

Jonah Katz

Contact Information Department of Linguistics & Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
32-D866
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone: +1-617-452-2444
E-mail: jikatz@mit.edu
Website: <http://web.mit.edu/jikatz/www/>

Education

2005– **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Ph.D. program in linguistics (5-year program in phonetics and phonology)
Expected completion date: June 2010
Dissertation: 'Compensatory shortening and phonetic representations'
Committee: Edward Flemming (chair), Adam Albright, Donca Steriade
My dissertation examines the existence and nature of durational trading relations within the syllable. There is a tendency for vowel duration in many languages to vary inversely with the duration of an adjacent consonant or cluster. These effects have often been analyzed as epiphenomena emerging from general principles of articulatory coordination. I argue instead that perceptual goals play a crucial role in this domain, with perceptibility targets strongly constraining timing patterns. In particular, vowel duration is partly conditioned by the sonority of an adjacent segment, with more shortening possible adjacent to more sonorant segments. I demonstrate this effect in several languages, and provide an account in terms of weighted constraints on the auditory duration of segments and larger units.

1999–2003 **University of Massachusetts Amherst**

B.A. *cum laude* in Linguistics

B.A. *cum laude* in Music
concentration: jazz piano performance

Minor in Spanish

Honors & Awards

2006– National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award

2005– MIT Presidential Graduate Fellowship

Papers

SUBMITTED JULY 2009 English compensatory shortening and phonetic representations. Under review at *Journal of Phonetics*.

SUBMITTED AUG. 2009 (with Elisabeth Selkirk) Contrastive focus vs. discourse-new: evidence from prosodic prominence in English. Under review at *Language*.

SUBMITTED OCT. 2009 Restrictivity and adjectival modification in Romance. Under review at *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*.

DRAFT, OCT. 2009 (with David Pesetsky) The identity thesis for language and music. Posted on LingBuzz: <http://ling.auf.net/lingBuzz/000959>

Presentations

2010 Phonetic similarity in an English hip-hop corpus. LSA annual meeting, Baltimore, January 2010.

2010 (poster with Maria Giavazzi) Phonological faithfulness and morphological well-formedness in Kinande loanword adaptation. LSA annual meeting, Baltimore, January 2010.

2009 (Invited talk with David Pesetsky) The Identity Thesis for Language and Music. Sounds and Structures, Freie Universitat Berlin, December 2009.

2009 (Invited talk with David Pesetsky) The Recursive Syntax and Prosody of Tonal Music. Recursion: Structural Complexity in Language and Cognition, UMass Amherst, May 2009.

2008 Phonetic Similarity in an English Hip-Hop Corpus. UMass-MIT Meeting in Phonology, November 2008.

2008 (poster) Compensatory Shortening and Phonetic Representations. Workshop on Consonant Clusters and Structural Complexity, Munich, July-August 2008.

2008 Towards a Generative Theory of Hip-Hop. Music, Language, and the Mind, Tufts University, July 2008.

- 2008 Optimal musical grouping. MIT Linguistics Colloquium, April 2008.
- 2008 'Compensatory Shortening' and Phonetic Representations in English. MIT-UMass Meeting in Phonology, March 2008.
- 2007 Optimal musical grouping. Language and Music as Cognitive Systems, University of Cambridge, UK. May 2007.
- 2006 (with John Kingston, Della Chambless, Daniel Mash, Eve Brenner, and Shigeto Kawahara) Sequential contrast and perception of coarticulated segments. Tenth Conference on Laboratory Phonology, Paris. June 2006.

Research Experience

- 2007 **Consultant**, Neurolinguistic dissertation research for Asaf Bachrach. Helped to develop and implement a protocol for syntactic markup of experimental materials. These materials were fairly long and syntactically complex stories, which were played to subjects in an fMRI machine. The syntactic markup was used in conjunction with fMRI data to assess the effects of different kinds of syntactic dependencies on brain activity. Several metrics for complexity were used, including word length, discourse representational metrics, and phase onsets.
- 2004–2005 **Research Fellow**, NIDCD 1R01DC006241-01A1, *Context Effects on Sensitivity, Bias, and Parsing Phonetic Information*. PI: John Kingston, UMass Amherst.
Grant project included multiple experiments testing effects of sequential contrast on auditory perception. Duties included designing experiments, constructing auditory stimuli, running experiments, and interpreting results. Significant teamwork aspect.
- 2003–2004 **Research Assistant**, NSF BSC-0004038, *The Reflexes of Focus in Phonology*. PI: Elisabeth Selkirk, UMass Amherst.
Duties included designing, carrying out, and analyzing the results of an elicitation experiment on the phonetic reflexes of contrastive focus and givenness/newness in English.

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2006 **Introduction to Linguistics** (MIT 24.900)
Teaching assistant to Donca Steriade. Led a discussion section, graded student assignments and exams, offered feedback on course content and

materials, worked with students to develop a 15–20 page term paper on an original research topic.

Fall 2007 **Introduction to Linguistics** (MIT 24.900)
Teaching assistant to David Pesetsky. Same duties as above.

Fall 2008 **Graduate Introduction to Phonology** (MIT 24.961)
Teaching assistant to Edward Flemming. Helped prepare course materials, graded all assignments, weekly discussion sections, intensive meetings with first-year graduate students to discuss problem sets and final papers.

Service

2008–2009 Founding co-organizer of the MIT Music-Language Reading Group.

2008–2009 Founding co-editor of departmental newsletter *What's Happening At MIT*.

2006 Departmental curriculum committee

2005– Various departmental duties and activities, e.g. colloquium organizer, student representative, Ling-Lunch seminar organizer

Languages

Human:

English (native)

Spanish (reasonable conversational fluency, reading and writing ability, grammatical knowledge)

Russian (grammatical knowledge, limited conversational ability, limited reading and writing ability)

Kinande, Bantu (fieldwork)

Reading ability in most Romance languages

Computer:

Perl

Praat scripting

R

LaTeX

HTML

Statistics

Proficient with general linear models, logistic regression, hierarchical log-linear models, mixed effects models, non-parametric statistics, biased choice and signal-detection theoretic models

Undergraduate Awards

- 2003 Senior Scholarship, Golden Key Honor Society
- 2002 William F. Field Alumni Scholarship, UMass Alumni Association
- 2002 Fletcher Henderson Memorial Scholarship, UMass Music Department
- 1999–2003 Chancellor’s Talent Award, UMass College of Humanities and Fine Arts

References

Professor Adam Albright
albright@mit.edu

Professor Edward Flemming
flemming@mit.edu

Professor David Pesetsky
pesetsk@mit.edu

Professor Donca Steriade
steriade@mit.edu

Department of Linguistics & Philosophy
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
32-D866
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Professor Elisabeth Selkirk
Department of Linguistics
226 South College
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
selkirk@linguist.umass.edu