

Aaron J. Dinkin

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<http://ling.upenn.edu/~dinkin>

Current position

Assistant Professor, San Diego State University

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; phonetics and phonology; dialect geography;
sociophonetics; English

Publications

- Dinkin, Aaron J. (2018). **"It's No Problem to be Polite: Apparent-Time Change in Responses to Thanks"**. *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 22.2:190–215. An earlier version appeared in *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 23.2:58–67 (2017).
- Maddeaux, Ruth & Aaron J. Dinkin (2017). **"Is Like Like Like?: Evaluating the Same Variant Across Multiple Variables"**. *Linguistics Vanguard* 3.1.
- Dinkin, Aaron J. & Robin Dodsworth (2017). **"Gradience, Allophony, and Chain Shifts"**. *Language Variation and Change* 29:101–127.
- Dinkin, Aaron J. (2016). **"Variant-Centered Variation and the Like Conspiracy"**. *Linguistic Variation* 16.2:221–246. Reprinted in Lignos, Constantine, Laurel Mackenzie, & Meredith Tamminga (eds.) (2018), *The Locus of Linguistic Variation* 71–96, Benjamins Current Topics 97, John Benjamins, Philadelphia.
- ~~ (2016). **"Phonological Transfer as a Forerunner of Merger in Upstate New York"**. *Journal of English Linguistics* 44.2:162–188.
- ~~ (2013). **"Settlement Patterns and the Eastern Boundary of the Northern Cities Shift"**. *Journal of Linguistic Geography* 1.1:4–30.
- ~~ (2013). **"What's Really Happening to Short A Before L in Philadelphia?"** *American Speech* 88.1:7–31.
- ~~ (2012). **"Toward a Unified Theory of Chain Shifting"**. In Terttu Nevalainen & Elizabeth Closs Traugott (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of English* 748–760, 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 J. & Keelan Evanini (2010). **"An Elementary Linguistic Definition of Upstate New York"**. *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 16.2:36–45.
- Dinkin, Aaron J. (2008). **"The Real Effect of Word Frequency on Phonetic Variation"**. *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics* 14.1:97–106.
- Friesner, Michael & Aaron J. 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 J. (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>.

Invited keynote address

- Dinkin, Aaron (2014). **"Two Types of Dialect Features and Two Types of Dialect Boundaries"**. Presented at TULCON 7, Toronto.

Other conference presentations

- Dinkin, Aaron (2019). **"Low Back Merger Encroaching at a Stable Dialect Boundary in Northern New York"**. Presented at the American Dialect Society annual meeting 2019, New York.
- ~~ (2018). **"Revisiting the Inland North Fringe"**. Presented at NWAV 47, New York.
- Forrest, Jon, Aaron Dinkin & Robin Dodsworth (2017). **"Word Frequency in a Contact-Induced Change"**. Presented at NWAV 46, Madison, Wisc.
- Thiel, Anja & Aaron Dinkin (2017). **"Escaping the TRAP: Losing the Northern Cities Shift in Real Time"**. Presented at NWAV 46, Madison, Wisc.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2017). **"Changing Phonology, Stable Borders: The Low Back Merger in Northern New York"**. Presented at the Canadian Linguistic Association annual conference 2017, Toronto.
- ~~ (2016). **"It's No Problem to be Polite: Apparent-Time Change in Responses to Thanks"**. Presented at NWAV 45, Vancouver, B.C.
- Severance, Nathan, Keelan Evanini, & Aaron Dinkin (2016). **"Examining the Reliability of Automated Vowel Analyses Using FAVE"**. Presented at NoWPhon 2, Eugene, Ore.
- Maddeaux, Ruth & Aaron Dinkin (2015). **"Is Like Like Like?: Evaluating the Same Variant Across Multiple Variables"**. Presented at NWAV 44, Toronto.
- Severance, Nathan, Keelan Evanini, & Aaron Dinkin (2015). **"Examining the Performance of FAVE for Automated Sociophonetic Vowel Analyses"**. Presented at NWAV 44, Toronto.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2015). **"The Like Conspiracy: Avoiding Accountability"**. Presented at Penn Linguistics Conference 39, Philadelphia.
- Dinkin, Aaron & Robin Dodsworth (2014). **"Gradience, Allophony, and the Southern Shift Trigger"**. Presented at Methods XV, Groningen.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2014). **"A Phonological Variable in a Textual Medium: (ing) in Online Chat"**. Presented at CVC 8, Kingston, Ont.
- ~~ (2013). **"Linguistic and Non-Linguistic Regions in Perceptual Dialectology"**. Poster presented at NWAV 42, Pittsburgh.

- ~~ (2013). **“Changing Roles of Regional Boundaries and Isoglosses”**. Presented at the American Dialect Society annual meeting 2013, Boston.
- ~~ (2012). **“Cooperstown, New York as a Site of New-Dialect Formation”**. Presented at NWAV 41, Bloomington, Ind.
- Dinkin, Aaron, William Labov, & Ingrid Rosenfelder (2011). **“What’s Really Happening to Short A Before L in Philadelphia?”** Presented at NWAV 40, Washington, D.C.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2011). **“Toward a Unified Theory of Chain Shifting”**. Presented at Methods XIV, London, Ont., and at NWAV 40, Washington, D.C.
- ~~ (2010). **“Nasal Short-a Systems vs. the Northern Cities Shift”**. Presented at NWAV 39, San Antonio, Tex.
- ~~ (2010). **“The Present-Day Dialectological Status of the Hudson Valley”**. 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”**. 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”**. Presented at NWAV 38, Ottawa.
- Dinkin, Aaron & Keelan Evanini (2009). **“An Elementary Linguistic Definition of Upstate New York”**. Presented at NWAV 38, Ottawa.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2008). **“Weakening Resistance: Progress Toward the Low Back Merger in New York State”**. Presented at NWAV 37, Houston.
- ~~ (2008). **“Fading In and Out of the Inland North”**. Presented at Methods XIII, Leeds.
- ~~ (2008). **“Settlement Patterns and the Eastern Boundary of the Northern Cities Shift”**. 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”**. Presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31, Philadelphia.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2007). **“The Real Effect of Word Frequency on Phonetic Variation”**. Presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31, Philadelphia.
- Labov, William, Maciej Baranowski, & Aaron Dinkin (2006). **“The Effects of Outliers on the Perception of Sound Change”**. Presented at NWAV 35, Columbus, Ohio.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2006). **“Unnatural Classes and Phonological Generalization in Dialect Formation”**. Presented at NWAV 35, Columbus, Ohio.
- ~~ (2006). **“An Experimental Study on the Interpretability of Ostensible Subject-Control Promise”**. Presented at the LSA Summer Meeting, East Lansing, Mich.
- ~~ (2006). **“‘Sporadic’ Syncope and Latin Phonology’s Wicked Stepmother”**. Presented at Penn Linguistics Colloquium 30, Philadelphia.
- Friesner, Michael & Aaron Dinkin (2005). **“Russian Immigrants in Philadelphia as Native English Speakers and Philadelphians”**. Presented at NWAV 34, New York.
- Dinkin, Aaron (2005). **“Marry-Merry-Mary Merger in New England: Further Analysis”**. 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.

Funded research grants

New-Dialect Formation and the Loss of the Northern Cities Shift in Cooperstown, New York.

- University Grants Program, San Diego State University 2018–19.
- Critical Thinking Grant, San Diego State University, 2019.

Previous faculty positions

University of Toronto, Assistant Professor, 2013–2017
Swarthmore College, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2010–2013
Phonetics laboratory coordinator, 2008–2013
Instructor, 2009
University of Pennsylvania, Instructor, 2013

Classes taught

San Diego State University:

Sociolinguistics (fall 2017)
Historical Linguistics (fall 2017)
Introduction to Language (spring 2018)
English Grammar (spring 2018)

University of Toronto:

Sociolinguistic Patterns (fall 2013, spring 2015, summer 2015)
Historical Linguistics (spring 2014–2015, 2017)
Introduction to General Linguistics (fall 2015)
Introduction to Language (spring 2016–2017)
English Words (summer and fall 2014, fall 2016, summer 2017)
English Grammar (spring 2016)
First-Year Seminar: Language and the Internet (fall 2013)
First-Year Seminar: The Language of Names (fall 2014)
Graduate Seminar: Deconstructing the Linguistic Variable (spring 2014)

Swarthmore College:

Language, Culture, and Society (fall 2009–2012)
Introduction to Language and Linguistics (spring 2010–2013)
Senior Thesis Research Seminar (fall 2011)

University of Pennsylvania:

Intro to Sociolinguistics (summer 2009, 2010, 2012; spring 2013)

M.A. theses supervised

Meslin, Savannah (2017). "It's All About How You Feel and Who You Know: The Effects of Bilingual Identity and Social Contact on the Voice Onset Time of Ottawa Bilinguals". University of Toronto.
Mellesmoen, Gloria (2016). "Front Vowel Phonology of British Columbia English". University of Toronto.
Schmirler, Katherine (2015). "Algonquian Compounds: Productivity, Genetic Relationships, and Quadrupeds". University of Toronto.
Maddeaux, F. J. Ruth (2014). "Me Myself & I: The Role of the Untriggered Reflexive in the English Pronominal System". University of Toronto.

Undergraduate theses supervised

Anderson, Carolyn (2013). "'I Talk It and I Feel It': Language Attitudes of Moroccan University Students". Swarthmore College.

- Armstrong, Charles (2013). "Vox Evocative: Pinpointing a Possible Sociological Strategy for the Typing of the Phonatory and Articulatory Features of a Singing Genre". Swarthmore College.
- Lee, Seyeon Lauren (2013). "Korean Heritage Language Education in Philadelphia". Swarthmore College.
- Allen, Kristen (2012). "I'm Just Talkin' With My Generation: The Crucial Role of the First Peer Group in Modeling Initial Lexical Consensus". Swarthmore College.
- Glewwe, Eleanor (2012). "Translating French Slang: A Study of Four French Novels and Their English Translations". Swarthmore College.
- Hasychak, Lara (2012). "Italian Vowels". Swarthmore College.
- Ingber, Jesse (2012). "Language Rights and their Enforcement". Haverford College.
- Letts, Allison (2012). "The Intersection of the Phonologies of Standard American English and African American Vernacular English as Seen Through Orthography." Haverford College.
- McCafferty, Kathryn (2012). "Linguistics of White Racism: Racist Discourse Strategy in U.S. Politics". Swarthmore College.
- Obiajulu, Christina (2012). "Lyrical Insight: Looking at Changes in AAVE Through Slave Spirituals, Blues and Rap". Swarthmore College.

PhD dissertation committees

- Smith, James G. (2018). *Sociophonetic Variation and Change of Northern Ontario Vowels*. University of Toronto.
- Gardner, Matt Hunt (2017). *Grammatical Variation and Change in Industrial Cape Breton*. University of Toronto.
- Gardiner, Shayna (2017). *Yours, Mine & Ours: What Ancient Egyptian Possessives Can Tell Us About Language Change and Stable Variation*. University of Toronto.
- Brook, Marisa Alana (2016). *Syntactic Categories Informing Variationist Analysis: The Case of English Copy-Raising*. University of Toronto.
- Denis, Derek (2015). *The Development of Pragmatic Markers in Canadian English*. University of Toronto.
- Nesbitt, Monica (in progress). *The Influence of Economic Change on Local Phonology*. Michigan State University.
- Thiel, Anja (in progress). *Up-State-ing the Northern Cities Shift: Apparent and Real-Time Phonological Change in Ogdensburg, New York*. University of Bern.

Invited research presentations

- "Changing Phonology, Stable Borders: The Low Back Merger in Northern New York"**. San Diego State University, 5/2017.
- "Variant-Centered Variation and the Like Conspiracy"**. University of Rochester CLS Colloquia Series, 2/2016.
- "Gradience, Allophony, and Chain Shifts"**. Michigan State University linguistics colloquium, 2/2014, and University of Toronto speaker series, 4/2014.
- "Two Types of Dialect Features and Two Types of Dialect Boundaries"**. CUNY Graduate Center Sociolinguistics Lunch, 10/2012.
- "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.

Departmental and professional service

Linguistics department library liaison (San Diego State University)
Departmental peer review committee (San Diego State University)
Committee member: undergraduate theses (Swarthmore College); M.A theses, Ph.D. qualifying papers (University of Toronto)
Peer reviewer: journals: *Language Variation and Change*, *Journal of English Linguistics*
conferences: Penn Linguistics Colloquium, NWAV, International Conference of Phonetic Sciences, American Dialect Society
granting agencies: National Science Foundation (US), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)
Conference organizing committee:
NWAV 44 (2015); NWAV 36 (2007); Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31 (2007)
Teaching mentor for graduate student instructors (University of Toronto)
Editorial staff, *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*: 2004–2008
Graduate-undergraduate liaison, Penn Linguistics Club: 2005–2008

Honors and awards

American Dialect Society, **Audrey Duckert Memorial Travel Award**, 2013
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

Memberships

Linguistic Society of America
American Dialect Society

Selected media interviews

“Say What? Midwest Speaks a Different Language than East Coast”, *Des Moines Register*, 6/8/2013
“North American English Dialects”, *Talk of Iowa*, Iowa Public Radio, 1/17/2013
“Changing Dialects in the Great Lakes Region”, *The Daily Circuit*, Minnesota Public Radio, 8/28/2012
“American English Shift: Northern Vowels on the Move”, *Patt Morrison*, Southern California Public Radio, 8/21/2012
“Vowel Movement: How Americans Near the Great Lakes are Radically Changing the Sound of English”, *Slate.com*, 8/21/2012

Other activities

Theater: acting, dialect coaching, and music-directing. Underground Shakespeare Company 2004–2013; Pennsylvania Players 2004–2009; and others.

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.