

Rebekah Stanhope

PhD Candidate in Linguistics at Northwestern University

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Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 2022 – expected June 2027
PhD in Linguistics

Thesis: The status of mirativity as an intonational morpheme in American English

Committee: Jennifer Cole (chair), Ann Bradlow, Eszter Ronai, Peter van Elswyk

M.A. in Linguistics 2022–2024

Thesis: Focus alternative set cardinality does not influence prominence perception

Committee: Jennifer Cole (chair), Eszter Ronai

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 2018–2022

B.A. in Linguistics

Summa cum laude, with Research Distinction

Thesis: Examining perception of prosodic contrasts in 7–12 year old children

Committee: Laura Wagner (chair), Shari Speer, Rachael Frush Holt

Research Interests

Phonetics; Phonology; Prosody; Intonational Meaning; Experimental Pragmatics; Speech Perception

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Stanhope, R., Song, Y., White, S.E., Clopper, C.G., Holt, R.F., Lind-Combs, H.C., Speer, S., and Wagner, L. (In press). Green House or Greenhouse? Direct Comparison of Phrasal Stress Patterns Facilitates their Comprehension by Older Children. *Journal of Child Language*.

Wagner, L., Awani, S., Patson, N., and **Stanhope, R.** (2023). To what extent does the general public endorse language myths? *Language & Linguistics Compass*, e12482. doi: 10.1111/lnc3.12486

Conference Proceedings

Stanhope, R. and Cole, J. (2026). Phonological Encodings of Speaker Surprise in American English Rising and Falling Nuclear Tunes. *Proceedings of Speech Prosody 2026*. doi: 10.21437/SpeechProsody.2026-66.

Stanhope, R., Sostarics, T., and Cole, J. (2025). F0 correlates of perceived speaker surprise in American English: Accents vs. Edge Tones. *Proceedings of The Third International Conference on Tone and Intonation*. doi: 10.21437/TAI.2025-25

Presentations

Invited Talks

Stanhope, R. (2026, December). Individual differences in interpreting dynamic pitch: gradient vs quantal. ASA Special Session on Pitch Prosody in Dynamical Analysis, Baltimore, MD.

Stanhope, R. and Cole, J. (2026, May). Phonological Encodings of Speaker Surprise in American English Rising and Falling Nuclear Tunes. Phonatics, Northwestern University.

Stanhope, R. (2026, February). Intonational encoding of focus and mirativity: the role of pitch accent distribution. Linguistics Department Noon Colloquium Series, Northwestern University.

Stanhope, R., Sostarics, T., and Cole, J. (2025, May). F0 correlates of perceived speaker surprise in American English: Accents vs. Edge Tones. Phonatics, Northwestern University.

Stanhope, R., & Kinnaird, K. (2021, November). Is Sonority-Sensitive Stress Learnable? *Linguistics Outside the Classroom* Talk, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University.

Referred Conference Presentations

Stanhope, R. and Cole, J. (2026, June). Continuous covariation of intonational form and pragmatic meaning. **Talk** presented at LabPhon 20, Montreal.

Stanhope, R. and Cole, J. (2026, May). Phonological Encodings of Speaker Surprise in American English Rising and Falling Nuclear Tunes. **Poster** presented at Speech Prosody 2026, Philadelphia.

Stanhope, R., Sostarics, T., and Cole, J. (2025, May). F0 correlates of perceived speaker surprise in American English: Accents vs. Edge Tones. **Talk** presented at 3rd International Conference on Tone and Intonation (TAI 2025), Munich.

Stanhope, R., and Cole, J. (2024, October). Are focus-driven effects on prominence perception sensitive to alternative set cardinality? **Talk** presented at 29th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference (MidPhon 29), Urbana-Champaign.

Cole, J., Sandberg, K., Sostarics, T., **Stanhope, R.**, and Ronai, E. (2024, July). Intonation and its meaning: Beyond essential differences. **Poster** presented at Intonation at the Crossroads (CROSSIN) Workshop, Speech Prosody 2024, Leiden.

Wagner, L. Song, Y., Speer, S., White, S., and **Stanhope, R.** (2024, July). The Prosody of Compound Nouns: Direct Comparison of Tunes Helps Children (and Adults). **Talk** presented at 16th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Prague.

Song, Y., Wagner, L., Holt, R.F., **Stanhope, R.**, and Speer, S. (2024, June). The acquisition of prosodic prominence to disambiguate compounds and phrases. **Poster** presented at LabPhon 19, Seoul.

Zhu, Y., Cameron, I., **Stanhope, R.**, Kinnaird, K., Huang, Y., Ni, T. and Köhnlein, B. (2022, June). Can people learn three levels of sonority-sensitive stress? **Poster** presented at LabPhon 18. (Virtual).

Stanhope, R., Wagner, L., Holt, R.F. and Speer, S. Examining comprehension of prosodic contrasts in 7-12 year old children. (2022, April). **Poster** presented at the CogFest Undergraduate Poster Session at the Ohio State University.

Stanhope, R., Wagner, L., Holt, R.F. and Speer, S. Examining comprehension of prosodic contrasts in 7-12 year old children. (2022, March). **Poster** presented at the 27th Annual Denman Undergraduate Research Forum at the Ohio State University.

Wagner, L., Patson, N. D., Awani, S. K., **Stanhope, R.**, DeLeon, K. (2022, January). To what extent does the public endorse language myths? **Talk** presented in the Public Understanding of Linguistics symposium at the Linguistic Society of America annual conference, Washington D.C.

Meade, S., **Stanhope, R.**, Yim, T., & Kinnaird, K. (2021, January). Is Sonority-Sensitive Stress Learnable? Evidence from Artificial Grammar Acquisition. **Poster** presented at the 25th Annual Mid-Continental Phonetics and Phonology Conference (MidPhon 25). (Virtual).

Grants & Awards

Northwestern University

IPA Student Award for Speech Prosody, \$255	2026
Cognitive Science Program Travel Award, \$500	2026
Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics, \$605	2026
Conference Travel Grant, Dept. of Linguistics, \$400	2026
Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics, \$495	2025
Conference Travel Grant, The Graduate School, \$800	2025
Conference Travel Grant, Dept. of Linguistics, \$450	2025
Graduate Research Grant, Dept. of Linguistics, \$400	2023

The Ohio State University

2nd place, CogFest Best Undergraduate Poster Award	2022
Undergraduate Research Scholarship, \$7000	2021
Dean's List	2018–2022

Research Appointments

The Ohio State University

Research Assistant

- Prosodic Phonology Lab, PI: Björn Köhnlein (2020–2022)
- Language Sciences Research Lab, PI: Laura Wagner (2020–2022)

Teaching Experience

Northwestern University

Teaching Assistant 2023–present

LING 250: Sound Patterns in Human Language (Spring 2026, with Jennifer Cole)

- Guest lectures: Phonological Alternations, Basic Acoustics: Introduction to Spectrograms
- Developed content for and led weekly discussion sections

LING 317: Experimental Pragmatics (Winter 2026, with Eszter Ronai)

LING 270: Meaning (Spring 2025, with Brady Clark)

LING 250: Sound Patterns in Human Language (Fall 2024, with Jennifer Cole)

- Guest lecture: Constructed Languages

LING 350: Fundamentals of Laboratory Phonology (S23, with Jennifer Cole)

- Guest lecture: Distinctive Features and Natural Classes

LING 260: Formal Analysis of Words & Sentences (F23, with Erin Leddon)

Other guest lectures and workshops

- The Autosegmental-Metrical Model & ToBI Annotation for *Graduate Prosody Seminar*, Spring 2025
- Introduction to $\LaTeX$ (with Raef Khan) for *Linguistics Summer Workshop Series*, 2023

Administrative Experience

The Ohio State University

Program Coordinator, Summer Linguistic Institute for Youth Scholars

2022

Student Administrative Assistant, Department of Linguistics

2018–2022

Service

Ad-hoc reviewing: Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (co-review with J. Cole),
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology

Linguistics Department Graduate Student Representative

2026-2027

Linguistics Research Showcase Organizing Committee

Winter 2026

Linguistics Department First Friday Social Organizing Committee

2025-2026

Public Outreach

Pod Explainer, OSU Labs in Life Language Pod
at the Center of Science and Industry (COSI)

Jan.–May 2020

- Performed interactive demonstrations of language science concepts for museum visitors
- Created content for the Language Pod Facebook page

Professional Affiliations

Association for Laboratory Phonology

International Phonetic Association

Non-degree Study

The Ohio State University

Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences Undergraduate Summer Institute

2021

Technical Skills

- Coding custom web experiments in Vue.js
- Data visualization and Bayesian/Frequentist statistical modeling in R
- Python
- Praat
- Qualtrics
- L^AT_EX