James C. White
Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Linguistics
University College London
Chandler House
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London, WC1N 1PF

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EMPLOYMENT

2019 – present **Associate Professor**, Linguistics, University College London

2014 – 2019 **Lecturer**, Linguistics, University College London

2013 – 2014 **Assistant Professor**, Linguistics, University of Ottawa

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2016 **Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)**

2013 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, University of California, Los Angeles

2011 **M.A. in Linguistics**, University of California, Los Angeles

2008 **B.A. in Linguistics**, University of California, Los Angeles
B.A. in Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles
Departmental highest honors, Summa cum laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Phonology, Language acquisition, Learnability, Computational modeling, Phonotactics, Phonetics

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

in press Sundara, M., **White, J.**, Kim, Y. J. & Chong, A. J. Stem similarity modulates infants' acquisition of phonological alternations. *Cognition*.

in press Martin, A. & **White, J.** Vowel harmony and disharmony are not equivalent in learning. *Linguistic Inquiry*.

2020 Silva, M. C., Nevins, A. & **White, J.** Domains and prominence in nasal harmonization of Maxakalí loanwords. *International Journal of American Linguistics, 86*(2), 285–321.

2018 Yin, S. H. & **White, J**. Neutralization and homophony avoidance in phonological learning. *Cognition*, 179, 89–101.

2017   **White, J.**, & Chiu, F. Disentangling phonological well-formedness and attestedness: An ERP study of onset clusters in English. *Acta Linguistica Academica, 64*(4), 512–538.

2017   **White, J**. Accounting for the learnability of saltation in phonological theory: A maximum entropy model with a P-map bias. *Language, 93*(1), 1–36.

2015   Hayes, B. & **White J.** Saltation and the P-map. *Phonology*, *32*(2), 267–302.

2015   Garellek, M. & **White, J**. Phonetics of Tongan stress. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association, 45*(1), 13–34.

2014   **White, J.** & Sundara, M. Biased generalization of newly learned phonological alternation by 12-month-old infants. *Cognition, 133*(1), 85–90.

2014   **White, J**. Evidence for a learning bias against saltatory phonological alternations. *Cognition, 130*(1), 96–115.

2013   Hayes, B. & **White, J.** Phonological naturalness and phonotactic learning. *Linguistic Inquiry, 44*(1), 45–75.

2011   Daland, R., Hayes, B., **White, J.**, Garellek, M., Davis, A., & Norrmann, I. Explaining sonority projection effects. *Phonology, 28*(2), 197–234.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2018   **White, J.**, Kager, R., Linzen, T., Markopoulos, G., Martin, A., Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N. & van de Vijver, R. Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning. *Proceedings of NELS 48*.

2013   **White, J.** Bias in phonological learning: Evidence from saltation. PhD dissertation, UCLA.

2012   Garellek, M. & **White, J.** Stress correlates and vowel targets in Tongan. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics, 110*, 65–85.

2011   **White, J.** Experimental evidence for pre-lexical inhibition in spoken word recognition. MA thesis, UCLA.

2010   Garellek, M. & **White, J.** Acoustic correlates of stress and their use in diagnosing syllable fusion in Tongan. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics, 108*, 35–65.

2008   **White, J.** Looking for perceivable phonetic cues of morphological structure: An experimental study using sesquisyllabic homophones. BA honours thesis, UCLA.

INVITED LECTURES

2018   **White J.** Phonological learning is constrained by phonetic similarity: Experimental and computational evidence. New York University.

2018   **White J**. Influence of neutralisation avoidance on phonological learning. Plenary talk at Sheffield Linguistics Postgraduate Conference.

2018   **White J**. Influence of neutralisation avoidance on phonological learning. Plenary talk at conSOLE.

2017   **White J.** Biases in learning phonological alternations. University of Sheffield.

2017   **White J.** Phonological learning is constrained by phonetic similarity: Experimental and computational evidence. University of Manchester.

2017   **White J.** Phonological learning is constrained by phonetic similarity: Experimental and computational evidence. Oxford University.

2017   **White J.** Phonological learning is constrained by phonetic similarity: Experimental and computational evidence. Université Paris VIII.

2015   **White J.** Universal biases in phonological learning. 5-day mini-course given at the Advanced Core Training in Linguistics (ACTL) summer school.

2015   **White J.** Looking for learning biases in phonological acquisition using artificial language experiments. Chandler House Research Day, University College London.

2014   **White J.** Perceptual similarity biases phonological learning: Evidence from saltation. Department of Linguistics, University College London.

2013   **White J.** Role of perceptual similarity as a bias in phonological learning: Evidence from saltation. Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook University.

2013   **White, J.** Bias in phonological learning. Department of Linguistics, University of Ottawa.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020   Song, H. & **White, J**. Paradigm uniformity and neutralization avoidance in phonological learning. Talk at the 94th Linguistic Society of America (LSA) meeting.

2019   Song, H. & **White, J**. Paradigm uniformity and neutralization avoidance in phonological learning. Talk at the 2019 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP).

2019   Song, H. & **White, J**. Paradigm uniformity inhibits regularization during phonological learning. Talk at the 16th Old World Conference on Phonology (OCP).

2018   **White, J.**, Silva, M. & Nevins, A. Revisiting Maxakalí nasal harmony: Evidence from loanwords and modeling. Big Data Big Theory symposium, Sheffield.

2017   **White, J.**, Kager, R., Linzen, T., Markopoulos, G., Martin, A., Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N., & van de Vijver, R. Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning. Talk at the 48th North East Linguistics Society (NELS) meeting.

2017   **White, J.**, Kager, R., Linzen, T., Markopoulos, G., Martin, A., Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N., & van de Vijver, R. Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning. Talk at the 25th Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM).

2016   Chiu, F. & **White, J.** Disentangling sonority and attestedness: An EEG study of onset clusters in English. Talk at the 13th Old World Conference on Phonology (OCP).

2016   Yin, H. & **White, J.** Neutralization avoidance and naturalness in artificial language learning. Talk at the 90th Linguistic Society of America (LSA) meeting.

2015   Yin, H. & **White, J.** Neutralization avoidance and naturalness in the learning of palatalization. Talk at the 2015 Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP).

2015   **White, J.** & Robillard, S. Variable schwa realization in Canadian French: A MaxEnt grammar approach. Talk at the 23rd Manchester Phonology Meeting (MFM).

2015   **White, J.,** Kim, Y., Chong, A. & Sundara M. Phonetic similarity as a bias in infant phonological learning. Talk at the 37th Annual Meeting of the DGfS.

2014   **White, J.,** Sundara, M., Kim, Y. & Chong, A. Infant learning of phonological alternations is biased by phonetic similarity. Poster at Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB).

2014   **White J.** Role of perceptual similarity in learning phonological alternations. Talk at the Montreal-Ottawa-Laval-Toronto (MOLT) Phonology Workshop.

2014   **White J.** Learning alternations in a maximum entropy model: The role of perceptual similarity. Talk at the 88th Linguistic Society of America (LSA) meeting.

2013   **White, J.** Role of perceptual similarity in the acquisition of phonological alternations: A biased Maximum Entropy learning model. Talk at the 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD).

2013   Sundara, M., Kim Y., **White, J.** & Chong, A. There is no pat in patting: Acquisition of phonological alternations by English-learning 12-month-olds. Talk at the 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD).

2012   **White, J.** & Sundara, M. Infant biases in the learning of phonological alternations. Talk at the 37th Boston Univesrity Conference on Language Development (BUCLD).

2012   **White, J.** On the learnability of saltatory phonological alternations. Poster at LabPhon 13.

2012   **White, J.** Evidence for a learning bias against "saltatory" phonological alternations in artificial language learning. Talk at the 86th Linguistic Society of America (LSA) meeting.

2011   **White, J.** & Garellek, M. Acoustic correlates of stress and their use in diagnosing syllable fusion in Tongan. Poster at the 161st Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

2011   **White, J.** & Garellek, M. Acoustic correlates of stress and their use in diagnosing syllable fusion in Tongan. Talk at the 18th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA). **[Awarded best student abstract]**

2010   **White, J.** & Sundara, M. Experimental evidence for phoneme-level inhibition in spoken word recognition. Poster at the 160th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of

America (ASA).

2009   **White, J.** Looking for phoneme-level inhibition in spoken word recognition using auditory lexical decision. Poster at the 158th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA).

GRANTS

2016 – 2019   British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant. (£9,742)
Principle Investigator. Title: *An EEG study of phonotactic knowledge*.

2013 – 2014   Seed funding grant, Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa. ($10,000)

2013 – 2014   Start-up grant, Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa. ($5,000)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2012 - 2013   UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship
2012   Society for Language Development Student Award
2011 - 2012   Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
2011 - 2012   Lenart Travel Award, UCLA
2011   Lemelson Fellowship
2011   UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship
2011   Best Student Abstract, AFLA
2010 - 2011   UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship
2010   UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship
2008   Phi Beta Kappa, UCLA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

POSTGRADUATE

Introductory phonetics (UCL, 2014–2020)
Introduction to phonology (UCL, 2018)
Bias in phonology: Theories, experiments, and models (Univ. of Ottawa, 2014)
Workshop on R (Univ. of Ottawa, 2014; with Rob Truswell & Lyra Magloughlin)
Phonological theory I (Univ. of Ottawa, 2013)
College teaching of linguistics (UCLA, 2011)

UNDERGRADUATE

Advanced phonological theory A (UCL, 2015–2018)
Advanced phonological theory B (UCL, 2015–2016)
Introduction to phonetics (UCL, 2014–2020)
Introduction to linguistics: The sounds of language (Univ. of Ottawa, 2013)
Introduction to phonology (UCL, 2018; UCLA, 2012)
Research Apprenticeship in Linguistics (UCL, 2018–2020)
Experimental Phonology (UCL, 2019)

SUPERVISION

(At UCL unless otherwise noted)

PH.D., SUPERVISOR

in progress   Hanbyul Song

PH.D., SECOND SUPERVISOR

2018   Elizabeth Eden
                Towards a phonological metric of language distance

PH.D., DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

in progress   Zirui (Clara) Liu.
2014   Peter Milne (U. of Ottawa)
                Consonant cluster reduction in Quebec French

PH.D., COMPREHENSIVE EXAM COMMITTEE MEMBER

2014   Will Dalton (U. of Ottawa)
                An acoustic and articulatory analysis of Canadian French vowel harmony
2014   Abdulrahman Alamri (U. of Ottawa)
                /k/ palatalization in modern Saudi Arabian dialects

M.A., SUPERVISOR

2019   Zifeng Cai
                Production of L2 English lexical stress: A study on vowel reduction of Mandarin learners of English
2019   Zeyang Cui
                Phonetics of Cypriot Greek stress
2019   Xinzi Hou
                The diachronic impact on the correspondence between melody and Mandarin tones
2019   Eva Rotky
                Preaspiration and lenition in Liverpool and Newcastle English
2018   Zirui (Clara) Liu
                Phonetics of Southern Welsh stress
2018   Jiaming Yu
                Description of tones in Ningbo Wu Chinese
2017   Donald Gong
                Grammaticality and lexical statistics in Chinese unnatural phonotactics
2017   Marguerite Gurda
                An exploration study of the evolution of Verlan among the French middle class
2017   Janet Murphy
                Pronunciation issues for Khmer adult learners of English as a second language
2017   Han Byul Song
                Acoustic measures of stress in Turkish
2017   Ruilin Zhang
                The effect of affix type and stress location on vowel harmony locality preference
2017   Xiaoqi Zhuang
                Acoustic contrasts among different plosive laryngeal categories and co-articulated modal phonation in Shanghainese
2016   Qi Chen
                A cross-linguistic study of sound symbolism: The shapes of the Mandarin tones

2016   Mei Wang
                 Mandarin speakers' sensitivity to the sonority of onset clusters and perceptual illusions
2015   Ohoud Alamri
                 Gulf Arabic epenthesis: A problem of conformity to typological generalisations
2015   Atheer Alsuwailem
                 Evidence for a learning bias against saltatory alternations in an unnatural change
2015   Carolina Martinez Herrera
                 Phonological perception of /d/ by English and Chilean Spanish native speakers
2015   Heng (Sora) Yin
                 Biased acquisition of neutralising phonological alternations in artificial language learning
2015   Yupeng Zhang
                 Are Chinese learners of English "deaf" to English lexical stress?
2014   Dan Sachs (U. of Ottawa)
                 Visible and invisible epenthesis in Mohawk

M.A., COMMITTEE MEMBER

2013   Meng Yang (U. of Ottawa)
                 The interaction between tone and intonation in Kunming Chinese

B.A., LONG ESSAY SUPERVISOR

2021   Gloria Yu
2019   Leo Berthon
                 An account of Verlan in Optimality Theory
2019   Connor (Jake) Crossland
                 The opposite of hygge: Stress in Danish and its acoustic correlates
2019   Joe Dixey
                 Stress in Icelandic: An Optimality-Theoretic account
2019   Rose Levy
                 Does the simplicity of speech reflect the perception of a speaker's traits?
2019   Nicole Malena
                 Metaphony in opaque environments in the varieties of Italian
2019   Mercedes Papadopulos
                 Sound dichotomy of South America's liquids
2019   Andrea Santos Revilla
                 Comparative study of Spanish sibilant /s/ in Madrid, Spain
2018   Imogen Holland
                 Accounting for the rise of (dispreferred) saltation in Campidanian Sardinian
2017   Harriet Collier
                 An investigation into the effects of telephone transmission on the perception of vowels
2017   Joshua Ho
                 Computational analysis of nasal harmony in Maxakalí loanword phonology
2017   Caitrin Jones
                 What makes a language "human"?
2017   Inn (Jennifer) Lim
                 Acoustic correlates of Tagalog stress
2016   Katy Man
                 Naturalness in tones: Are tone pattern typologies grounded in perception?

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Linguistics Association of Great Britain (2014 – present)
Linguistic Society of America (2012 – present)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO LEARNED SOCIETIES

2015 – 2019   Assistant Secretary, Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

2017   Consulting for CrowdScience, BBC World Service radio

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

2018   Co-organiser of the 18th Old World Conference on Phonology (OCP)

AD-HOC JOURNAL REVIEWING

Cognition
Cognitive Science
Glossa
Infancy
Journal of the International Phonetic Association
Laboratory Phonology
Language
Language and Speech
Language Learning and Development
Lingua (before the creation of *Glossa*)
Linguistic Inquiry
Linguistic Variation
Morphology
Natural Language & Linguistic Theory
Phonological Analysis
Phonology

CONFERENCE REVIEWING

Old World Conference on Phonology (OCP) 18
European Summer School in Language, Logic and Information (ESSLLI)
Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) 40
Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2016
Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2017

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Programme director, MA Linguistics (UCL, 2017 – present)
Website improvement committee (UCL, 2014 – 2019)
Postgraduate admissions committee (UCL, 2014–2016)
Invited speakers committee (UCL, 2020-21; Univ. of Ottawa, 2013–14)
Linguistics lab committee (Univ. of Ottawa, 2013–14)
Website improvement committee (Univ. of Ottawa, 2013–14)
Colloquium committee (UCLA, 2011–2012)

Teaching evaluation committee (UCLA, 2010–2011)
Open house committee (UCLA, 2008–2010)

NATURAL LANGUAGES

English (native)
French (advanced)
Indonesian (intermediate)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE:

2011	Indonesian, Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese, Balinese
2009–11	Tongan

OTHER SKILLS

Statistical software:	R, SPSS
Programming languages:	Python
Experimental software:	E-prime, PsyScope, Habit
Phonetic analysis:	Praat, Voicesauce