

Aaron Braver

Curriculum Vitæ

Texas Tech University
Department of English
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Academic positions

- 2019–present **Associate Professor of Linguistics**, *Texas Tech University*, Lubbock, TX.
Department of English, Linguistics Program
Director, Texas Tech Phonetics and Phonology Linguistics Laboratory
Affiliated faculty member, Department of Philosophy
- 2013–2019 **Assistant Professor of Linguistics**, *Texas Tech University*, Lubbock, TX.

Education

- 2007–2013 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, *Rutgers University*, New Brunswick, NJ.
Dissertation *Degrees of Incompleteness in Neutralization: Paradigm Uniformity in a Phonetics with Weighted Constraints*
Committee Shigeto Kawahara (chair), Bruce Tesar, Kristen Syrett, Alan C.L. Yu (external)
- 2003–2007 **B.A.**, *Brandeis University*, Waltham, MA.
Linguistics/Cognitive Science (with honors) and Anthropology
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Publications

Journal articles (peer reviewed)

- Revision submitted Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Different speakers, different grammars: Productivity and representation of Xhosa labial palatalization. *Phonological Data and Analysis*.
- Under revision Pronunciation learning and attention in avatar-based language teaching
- 2020 Takehiro Iizuka, Kimi Nakatsukasa, and Aaron Braver. The efficacy of gesture on second language pronunciation: An exploratory study of handclapping as a classroom instructional tool. *Language Learning* 70(4).
- 2019 Aaron Braver. Incomplete neutralization as paradigm uniformity with weighted phonetic constraints. *Phonology* 36(1):1–36.

- 2016 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Phonotactic c(l)ues to Bantu noun class disambiguation. *Linguistics Vanguard* 2(1):1–11.
- 2015 Will Bennett and Aaron Braver. The productivity of ‘unnatural’ labial palatalization in Xhosa. *Nordlyd* 42:33–44 (special issue on palatalization).
- 2014 Aaron Braver. Imperceptible incomplete neutralization: Production, identification, and discrimination of /d/ and /t/ flaps in American English. *Lingua* 152:24–44.
- 2014 Shigeto Kawahara and Aaron Braver. Durational properties of emphatic consonants in Japanese. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 44(3):237–260.
- 2013 Shigeto Kawahara and Aaron Braver. The phonetics of multiple vowel lengthening in Japanese. *Open Journal of Modern Linguistics* 3(2):141–148.

Conference proceedings

- 2020 Peter Westfall, Andrea Arias, Aaron Braver, and Joshua Fredman. You like day-tuh and I like daa-tuh; let’s call the whole thing off! In *2020 Proceedings of the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, & Education Conference*.
- 2016 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Phonotactics of noun class disambiguation in Xhosa. In *Proceedings of the 2015 Annual Meeting on Phonology*.
- 2016 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete neutralization in Japanese monomoraic lengthening. In *Proceedings of the 2014 Annual Meeting on Phonology*.
- 2016 Aaron Braver, Natalie Drescher, and Shigeto Kawahara. The phonetics of emphatic vowel lengthening in English. In *Proceedings of the 2014 Annual Meeting on Phonology*.
- 2015 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete neutralization via paradigm uniformity and weighted constraints. In *Proceedings of NELS 45*, vol. 1, pp. 115–124.
- 2014 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete vowel lengthening in Japanese: A first study. In *Proceedings of WCCFL 31*, pp. 86–95.
- 2013 Aaron Braver. Perception of incompletely neutralized /d/ and /t/ flaps in American English. In *Proceedings of NELS 42*, vol. 1, pp. 93–104.
- 2011 Aaron Braver. Incomplete neutralization in American English flapping: A production study. In *Proceedings of Penn Linguistics Colloquium 34*.

Books edited

- 2010 *Rutgers Working Papers in Linguistics (RuWPL) 3*. Peter Staroverov, Daniel Altshuler, Aaron Braver, Carlos A. Fasola, and Sarah Murray (eds.). Rutgers LGSA, New Brunswick.

Invited talks

- 2018 Aaron Braver. Pedagogical gestures in computer-mediated language learning. University of Calgary.
- 2018 Aaron Braver. Gesturing avatars in computer-mediated learning of vowel length contrasts. 7th Annual Conference on Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication in Higher Education (CALICHE). Texas Tech University.
- 2015 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Using root shape to choose among prefixes in Xhosa. Colloquium talk. Seoul National University.
- 2014 Aaron Braver. What does emphatic lengthening tell us about binary length distinctions? Cognitive Science Brown Bag lecture. Texas Tech University.
- 2012 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Monomoraic lengthening in Japanese as incomplete neutralization. Colloquium talk. Seoul National University.
- 2008 Aaron Braver. Features, markedness, and articulatory, phonetic, and phonological constraints in signed languages. Rutgers University Signed Languages Reading Group.

Presentations and posters

Refereed conferences

- 2020 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Perception of fine-grained duration distinctions: Evidence from English pragmatic emphasis. 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). New Orleans.
- 2019 Kimi Nakatsukasa, Aaron Braver, and Miranda Scolari. Attending to a Gesturing Avatar Facilitates Perception of L2 Phonology: An Eye-Tracking Study. American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) 2019. Atlanta.
- 2019 Kimi Nakatsukasa, Aaron Braver, and Miranda Scolari. Gestures' limited effect on L2 phonology development: an eye-tracking study. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2019. Michigan State University.
- 2019 Aaron Braver. Neutralization in Xhosa's 'unnatural' labial palatalization. 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). New York, New York.
- 2019 Liang Guangsheng, Vinh T. Nguyen, Kimi Nakatsukasa, Aaron Braver, Tommy Dang, and Miranda Scolari. Multisensory Integration of Visual and Auditory Signals during Second Language Learning. Vision Sciences Society (VSS). St. Pete Beach, Florida.
- 2018 Aaron Braver. Neutralization of underlying vs. derived 'unnatural' palatals in Xhosa. 176th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). Victoria, BC, Canada.
- 2018 Kimi Nakatsukasa, Aaron Braver, and Miranda Scolari. Attention in computer-mediated learning: Avatars' gestures in learning vowel length contrasts. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2018. Université du Québec à Montréal.
- 2018 Aaron Braver. Underlying vs. derived palatals in Xhosa: Neutralization of an 'unnatural' pattern. 2018 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP). UC San Diego.

- 2017 Aaron Braver. How do you whisper a click? Acoustic correlates of click voicing in whispered speech. 2017 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Austin, Texas.
- 2017 Aaron Braver and Seunghun J. Lee. Perceiving non-native contrasts: Xitsonga's 'whistled' fricative vs. [ʃ]. 2017 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Austin, Texas.
- 2016 Aaron Braver and Seunghun J. Lee. An anti-dispersive contrast: Xitsonga's 'whistled' fricative vs. [ʃ]. Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2016. USC.
- 2016 Takehiro Iizuka, Kimi Nakatsukasa, Aaron Braver, and Andrew Farley. Bridge between syllabic and moraic languages: Does gesture help pronunciation learning?. Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 35. Columbia University.
- 2016 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Length-based allomorphy in Xhosa noun class prefixes. 2016 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Washington, DC.
- 2015 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Abstract morphological information cued by phonotactics: Noun class disambiguation in Xhosa. 2015 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP). Vancouver.
- 2015 Danica Kreusch, Will Bennett, and Aaron Braver. Disambiguating isiXhosa noun classes with phonotactic c(l)ues. 8th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL). Kyoto.
- 2015 Kelly Goldstuck, Will Bennett, and Aaron Braver. Experimentally assessing length-based noun prefix alternations in isiXhosa. 8th World Congress of African Linguistics (WOCAL). Kyoto.
- 2015 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Phonology or morphology: inter-speaker differences in Xhosa labial palatalization. LSA Annual Meeting 2015. Portland, Oregon.
- 2014 Will Bennett and Aaron Braver. Wug-testing a case of 'unnatural' labial palatalization in Xhosa. Palatalization Conference. University of Tromsø.
- 2014 Aaron Braver and Seunghun J. Lee. Perceiving small contrasts: Xitsonga's 'whistled' fricative vs. [ʃ]. South African Microlinguistics Workshop (SAMPWOP) 3. North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa.
- 2014 Aaron Braver and Will Bennett. Wug-testing bilabial palatalization in isiXhosa passivized verbs. South African Microlinguistics Workshop (SAMWOP) 3. North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa.
- 2014 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete neutralization via paradigm uniformity and weighted constraints. NELS 45. MIT.
- 2014 Aaron Braver, Natalie Dresher, and Shigeto Kawahara. The phonetics of emphatic vowel lengthening in English. Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2014. MIT.
- 2014 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Modeling incomplete neutralization: Paradigm uniformity and a phonetics with weighted constraints. Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2014. MIT.

- 2013 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Japanese monomoraic vowel lengthening as incomplete neutralization. Congrès International des Linguistes. Geneva.
- 2013 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete vowel lengthening: Japanese monomoraic lengthening as incomplete neutralization. WCCFL 31. Arizona State University.
- 2013 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Incomplete neutralization of Japanese vowel length in monomoraic nouns. LSA Annual Meeting 2013. Boston.
- 2011 Aaron Braver. The perception of incompletely neutralized /d/ and /t/ flaps in American English. NELS 42. University of Toronto.
- 2010 Aaron Braver. Is there incomplete neutralization in American English flapping? Manchester Phonology Meeting 18. University of Manchester.
- 2010 Aaron Braver. Incomplete neutralization in American English flapping. Penn Linguistics Colloquium 34. University of Pennsylvania.
- 2010 Aaron Braver. Incomplete neutralization in American English flapping. Laboratory Phonology 12. University of New Mexico.
- 2009 Aaron Braver. Restrictions on DP-internal ellipsis in Spanish. Hispanic Linguistics Symposium 2009. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Non-refereed workshops (selected)

- 2012 Aaron Braver and Shigeto Kawahara. Monomoraic lengthening in Japanese as incomplete neutralization. Tokyo Circle of Phonologists. University of Tokyo.
- 2011 Aaron Braver. (Im)perceptible incomplete neutralization: Two experiments on flapping in American English. Rutgers, UMass, MIT meeting of phonologists (RUMMIT) II. Rutgers University.
- 2009 Aaron Braver. A task effect on incomplete neutralization? UMass/MIT Meeting of Phonologists (UMMM) 2009. UMass, Amherst.
- 2008 Aaron Braver. Does phonological output contain morphological structure? Evidence from consistency of exponence and fine phonetic details. Hopkins-UMD-Rutgers-UMass joint meeting (HUMDRUM) 2008. Rutgers University.

Advisees' projects

- 2020 William Kariampuzha, Aetizaz Sameer, Olivia Chen, Hannah Kang, Aaron Flores, and Aaron Braver. Estimating Lexicon Size Based Upon Zipf's Law: A Novel Mathematical Approach. 12th Annual Texas Tech Undergraduate Research Conference.

Awards, grants, fellowships, and research assistantships

- 2018 TTU Scholarship Catalyst Program Grant (\$3,500)
Computer Avatar Language Teacher: Improving Japanese and Arabic Learners' Pronunciation
With Kimi Nakatsukasa, Miranda Scolari, and Tommy Dang
- 2017 TTU Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Research (\$100,000)
Teaching Foreign Language Pronunciation through Educational Avatars
With Kimi Nakatsukasa, Miranda Scolari, and Tommy Dang
- 2017 TTU Humanities Center Fellowship (\$5,000)
- 2011 Mellon Summer Research Grant
- 2010, 2012 Mellon Small Departmental Grant
- 2009–2011 Rutgers University Graduate School Conference Travel Award
- 2007–2009 Rutgers University Graduate School Fellowship

Teaching

(G = Graduate, U = Undergraduate, * = Online course)

Texas Tech University (2013–Present)

Course	Level	Semester(s)
Phonology	G	Fall 2019 Fall 2017 Spring 2016 Spring 2014
Phonology	U	Spring 2019 Spring 2014
Structure of Sign Languages	G	Fall 2018
How Language Works (Intro to linguistics)	U	Fall 2019 Fall 2018* Spring 2018 Spring 2017 Fall 2016 Spring 2016 Fall 2015* Fall 2014
Language in a Multicultural America	U	Spring 2019 Spring 2018 Spring 2017 Fall 2016 Fall 2015 Fall 2013

Perception, Cognition, and Language <i>With Alex Grzankowski (Philosophy)</i>	G	Spring 2015
Principles of Language	G	Spring 2016 Fall 2014
Structure of Sign Languages	U	Fall 2013

Rutgers University (2009–2013)

Course	Level	Semester(s)
Linguistics of Signed Languages	U	Spring 2011 Summer 2010 Summer 2009
Introduction to Linguistic Theory	U	Spring 2010
Expository Writing <i>(2 sections each semester)</i>	U	Fall 2011 Fall 2012

Advising

- 2016 Mikhaela Köhlo (MA, Rhodes University, external member)
- 2015 Neal Durbin (MA, Texas Tech University, member)
- 2014 Amy Huff (MA, Texas Tech University, member)

Service

- Reviewing *Papers: Laboratory Phonology* (2016, 2018×2, 2019, 2020), *Handbook of Click Languages* (2019), *Journal of Morphology* (2019), *Linguistics Vanguard* (2019), *Journal of Phonetics* (2014, 2016), *Glossa* (2016), *Phonetica* (2015), *Lingua* (2015), *SALALS* (Special Issue on Phonetics and Phonology in Bantu, 2015), *Prosody Matters: Essays in Honor of Elisabeth Selkirk* (2012). *Conferences: Annual Meeting on Phonology* (2016, 2017), LSA Annual Meeting (2014).
- 2019–present Director of Linguistics, Texas Tech University.
- 2016–2019 Texas Tech Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Programs (college curriculum committee).
- 2015–present Secretary, Texas Tech Department of English Literature and Language (curriculum) Committee.
- 2014–present Texas Tech Department of English Technology Committee.

2014 Workshop organizer, *Appealing to an international audience: Writing abstracts and articles for international journals*. (With Will Bennett and Seunghun J. Lee). University of Venda, Thohoyandou, Limpopo, South Africa.

2006–2007 Editorial Assistant to Editor in Chief Joan Maling, *NLLT*.

Computer skills

programming Python, Praat scripting, R scripting, JavaScript, SQL.

web HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript.

other L^AT_EX, X_YL^AT_EX, *nix.

software R, Praat, Superlab, Audacity.

Languages

Native English

Studied Spanish (6 years; research knowledge)

French (2 semesters)

ASL (1 semester; research knowledge)

Professional memberships

Linguistic Society of America, Association for Laboratory Phonology