

Education

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

since 09/2024

Doctorate degree: Linguistics,
University of Oregon (U.S.)
Advisory Committee: Volya Kapatsinski, Rachel Weissler Powell, Kaori Idemaru

MASTER OF ARTS

10/2022 - 12/2024

Double master's degree: Anglophone Studies (English Linguistics) and History,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Master's thesis: The Sound of <me> in <my> brain: Acoustic Patterns of the First-Person Possessive <my> and the First-Person Object <me> in Tyneside English

since 04/2022

Master's degree: VAMoS: Verarbeitung, Analyse, und Modellierung natuerlicher Sprache: Computerlinguistik – Psycholinguistik – Theoretische Linguistik
(Processing, Analyzing and Modelling Natural Language: Computational, Psycho- and Theoretical Linguistics),
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany)

since 10/2019

Master's degree: Musicology and Cultural Studies,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

10/2018 - 03/2022

Double bachelor's degree: Anglophone Studies and History,
University Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Bachelor's thesis: Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan – FOOT & STRUT, FACE and GOAT

09/2016 - 09/2019

Bilingual bachelor's degree: Musicology (German - French) / musique et musicologie licence franco-allemande,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany) and University François Rabelais, Tours (France)

Bachelor's thesis: Die Leitmotivtechnik in Howard Shores Filmmusik *The Lord of the Rings*: Die musikalische Beziehung Aragorns und Arwens
(The technique of Leitmotives of Howard Shores film music *The Lord of the Rings* – The musical relation between Aragorn and Arwen)

Jobs in Academia

since 09/2024

Graduate Employment at Linguistics Department,
University of Oregon (U.S.)
Teaching Assistant & Research Assistant

08/2020 - 08/2024

Student assistant at the Sociolinguistics Lab,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)
DFG funded Project: "Tacking Language Variation and Change across the Lifespan" (LaVaLi), led by Prof. Dr. Isabelle Buchstaller
Tasks: transcription, alignment checking, and auditory coding in ELAN and Praat

05/2022 - 03/2024

Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Eva Belke (Psycholinguistics),
Ruhr University Bochum (Germany)
Tasks: transcriptions, alignments, and measurements in ELAN and Praat, composition of nursery rimes

10/2019 - 03/2024

Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bloesel (History),
University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)
Tasks: scanning, and proofreading

04/2019 - 05/2022

Student assistant at the library,
Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
Tasks: assisting students with library use and research, labelling books, etc.

04/2018 - 09/2019 Student assistant for Prof. Dr. Matthias Brzoska (Musicology), Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
Tasks: organizing literature and sheet music, proofreading, and digitizing handwritten notes

Teaching

Winter 2026 Grader: LING 296: Language and Society in the United States, University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

Spring 2025 Instructor of Records: LING 150: The Structure of English Words, University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

Winter 2025 Teaching Assistant: LING 211: Languages of the World, University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

Fall 2024 Teaching Assistant: LING 311: Phonetics and Phonology, University of Oregon (U.S.), 10 weeks

11/2022 - 01/2024 Writing in Academia (Wissenschaft unter Dach und Fach: Einfuehrung in das wissenschaftliche Schreiben), Student Laboratory at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 4 sessions

08/2022 - 07/2024 The Mental Lexicon (Das Woerterbuch im Kopf), Student Laboratory at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 8 sessions

05/2024 Tutorial: ELAN (master's level) – 4h, University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), 1 session

08/2023 Linguistics – the secret behind language, Junior Akademie Bad Segeberg 2023 (Germany), 10-day summer school for students in ~6th grade

06/2023 Phonetics & Phonology (undergraduate level), Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 2-week block with 6 sessions

10/2022 - 02/2023 Areas and Approaches I: Phonetics and Phonology (undergraduate level), University Duisburg-Essen (Germany), 15-week class

06/2022 Tutorial: Praat (undergraduate level) – 2h, Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), 1 session

Guest Lectures

05/2025 LING 201: The Power of Language
Paat (2023) – The Vowel Space as Sociolinguistic Sign & Variation of Vowels, University of Oregon (U.S.)

Conference Presentations

09/2026 **Ahrens, C.:** *History is PRICEless: A Corpus Approach for the Investigation of Modern Variation*. Accepted for presentation at the 11th Northern Englishes. 9th September - 10th September 2026, York (England, UK).

06-07/2026 **Ahrens, C.:** The Sp[i]ch of T[ai]ns[ai]d English: Can history explain the variation in the realization of the first person possessive my and the first person object me? Paper presented at the International Conference on Language Variation in Europe 13. 29th June – 2nd July 2026, Lausanne (Switzerland).

05/2026	Ahrens, C.: Vowel Variation Over T[ai]m: Comparing the First Person Possessive and the PRICE Vowel in Tyneside English. Poster presented at Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language. 22 nd – 23 rd May 2026, Seoul (South Korea).
12/2025	Ahrens, C., Clement, N., Kapatsinski, V., Idemaru, K.: The Role of Attention in Perceptual Learning Through Acoustic Dimension Reweighting. Poster presented at the 189 th Meeting of Acoustical Society of America. 01 st -5 th December 2025, Honolulu, Hawaii (U.S.).
12/2025	Clement, N., Ahrens, C., Idemaru, K., Kapatsinski, V.: Effects of Prior Cue Strength in Perceptual Adaptation to Acoustic Dimension Reweighting. Poster presented at the 189 th Meeting of Acoustical Society of America. 01 st -5 th December 2025, Honolulu, Hawaii (U.S.).
11/2025	Ahrens, C.: Hearing and Seeing Multilingualism: The Linguistic Reality of a Globalized Society (Project Launch Poster), Poster presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 53. 05 th -07 th November 2025, Ann Arbor, Michigan (U.S.).
07/2025	Ahrens, C.: Social Influences on “Articulatory” Targets. Paper presented at DYMOS: Dynamical models of speech. 26 th -27 th July 2025, Eugene, Oregon (U.S.).
11/2024	Grama, J., Ahrens, C.: Evaluating traditionally “stable” variables in a creole: Variation and change in (th, dh) in Hawai’i Creole. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52. 7 th -9 th November 2024, Miami Beach, Miami (U.S.).
11/2024	Ahrens, C., Moelders, A.: How does [mi] brain make [mi] talk?: An acoustic analysis of First-Person Possessive and First-Person Object. Poster presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 52. 7 th -9 th November 2024, Miami Beach, Miami (U.S.).
07/2024	Ahrens, C., Moelders, A.: me and my Accent - Analyzing Acoustic Patterns of the First-Person Possessive and Object 'me': Evidence from Tyneside English. Paper presented at the International Conference on Language Variation in Europe 12. 8 th -11 th July 2024, Vienna (Austria).
07/2024	Ahrens, C., Grama, J.: Evaluating a traditionally “stable” variable in a contact language: A study of (dh)-stopping in Hawai’i Creole. Paper presented at Methods in Dialectology XVIII. 01 st -05 th July 2024, Melbourne (Australia).
07/2024	Ahrens, C., Moelders, A.: A.: Exploring acoustic realisations of Tyneside English: Homophonous realisation of the First-Person Possessive and Object 'me'?. Paper presented at Methods in Dialectology XVIII. 01 st -05 th July 2024, Melbourne (Australia).
06/2024	Ahrens, C., Grama, J.: (dh)-stopping in Hawai’i Creole: Testing a stable variable in a creole. Paper presented at Sociolinguistic Symposium 25. 24 th -27 th June 2024, Perth (Australia).
06/2024	Moelders, A., Ahrens, C.: An acoustic study of the first-person possessive in the Northeast of England. Paper presented at Sociolinguistic Symposium 25. 24 th -27 th June 2024, Perth (Australia).
10/2023	Ahrens, C.: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Investigate Language Choices in a Trilingual Setting (Project Launch). Poster presented at NWAV 51. 13 th -15 th October 2023, NYC (U.S.).
08/2023	Bauernfeind, L., Ahrens, C., Grama, J.: Change across the lifespan in GOAT: Evidence from a panel study of Tyneside English. Poster presented at <i>ICPhS 20</i> . 7 th -11 th August 2023, Prague (Czech Republic).
06/2023	Ahrens, C.: Tracing FACE and GOAT across the Lifespan: From Student to Lecturer. Poster presented at <i>UKLVC 14</i> . 26 th -28 th June 2023, Edinburgh (Scotland).

- 12/2022** **Ahrens, C.:** Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan – FACE and GOAT. Tweeted at *Linguistweets* 3. 5th December 2022, Twitter.
- 08/2022** Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J., Eiswirth, M., and Buchstaller, I.: Socio-demographic trajectory, vowel normalization, and the marriage of auditory and acoustic approaches in assessing lifespan change. Paper presented at *Methods XVII*. 1st-5th August 2022, Mainz (Germany).
- 07/2022** **Ahrens, C.:** Tracking Sociophonetic Variation in one Individual over the Lifespan - FACE and GOAT. Poster presented at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 24*. 13th-16th July 2022, Ghent (Belgium).
- 07/2022** Grama, J., Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Eiswirth, M., and Buchstaller, I.: FACE and GOAT across the life-span: A three-wave panel analysis of vowel change in Tyneside. Poster presented at *Sociolinguistic Symposium 24*. 13th-16th July 2022, Ghent (Belgium).
- 09/2021** Grama, J., Buchstaller, I., Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.:** Tracing vowel change across the life-span – A three-wave panel analysis of FACE and GOAT. Paper presented at *UKLVC* 13. 8th-10th September 2021, online / Glasgow (Scotland).

Publications

- 08/2023** Bauernfeind, L., **Ahrens, C.**, Grama, J. (2023): Change across the lifespan in GOAT: Evidence from a panel study of Tyneside English. In: Radek Skarnitzl & Jan Volín (eds.) *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Science* (pp. 2064-2068). Guarant International.

Workshops & Summer Schools & Internships

- 07/2025 – 08/2025** **LSA Summer Institute**,
University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
- 05. - 07.09.2023** **Forensic Linguistic Short Course**
Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany)
Dr. Isabel Picornell and Dr. Annina Heini, Aston University, Birmingham (England) – 30h
- 08.02.2023** **Reproducible analyses with R-Notebooks**
Dr. Sophia Leimer, University Duisburg-Essen – 2h
- 16. - 29.07.2022** **4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics**
University of Crete, Rethymno, Crete, (Greece)
- 21. - 25.03.2022** **Bootcamp: R and Statistics for Humanities**
Prof. Dr. Stephan Th. Gries, University of Santa Barbara & Justus-Liebig-University Giessen – 30 hours
- 09.02.2022** **Preparation for R and Statistics for Humanities**
Prof. Dr. Stephan Th. Gries, University of Santa Barbara & Justus-Liebig-University Giessen – 3 hours
- 09. - 10.12.2021 & 27. - 28.01.2022** **Regular Expressions in R**
PD Dr. Christoph Ruehlemann, University Freiburg – 24 hours
- 07/2021 - 10/2021** **Internship at Medici Archive Project in Florence (Italy)**
Research in Archives and Libraries about the Medici family – 9 weeks (ERASMUS Plus Scholarship)

Service

- since 10/2025** President of GLOSS (Graduate Linguistics of Oregon Student Society, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.))

06/2025 - 8/2025	Volunteer at LSA Summer Institute, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.) Tasks: Schedule, Registration Desk, Canvas Support, Tech Support, Poster Judge
2019 - 2020	First vice chairwoman at the AStA (General Student Committee), Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)
2018 - 2019	Second vice chairwoman at the AStA (General Student Committee), Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen (Germany)

Funding, Grants & Awards

12/2025	100\$ Best Student Paper at the 189 th Meeting of Acoustical Society of America, Acoustical Society of America, Honolulu (U.S.)
11/2025	450\$ Graduate Student Travel Award for travels to NWAV 53, Linguistics Department, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
11/2024	450\$ Graduate Student Travel Award for travels to NWAV 52, Linguistics Department, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
02/2024	6 000\$ Lokey Graduate Science Award: most competitive UO doctoral applicants, University of Oregon, Eugene (U.S.)
10/2023	650\$ NWAV Student Travel Grant for travels to NWAV 51, Queens College, New York (U.S.)
07/2022	250€ Fee Waiver for online participation at Sociolinguistic Symposium 24, Ghent (Belgium)
07/2022	500€ Seed Grant Junge - Sprachwissenschaft e.V. (society of young linguists) for 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics, Rethymno (Greece)
07/2021 - 09/2021	1 040€ ERASMUS Plus Scholarship for 9-week-internship, Florence (Italy)

Affiliations

since 04/2025	Raciolinguistic Emotion Perception Psycholinguistics and Sociolinguistics Lab (REPPS; led by Rachel Weissler), University of Oregon (U.S.)
since 09/2024	Usage-Based Lab (led by Volya Kapatsinski), University of Oregon (U.S.)
since 07/2024	Sociolinguistics Lab (led by Betsy Sneller and Suzanne Wagner), Michigan State University (U.S.)
08/2020 - 08/2024	Sociolinguistics Lab (led by Isabelle Buchstaller), University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)

Skills

Languages:

- German (first language)
- English (fluent spoken and written – TOEFL: 103)
- French (advanced – DELF-DALF: B1)
- Italian (advanced)
- Latin (beginner)

Software and Programming Languages:

- Praat
- ELAN
- R & RStudio (statistics & visualization)
- PsychoPy
- Gorilla Experiment Builder
- MS-Office
- Python (basics)
- HTML, CSS & JavaScript (basics)