

Alexander MARTIN

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POSITIONS HELD

2022–	Assistant professor Center for Language and Cognition University of Groningen
2020–2022	Postdoctoral researcher Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle Université Paris Cité
2017–2020	Postdoctoral researcher Centre for Language Evolution The University of Edinburgh

EDUCATION

2017	PhD in Cognitive science “Biases in phonological processing & learning” Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique École Normale Supérieure – PSL
2014	Master’s of Cognitive science Focus: <i>Experimental linguistics</i> “An investigation into the functional load of phonological features and perceptual correlates” EHESS · ENS · Université Paris Descartes
2012	Bachelor’s of Language sciences Focus: <i>Theoretical & descriptive linguistics</i> Université Paris Diderot
2012	Bachelor’s of Applied modern languages Focus: <i>English & German, Civilization studies</i> Université Paris Diderot

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

I take a multi-faceted approach to study how human cognition and the social world shape the world’s languages. My approach is largely experimental: I use rigorously designed **laboratory experiments**, often paired with **corpus analyses**. Much of my experimental work uses the **artificial language learning** paradigm (ALL) and I am part of a European network of scientists testing the limits and subtleties of this task. I am particularly interested in how biases in learning constrain variation and affect language change. I have experience implementing ALL tasks in **diverse linguistic populations** (including in highly multilingual populations and populations speaking understudied languages) in the lab, in the field, and online, testing both perception and production, and across different domains of language. I have also used tasks like the **Matched Guise Technique** to study socially meaningful linguistic variation, specifically looking at variable *liaison* in spoken French, and I am keenly interested in developing the integration of knowledge from the **social sciences** into research on language variation.

FULL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- **Martin, A.**, Adger, D., Abels, K., Kanampiu, P., & Culbertson, J. (2024). A universal cognitive bias in word order: Evidence from speakers whose language goes against it. *Psychological Science*.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., & Burnett, H. (2023). Indexicalité et interprétation du monde social : une analyse socio-pragmatique de la liaison variable [*Indexicality and interpretation of the social world: a socio-pragmatic treatment of variable liaison*]. *Langue française*, 219, 121–135.
- Weng, C., Chitoran, I. & **Martin, A.** (2023). Bilingual phonological contrast perception: The influence of Quanzhou Southern Min on Mandarin non-sibilant fricative discrimination. *JASA Express Letters*, 3(7), 075202.
- **Martin, A.**, van Heugten, M., Kager, R., & Peperkamp, S. (2022). Marginal contrast in loanword phonology: Production and perception. *Laboratory Phonology*, 13(1).
- **Martin, A.**, & White, J. (2021). Vowel harmony and disharmony are not equivalent in learning. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 52(1), 227–239.
- **Martin, A.**, Holtz, A., Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2020). Experimental evidence for the influence of structure and meaning on linear order in the noun phrase. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 5(1), 97.
- **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2020). Revisiting the suffixing preference: Native language affixation patterns influence perception of sequences. *Psychological Science*, 31(9), 1107–1116.
- **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2020). Phonetically natural rules benefit from a learning bias: a re-examination of vowel harmony and disharmony. *Phonology*, 37(1), 65–90.
- **Martin, A.**, Ratitamkul, T., Abels, K., Adger, D. & Culbertson, J. (2019). Cross-linguistic evidence for cognitive universals in the noun phrase. *Linguistics Vanguard*, 5(1).
- **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2017). Assessing the distinctiveness of phonological features in word recognition: prelexical and lexical influences. *Journal of Phonetics*, 62, 1–11.
- **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2015). Asymmetries in the exploitation of phonetic features for word recognition. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 137(4), EL303–EL314.
- Fort, M., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2015). Consonants are more important than vowels in the bouba-kiki effect. *Language and Speech*, 58(2), 247–266.

Conference proceedings

- Weng, C., **Martin, A.**, & Chitoran, I. (2022). Assimilation perceptive des fricatives non-sibilantes du mandarin par les locuteurs du Quanzhou Southern Min [*Perceptual assimilation of Mandarin non-sibilant fricatives by speakers of Quanzhou Southern Min*]. In: *Proc. XXXIve Journées d'Études sur la Parole – JEP 2022* (pp. 375–384).
- Guevara-Rukoz, A., **Martin, A.**, Yamauchi, Y., & Minematsu, N. (2019). Prototyping a web-based phonetic training game to improve /r-/l/ identification by Japanese learners of English. In: *Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Speech and Language Technology in Education (SLaTE 2019)*.
- **Martin, A.**, Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2019). Do learners' word order preferences reflect hierarchical language structure?. In: A. K. Goel, C. M. Seifart, & C. Freksa (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 2303–2309). Montreal, QB: Cognitive Science Society.
- White, J., Kager, R., Linzen, T., Markopoulos, G., **Martin, A.**, Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N. & van de Vijver, R. (2018). Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning. In: S. Hucklebridge & M. Nelson (Eds.) *Proceedings of NELS 48* Vol. 3, (pp. 207–220). Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- Fort, M., Weiss, A., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2013). Looking for the bouba-kiki effect in prelexical infants. In: S. Ouni, F. Berthommier & A. Jesse (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Auditory-Visual Speech Processing* (pp. 71–76). Lyon, France: INRIA.

FULL LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations

- Kanampiu, P., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2024). "A contest between form and meaning: Differential preference in the choice of nominal classification rules in Kĩtharaka". 11th World Congress of African Linguistics, August 5th–9th, 2024, Nairobi, Kenya.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., Copot, M., & Burnett, H. (2024). "Socio-pragmatic microvariation: The social meaning of variable liaison in France and Québec". Sociolinguistics Circle 10, April 19th, 2024, Groningen, The Netherlands.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., Corbeau, E., & Burnett, H. (2023). "The social meaning of variable liaison in spoken French: A view from the pragmatic sociology of critique". Social Meaning Workshop, November 14th–15th, 2023, Berlin, Germany.
- Kanampiu, P., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2023). "Morphophonological and semantic productivity of Kĩtharaka noun classes". 3rd Linguistic Association of East Africa Conference (LAEA3), August 15th–16th, 2023, Kampala, Uganda.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., & Burnett, H. (2023). "Opening the black box of social meaning: A pragmatic sociological treatment of variable liaison in spoken French". 53rd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL53), June 26th–30th, 2023, Paris, France.
- Weng, C., **Martin, A.**, & Chitoran, I. (2023). "Non-native phonological perception in a bilingual community: The influence of Southern Min on perception of Mandarin fricatives". Phonetics and Phonology in Europe 2023 (PaPE 2023), June 2nd–4th, 2023, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., & Burnett, H. (2023). "The social meanings of variable liaison in spoken French: A view from the pragmatic sociology of critique". Sociolinguistics Circle 9, March 31st, 2023, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., & Burnett, H. (2022). "Interpreting the indexical field: A pragmatic sociological treatment of variable liaison in spoken French". *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 50, October 13th–15th, 2022, Stanford, California.
- **Martin, A.**, Abbou, J., Dénigot, Q., Liang, Y., & Burnett, H. (2022). "The power of the written word: A re-analysis of the social meanings of variable liaison". Sociolinguistics Symposium 24, July 13th–16th, 2022, Ghent, Belgium.
- Kanampiu, P., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2022). "Determinants of noun classification in Kĩtharaka: A synchronic approach". 9th International Conference on Bantu Linguistics (Bantu9), June 7th–10th, 2022, Limbe, Malawi.
- **Martin, A.**, Liang, Y., Abbou, J., Dénigot, Q., & Burnett, H. (2021). "*Tu n'utiliseras pas le futur proche*: a corpus and experimental study of the effect of polarity on future variation in Metropolitan French". *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 49, October 19th–24th, 2021, Austin, Texas (Online).
- Adger, D., Kanampiu, P., Abels, K., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2021). "Hierarchy and predication in the Kĩtharaka nominal phrase". Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, September 6th–9th, 2021, Online.
- Adger, D., Kanampiu, P., Abels, K., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2021). "Order and structure in the Kĩtharaka nominal phrase". The 8th International Conference on Bantu Linguistics (Bantu8), June 2nd–4th, 2021, Essex, United Kingdom.
- **Martin, A.** & Culbertson, J. (2021). "A domain-general bias cannot explain the suffixing preference: Experimental evidence from English and Kĩtharaka". *Edge Asymmetries in Morphophonology* (workshop at DGfS 43), February 24th–26th, 2021, Freiburg, Germany (Online).
- **Martin, A.**, Kanampiu, P., Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2020). "Does a universal hierarchical structure underlie word order typology?" *EvoLang XIII*, April 14th–17th, 2020, Brussels, Belgium. [Cancelled]
- Guevara-Rukoz, A., **Martin, A.**, Yamauchi, Y., & Minematsu, N. (2019). "Prototyping a web-based phonetic training game to improve /r/-/l/ identification by Japanese learners of English". The 8th Workshop on Speech and Language Technology in Education (SLaTE 2019), September 20th–21st, 2019, Graz, Austria.
- **Martin, A.**, Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2019). "Learners are sensitive to hierarchical structure in noun phrases containing demonstratives but not numerals". Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, September 9th–12th, 2019, London, United Kingdom.
- **Martin, A.**, Guevara-Rukoz, A., Schatz, T., & Peperkamp, S. (2019). "No learning bias favoring phonetically grounded rules? Revisiting vowel harmony". The 16th Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP 16), January 16th–18th, 2019, Verona, Italy.

- **Martin, A.**, Ratitamkul, T., Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2018). "A cross-linguistic experimental investigation of Universal 20". Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, September 11th–14th, 2018, Sheffield, United Kingdom.
- **Martin, A.**, van Heugten, M., Kager, R., & Peperkamp, S. (2018). "Relating perception and production in contact-induced change". The 15th Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP 15), January 12th–14th, 2018, London, United Kingdom.
- White, J., Kager, R., Linzen, T., Markopoulos, G., **Martin, A.**, Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N. & van de Vijver, R. (2017). "Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning". The 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 48), October 27th–29th, 2017, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- White, J., Kager, R., Linzen, T., **Martin, A.**, Nevins, A., Peperkamp, S., Polgárdi, K., Topintzi, N. & van de Vijver, R. (2017). "Preference for locality is affected by the prefix/suffix asymmetry: Evidence from artificial language learning". The 25th Manchester Phonology Meeting, May 25th–27th, 2017, Manchester, United Kingdom.
- **Martin, A.**, van Heugten, M., Kager, R. & Peperkamp, S. (2016). "Phonological emergence in Dutch: Relating perception and production in contact-induced change". Satellite workshop of LabPhon 15 on Marginal Contrasts, July 17th, 2016, Ithaca, New York.
- **Martin, A.** & Peperkamp, S. (2016). "Coalescing sources of bias in perception: Lexical and prelexical influences on the processing of phonological features". The 15th Conference of Laboratory Phonology, July 13th–17th, 2016, Ithaca, New York.
- Guevara-Rukoz, A., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2015). "The role of phonetic naturalness in shaping sound patterns". Workshop on modeling variability in speech, October 1st–2nd, 2015, Stuttgart, Germany.
- **Martin, A.** (2015). "Similarity in the lexicon: A new measure of functional load & experimental evidence". 23rd Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE XXIII), January 7th–9th, 2015, Paris, France.
- Fort, M., Weiss, A., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2013). "Looking for the bouba-kiki effect in prelexical infants". 12th International Conference on Auditory-Visual Speech Processing, August 29th–September 1st, 2013, Nancy, France.

Poster presentations

- Weng, C., Chitoran, I., & **Martin, A.** (2024). Sibilant contrast production by bilingual speakers of Quanzhou Southern Min and Mandarin. 13th International Seminar on Speech Production (ISSP2024), May 13th–17th, 2024, Autrans, France.
- Weng, C., **Martin, A.**, & Chitoran, I. (2022). Assimilation perceptive des fricatives non-sibilantes du mandarin par les locuteurs du Quanzhou Southern Min. 34th Journées d'Études sur la Parole (JEP2022), June 13th–17th, 2022, Île de Noirmoutier, France.
- Liang, Y., Abbou, J., Amsili, P., Dénigot, Q., **Martin, A.**, & Burnett, H. (2022). "Soft intervention effects in sociolinguistic variation". Generative Linguistics in the Old World 45 (GLOW45), April 27th–29th, 2022, London, United Kingdom.
- **Martin, A.** & White, J. (2020). "Vowel harmony and disharmony are not equivalent in learning". The 17th Conference of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, July 6th–8th, 2020, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- **Martin, A.**, Abels, K., Adger, D., & Culbertson, J. (2019). "Do learners' word order preferences reflect hierarchical language structure?". The 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2019), July 24th–27th, 2019, Montreal, Québec.
- Maldonado, M., **Martin, A.**, & Culbertson, J. (2019). "An experimental approach to inferences to the standard in comparative constructions". Workshop on The semantics of gradable adjectives (XPRAG-ADJ19), May 23rd–24th, 2019, Cologne, Germany.
- **Martin, A.**, van Heugten, M., Kager, R., & Peperkamp, S. (2016). "Relating perception and production in contact-induced change". Workshop on Linking social effects in language processing to social effects in language evolution, September 15th–16th, 2016, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- Peperkamp, S. & **Martin, A.** (2016). "Sleep-dependent consolidation in the learning of natural vs. unnatural phonological rules". The 15th Conference of the Association for Laboratory Phonology, July 13th–17th, 2016, Ithaca, New York.
- Fort, M., Weiss, A., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2013). "Looking for the bouba-kiki effect in prelexical infants". Workshop on Infant Language Development, Donostia, Spain, June 20th–22nd, 2013.
- Fort, M., Weiss, A., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2013). "Looking for the bouba-kiki effect in prelexical infants". International Child Phonology Conference 2013, June 10th–12th, 2013, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

- Fort, M., **Martin, A.**, & Peperkamp, S. (2013). “Consonants are more important than vowels for the maluma-takete effect”. The 11th International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, March 20th–23rd, 2013, Tenerife, Spain.

Invited talks

- Université Paris Cité, Invited seminar (03/2024) Paris (FR)
- École Normale Supérieure, Invited seminar (06/2022) Paris (FR)
- Linguistique française : approches expérimentales, Invited conf. talk (06/2022) Lausanne (CH)
- Prefixes versus suffixes in Afroasiatic, Invited conf. talk (03/2022) Paris (FR)
- Jabberwocky Words in Linguistics, Invited conf. talk (02/2022) Bucharest (RO) & Amherst (US)
- Aix-Marseille Université, Invited seminar (12/2021) Aix-en-Provence (FR)
- Université de Paris, Invited seminar (10/2019) Paris (FR)
- Université Grenoble Alpes, Invited seminar (12/2018) Grenoble (FR)
- Queen Mary University, Invited seminar (02/2018) London (UK)
- Université Paris Diderot, Invited seminar (10/2016) Paris (FR)
- Utrecht Univeristy, Invited seminar (06/2016) Utrecht (NL)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Open Competition XS grant (NWO) for the project “Exploring the link between speech sound perception and production at the level of the individual”, €45,782 (2023–2024)
- Small projects grant (PPLS) for the project “Testing a proposed mechanism for the suffixing preference”, £2,546 (2021) (with J. Culbertson and I. Kastner)
- Internal financing (LLF) for the project “Why is there a learnability difference between vowel harmony and disharmony?”, €2,114 (2021) (with J. White)
- Travel award to attend the BITSS Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training workshop (2017)
- Travel award to attend the 15th Conference of Laboratory Phonology, US\$400 (2016)
- PhD contract (by competition [*concours*]) (PSL), €1,650 net monthly salary (2014–2017)

TEACHING

As instructor of record

- **Afstudeerdossier Klankleer** at the University of Groningen
Spring 2023, BA final year seminar (topics in computational and experimental phonology)
- **Onderzoeksatelier** at the University of Groningen
Spring 2023, BA research seminar for students of Dutch Language & Culture
- **Klankleer 2** at the University of Groningen
Spring 2023, BA course (SPE-style rule-based phonology)
- **Klankleer 1** at the University of Groningen
Fall 2022, BA course (introduction to phonetics & phonology)
- **Phonologie expérimentale** at Université Paris Cité (with J. Mertz & C. Guieu-Grandsire)
Spring 2021, graduate-level course (topics in laboratory phonology)
- **Montage d'expériences** at Université Paris Cité
Spring 2021, graduate-level workshop (experimental methods)

As guest lecturer or teaching assistant

- **Universals of language** at The Univeristy of Edinburgh (IoR: J. Culbertson)
Fall 2018, lectures in a graduate-level course (sound pattern universals)
- **Topics in phonology** at the École Normale Supérieure (IoR: A. Cristia)
Spring 2015, 2016, TA for a graduate-level course (topics in computational and experimental phonology)
- **Introduction to phonology** at the École Normale Supérieure (IoR: M. Giavazzi)
Fall 2014, 2015, 2016, TA for a graduate-level course (SPE-style rules and basics of OT)

THESIS SUPERVISION

PhD students

- Caihong WENG, PhD candidate in *Linguistics* [U. Paris Cité] (2022–) (with I. Chitoran)
- Patrick KANAMPIU, PhD candidate in *Linguistics and English Language* [U. Edinburgh] (2021–) (with J. Culbertson)

Master's students

- Jean-Luca HOFFSTEDDE in the MA *Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics* [RUG] (2024)
- Justin JACOBS in the Master *Phonétique et phonologie* [U. Paris Cité] (2023) (with H. Burnett & I. Chitoran)
- Caihong WENG in the Master *Phonétique et phonologie* [U. Paris Cité] (2022) (with I. Chitoran)
- Rose MINTZER-SWEENEY in the MSc *Evolution of Language and Cognition* [U. Edinburgh] (2020)
- Erik GRÖNINGSON in the MSc *Evolution of Language and Cognition* (2019) [U. Edinburgh] (with C. Saldana and M. Maldonado)
- Mary ELSON in the MSc *Evolution of Language and Cognition* [U. Edinburgh] (2018)
- Silvie ZELLER in the MSc *Developmental Linguistics* [U. Edinburgh] (2018)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Reviewing

- **Journals:** *Cognition*, *Glossa*, *Glossa: Psycholinguistics*, *Journal of Language Evolution*, *Journal of Phonetics*, *Laboratory Phonology*, *Language and Speech*, *Language Learning*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Morphology*, *Phonology*, *Phonological Data & Analysis*, *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, *Scientific Reports*
- **Conferences:** Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Conference on Laboratory Phonology (LabPhon), Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), International Conference on Language Evolution (EvoLang), International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS), Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP)

Conference and workshop organisation

- Co-organiser of the “10th Sociolinguistics Circle” at the University of Groningen [2024] ([www](#))
- Co-organiser of the “43rd TABU Dag” at the University of Groningen ([www](#)) [2023]
- Co-organiser of the “Edinburgh virtual workshop on artificial language learning” ([www](#)) [2021]
- Co-organiser of the workshop “Experimental approaches to language universals in structure and meaning” at ESSLLI ([www](#)) [2021]
- Co-organiser of the “Symposium on the Syntax of the Bantu Noun Phrase” at Queen Mary University of London ([www](#)) [2018]

Other service

- Chair of Expertise Team 3, member of the Board of Examiners for the Faculty of Arts (RUG) [2024–]
- Organiser of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen Colloquium series [2023–]
- Evaluator for the Paris Graduate School of Linguistics Ethics Committee [2022]
- Co-creator of the LingProof initiative to combat linguistic discrimination in publishing ([www](#)) [2022]
- Early Career Researcher representative for PPLS [2019–2020]
- Co-creator of the [#barbarplots](#) campaign to raise awareness about data visualisation techniques [2016]
- Co-founder and treasurer of the DEC Life scientific and cultural association [2015–2016]
- Official translator (English/French) of the Dept. of Cognitive Science at the ENS (paid service) [2015–2018]
- Co-creator and organiser of the Phonology Journal Club at the LSCP [2014–2016]
- Coördinator of the lab-wide Writing Group at the LSCP [2014–2015]
- Creator and organiser of the department-wide Language Groups at the Dept. of Cognitive Science at the ENS [2014–2016]

IN THE MEDIA

- Interviewed for a podcast episode: “Why are there differing preferences for suffixes and prefixes across languages?” produced by the *Association for Psychological Science* ([www](#)) (August, 2020)
- Research featured in a popular science article in the BBC’s *Science Focus* newsmagazine: “What artificial languages can tell us about ourselves” written by David Adger ([www](#)) (October, 2019)
- Research featured in a popular science article in David Adger’s blog on *Psychology Today*: “Where do the rules of grammar come from?” ([www](#)) (August, 2019)
- Research featured in a popular science article in *Scientific American*: “Does an M Sound Round to You?” written by Anne Pycha ([www](#)) (November, 2015)
- Research featured in a popular science article from the newsmagazine *Vice*: “The Parts of Speech” written by Ben Richmond ([www](#)) (April, 2015)