

Zachary Jagers

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SUMMARY

PhD-prepared communications researcher and strategist, combining social science expertise and data analysis skills to help organizations understand and respect each person and the language they use. Recognized for applying innovative methods to unearth patterns in language and behavior and for distilling insights for diverse stakeholders, making them relevant and actionable for the enhancement of various missions. Known as enthusiastic, value- and data-driven, and an energizing collaborator — passionate about fostering conditions where fresh perspectives are brought and shared, to facilitate understanding and accomplish desired outcomes.

SKILLS

Research

- award-winning for innovative and poignant research on social language patterns
- designed and executed 13 (+ongoing) projects of diverse methods
- produced 4 expert publications, sole-authored and co-authored (more in progress)
- delivered 18 peer-reviewed presentations at national and international expert conferences

Analysis

- track record of creative new data collection methods and fresh analytical angles
- advanced data visualization, mixed-effects modeling, dimensionality reduction in R
- collected and analyzed data from 475+ participants in lab- and field-based studies; 900+ in online and corpus studies
- use of coding skills to automate and streamline the processing of language data — sound and text

Communication

- effective at persuasively distilling complex ideas for diverse audiences and stakeholders
- 6 public media appearances, written and spoken
- 9 outreach initiatives: consulting, workshops, and interactive public science exhibits
- topic range and depth: language patterns and processing, analytical methods and technology, diversity and implicit bias

Leadership

- catalyst for collaboration, from ideas to results
- keen eye for optimizing team workflow, data management, and research protocols
- managed, trained, and mentored 11 student researchers and research assistants
- supervised projects, leading to grant awards and expert conference presentations
- instructed 8 post-secondary courses, well-reviewed for engaging activities and personalized discussion

SELECTED POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Oregon

2018 – present

- Lead teams in conducting research for an ongoing NSF-funded grant of over \$400,000.
- Collaborate in developing and executing research programs, experiment designs, and data analysis methods to further our understanding of how non-native speech sounds are processed and learned.
- Produce external-facing, expert-oriented presentations and publications as grant deliverables.
- Lead the creation and execution of outreach initiatives, including exhibits, events, and public-facing media.
- Design and code experiments and data analysis scripts, attentive to both team and participant user experience.

Primary Researcher, Doctoral Dissertation, New York University

2015 – 2018

- Award-winning research combining social, qualitative inquiry with experimental and quantitative analysis to examine how the ways people communicate reflect their social groupings and attitudes.
- Intersected the application of diverse tools and methods: ideological questionnaires, implicit bias tests, A/B testing of subjective evaluations and biases about speech varieties, acoustic phonetic speech analysis.
- Effectively communicated findings, oral and written, to diverse audiences and stakeholders.
- Mentored students in developing research programs with deep, personal connections; guided storycrafting of compelling research proposals, leading to grant awards and conference presentations.

SELECTED CONSULTING

- **"Skills Workshop: Qualtrics for Experimental Linguistics Online"**, Swarthmore Linguistics 2018
Facilitated interactive demo workshop about using the Qualtrics online survey interface to conduct online language processing research, including behind-the-scenes coding tools for streamlining.
- **"Implicit Bias: Continuing to Think About the Road to Equity"**, NYU Risk Management 2018
Developed and co-presented (w/ Renée Blake) a workshop guiding administrators to better understand implicit bias, how language can be a vehicle for bias, and how to communicate inclusively.
- **Diction Consultant**, Khorikos Music 2014 – present
Research and teach choral singers various languages' sounds, leading to praise from *New York Concert Review* and from an international consulate who commissioned us to sing in their language.

SELECTED OUTREACH

- **Living Lab Day**, Eugene Science Center 2020
Led design and delivery of interactive children's activity about sound and seeing one's own speech.
- **Languages from Around the World**, Eugene Science Center 2020
Led design of a standing interactive exhibit about language diversity. Trained team collecting diverse speech samples for visitors to hear, including sensitivity to cross-cultural and -linguistic differences.

SELECTED PUBLIC MEDIA APPEARANCES

- **"3 Internet Language Trends from 2019, Explained"**, requested by editors at *The Conversation* 2019
Public article about language innovations and how they spread.
- **"Between Iraq and a Hard Place"**, *Vocal Fries* podcast 2019
Discussed my doctoral research of English speakers pronouncing foreign place names more or less like how people from those places do, and how this can reflect ideologies of nationalism and assimilationism.
- **"Your Political Views Can Predict How You Pronounce Certain Words"**, published by *PBS* 2019
Public article based on my doctoral research.
- **"You Say 'Eye-Rack', I Say 'Ear-Rock' "**, *Tell Me Something I Don't Know* podcast 2017
Presented my research as a guest and won the live audience vote.

SELECTED EXPERT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **"Measuring sound distinction in production after perception + production training"** 2020
Assessed non-native sound learning by applying a new statistical method — not based on native-likeness — across training methods. *Presentation, 179th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America.*
- **"Moments of moments: Acoustic phonetic character and within-category variability of the Basque three-sibilant contrast"** 2019
Found that when sounds are crowded, their statistical distribution shape is affected so that they stay distinct from each other. *Presentation and publication, 2019 International Congress of Phonetic Sciences.*
- **"Loanword variation and perception: Methodological choices and experimental outcomes"** 2018
Tested between explicit survey and implicit guised methods when studying listener reactions to foreign word pronunciations. *Presentation, 2018 annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.*

EDUCATION

- PhD Linguistics**, New York University, 2018
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Dean's Outstanding Dissertation Award
- MS Linguistics**, Georgetown University 2013
- BA Spanish, BA Modern World Languages**, La Sierra University 2010
University Honors Program;
summa cum laude;
studies abroad in Argentina, Japan, and Austria

PROFICIENCIES

- **Languages:** US English (native), Spanish (advanced), Japanese (intermediate), French (beginning), many others (analyzed)
- **R statistics:** data management and visualization, multi-factor analysis and model comparison, dimensionality reduction
- **Python, PsychoPy:** in-the-lab experiment programming and data management
- **Praat:** sound segmentation, script-based measurement extraction, audio signal manipulation
- **HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Qualtrics, MTurk, WordPress:** online experiment programming, basic web development