Antonio, Tex.

~~ (2010): "**The Present-Day Dialectological Status of the Hudson Valley**". Paper presented at the 55th Conference of the International Linguistic Association, New Paltz, N.Y.

~~ (2010): "**Phonological Transfer as a Forerunner of Merger in Upstate New York**". Paper presented at the American Dialect Society annual meeting 2010, Baltimore.

Dinkin, Aaron & Michael Friesner (2009): "**Transmission or Diffusion?: NYC-like Short A in Southeast Florida and the Hudson Valley**". Paper presented at NWAV 38, Ottawa.

Dinkin, Aaron & Keelan Evanini (2009): "**An Elementary Linguistic Definition of Upstate New York**". Paper presented at NWAV 38, Ottawa.

Dinkin, Aaron (2008): "**Weakening Resistance: Progress Toward the Low Back Merger in New York State**". Paper presented at NWAV 37, Houston.

~~ (2008): "**Fading In and Out of the Inland North**". Paper presented at Methods XIII, Leeds.

~~ (2008): "**Settlement Patterns and the Eastern Boundary of the Northern Cities Shift**". Paper presented at the American Dialect Society annual meeting 2008, Chicago.

Dinkin, Aaron & William Labov (2007): "**Bridging the Gap: Dialect Boundaries and Regional Allegiance in Upstate New York**". Paper presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31, Philadelphia.

Dinkin, Aaron (2007): "**The Real Effect of Word Frequency on Phonetic Variation**". Paper presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31, Philadelphia.

Labov, William, Maciej Baranowski, & Aaron Dinkin (2006): "**The Effects of Outliers on the Perception of Sound Change**". Paper presented at NWAV 35, Columbus, Ohio.

Dinkin, Aaron (2006): "**Unnatural Classes and Phonological Generalization in Dialect Formation**". Paper presented at NWAV 35, Columbus, Ohio.

~~ (2006): "**An Experimental Study on the Interpretability of Ostensible Subject-Control Promise**". Paper presented at the LSA Summer Meeting, East Lansing, Mich.

~~ (2006): "**'Sporadic' Syncope and Latin Phonology's Wicked Stepmother**". Paper presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 30, Philadelphia.

Friesner, Michael & Aaron Dinkin (2005): "**Russian Immigrants in Philadelphia as Native English Speakers and Philadelphians**". Paper presented at NWAV 34, New York.

Dinkin, Aaron (2005): "**Marry-Merry-Mary Merger in New England: Further Analysis**". Paper presented at Methods XII, Moncton, N.B.

~~ (2004): "**Mary, Darling, Make Me Merry; Say You'll Marry Me: Tense-Lax Neutralization in the *Linguistic Atlas of New England***". Poster presented at NWAV 33, Ann Arbor, Mich.

## Teaching Experience

### Classes taught:

Swarthmore College:

Linguistics 1: Introduction to Language and Linguistics (spring 2010, 2011)

Linguistics 25: Language, Culture, and Society (fall 2009–2011)

Linguistics 100/195: Senior Thesis Research Seminar (fall 2011)

University of Pennsylvania:

Linguistics 102: Introduction to Sociolinguistics (summer 2009, 2010)

**Teaching assistant**, University of Pennsylvania:

Linguistics 110: Introduction to Language Change (spring 2005)

Cognitive Science 001: Introduction to Cognitive Science (fall 2004)

**Invited guest instructor** in classes including the following:

**Swarthmore College:**

Linguistics 1 (Introduction to Language and Linguistics)

Linguistics 45 (Phonetics and Phonology)

Linguistics 52 (Historical and Comparative Linguistics)

**Haverford College:**

Linguistics 115b (Phonetics and Phonology)

**University of Pennsylvania:**

Linguistics 001 (Introduction to Linguistics)

Linguistics 102 (Introduction to Sociolinguistics)

**Harvard University:**

Linguistics 115 (Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology)

**Instructor**, the Math Circle: 2000–2003

Mathematics enrichment classes for elementary and high school students

## Invited Lecture

“Dialect Patterns and the Paths of Settlement”. Penn Humanities Forum interdisciplinary panel on Travel and Language, 11/2006.

## Invited Panelist

“Getting Students Involved in Research”. Mellon 23 linguistics faculty workshop, Swarthmore College, 10/2009.

## Research Employment

Linguistics Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania: **research assistant** to Prof. William Labov on “Role of Evaluation in Linguistic Change” project, 2005–2008; on “Forced Alignment and Vowel Extraction” project, summer 2010.

Linguistic Data Consortium, Philadelphia: **annotator** on Metadata Extraction project, 2004

Linguistics dept., Harvard University: **research assistant** to Prof. Bert Vaux, 2002–03

## Honors and Awards

Linguistic Society of America, **Language in the USA Fellowship**, 2005  
University of Pennsylvania, **William Penn Fellowship**, 2003–2007  
University of Pennsylvania, **Harrison Fellowship**, 2003–2004  
**Phi Beta Kappa**, 2001  
Harvard College **Detur Prize**, 1999  
Harvard College **John Harvard Scholarship** 1999–2002  
Commonwealth School **Flaming Banana**, 1995

## Professional Service

Peer reviewer, *Language Variation and Change*  
Abstract reviewer, Penn Linguistics Colloquium 33–34 (2009–10)  
Conference staff, NWAV 36 (2007)  
Conference staff, Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31 (2007)  
Editorial staff, *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*: 2004–2008  
Penn Linguistics Club: graduate-undergraduate liaison: 2005–2008

## Memberships

Linguistic Society of America  
American Dialect Society

## Other Activities

**Theater:** acting, dialect-coaching, and music-directing. Member of Underground Shakespeare Company; have worked with other theater groups at Penn, Harvard, and MIT.  
**The Harvard Noteables:** member 1998–2002, music director 1999–2001.  
**MIT Mystery Hunt:** participant 2000–present; winning team 2005 and 2010; puzzle writer and editor 2006 and 2011; editor-in-chief 2011.