

Gašper Beguš

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EMPLOYMENT

Department of Linguistics, University of Washington

2018 - *present*

Assistant Professor
Phonology Lab Director

EDUCATION

Harvard University

2012 - 2018

- *Ph.D. in Linguistics*
Dissertation: “Unnatural Phonology: A Synchrony-Diachrony Interface Approach”
Committee: Kevin Ryan, Jay Jasanoff, Adam Albright, Donca Steriade
- *M.A. in Linguistics*

University of Ljubljana

2007–2012

- *Univ. Dipl. in Comparative Linguistics*
- *Univ. Dipl. in Slovene Language & Lit.*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journals

- (2017) Beguš, Gašper. Effects of ejective stops on preceding vowel duration. **Journal of the Acoustical Society of America** 142(4): 2168–2184. [↗PDF](#)
- (2015) Beguš, Gašper. A new rule in Vedic metrics. **Journal of the American Oriental Society** 135(3): 541–550. [↗PDF](#)
- (2015) Beguš, Gašper. The circumflex advancement in Prekmurje Slovenian and Bednja Kajkavian. **Zeitschrift für Slawistik** 60(1): 33–44. [↗PDF](#)

- (2011) Beguš, Gašper. Relativna kronologija naglasnih pojavov govora Žirovske kotline poljanskega narečja [The relative chronology of accentual phenomena in the Žiri basin local dialect]. *Slovenski jezik – Slovene Linguistic Studies* 8: 19–33. [↗PDF](#)(TR.)

Handbook chapter

- (to appear) Beguš, Gašper. Segmental phonetics and phonology. In *The Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus*, edited by M. Polinsky. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [↗PDF](#)

Edited conference proceedings

- (to appear) Beguš, Gašper and Aleksei Nazarov. Gradient trends against phonetic naturalness: The case of Tarma Quechua. *Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 48)*.
- (2018) Beguš, Gašper. A formal model of phonological typology. In *Proceedings of the 35th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, edited by Wm. G. Bennett, L. Hrats, and D. R. Storoshenko. 104-113. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings. [↗PDF](#)
- (2016) Beguš, Gašper. The phonetics of the independent svarita in Vedic. In *Proceedings of the 26th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference*, edited by S. W. Jamison, H. C. Melchert, and B. Vine. 1-12. Bremen: Hempn. [↗PDF](#)

MANUSCRIPTS

Under review

- (2016) Beguš, Gašper. “Post-Nasal Devoicing and a Probabilistic Model of Phonological Typology”
(under second round of review at the *Journal of Linguistics*) [↗PDF](#)

In preparation

- (2017) Beguš, Gašper. “Bootstrapping Sound Changes” [↗PDF](#)
- (2017) Beguš, Gašper and Nazarov, Aleksei. “Lexicon against Naturalness: Unnatural Gradient Phonotactic Restrictions and Their Origins” (first author) [↗PDF](#)
- (2017) Beguš, Gašper. “The Origins of the Voice System and Subject-Only Restriction in Austronesian” [↗PDF](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Disambiguating Analytic and Channel Bias with Unnatural Alternations. Poster at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Salt Lake City, UT. January 4–7, 2018.

- The *ruki*-Rule in the Rigveda. Talk at the 29th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference (WeCIEC). Los Angeles, CA. November 3–4, 2017.
- Gradient Trends against Phonetic Naturalness: The Case of Tarma Quechua. Talk with Aleksei Nazarov at the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS). University of Iceland. October, 27–29 2017.
- A Maximum Entropy Model of Phonological Typology. Poster at the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS). University of Iceland. October, 27–29 2017.
- Unnatural and Lexically Gradient Phonology. Talk with Aleksei Nazarov at the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2017 (AMP). New York University. September 15–17, 2017.
- A Maximum Entropy Typological Model. Poster at the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2017 (AMP). New York University. September 15–17, 2017.
- Historical Probabilities of Alternations. Talk at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS). University of Chicago. May 25–27, 2017.
- A Formal Model of Phonological Typology. Talk at the 35th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL). University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. April 28–30, 2017.
- Bootstrapping Historical Probabilities. Talk at Phonology in the Northeast (**phoNE**). University of Massachusetts, Amherst. April 8, 2017.
- Gradient Phonotactics against Naturalness. Talk at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society (BLS). University of California, Berkeley. February 3–5, 2017.
- Vowel Duration before Ejective Stops. Poster at the 172nd Acoustical Society of America Meeting (ASA). Honolulu, HI. November 28–December 2, 2016.
- Inherently Weighted Constraints. Poster at Annual Meeting on Phonology 2016 (AMP). University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. October 21–23, 2016.
- The Phonetics of Aspirate Dissimilation: Grassmann’s Law in Georgian. Poster at the South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC). University of Chicago Center, Paris, France. September 22–24, 2016.
- Calculating Inherent Weights. Poster at the 9th North American Phonology Conference (NAPhC). Concordia University. May 7–8, 2016.
- Unnatural Phenomena and Gradient Phonotactics. Talk at Phonology in the Northeast (**phoNE**). New York University. April 9, 2016.
- The Caland System in Tocharian. Talk at the 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society (AOS). Boston, MA. March 18–21, 2016.
- Voice System of Austronesian and Its Origins. Talk at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society (BLS). University of California, Berkeley. February 5–7, 2016.

- A Natural Origin for Unnatural Gradient Phonotactics. Talk at the 13th Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP), Workshop on variation in phonology. Budapest, Hungary. January 13–16, 2016.
- Devoicing in intervocalic position? Poster at the 23rd Manchester Phonology Meeting (mfm). Manchester, UK. May 28–30, 2015.
- Intervocalic Devoicing in Kiput and Berawan Dialects. Talk at the 22nd Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA). McGill University. May 21–24, 2015.
- Post-Nasal Devoicing as a Sound Change. Talk at the 89th Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA). Portland, OR. January 8–11, 2015.
- Independent Svarita in External Sandhi. Talk at the 26th Annual UCLA Indo-European Conference (WeCIEC). Los Angeles, CA. October 24–25, 2015.
- The Digamma Effect in the Rigveda. Talk at the 33rd East Coast Indo-European Conference (ECIEC). Blacksburg, VA. June 6–8, 2014.
- The Circumflex Advancement in Prekmurje Slovenian and Bednja Kajkavian. Talk at the 9th International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology (IWoba). Pula, Croatia. September 19–21, 2013.

TALKS

Invited

- “Phonetics and Phonology of South Caucasian Languages.” South Caucasian Chalk Circle 2. Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia. September 13, 2018.
- “Learning the Blurring Process.” Phonology Circle. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**. April 2, 2018.
- “Phonological Typology: A Conspiracy of Learning and Historical Biases.” Colloquium. **University of Washington**. February 2, 2018.
- “What Can Unnatural Processes Tell Us About Typology?” P* Reading Group (Phonology, Phonetics, Psycholinguistics). **McGill University**. November 1, 2017.
- “Unnatural Trends in the Lexicon: Diachrony and Synchrony.” Phonology Circle. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**. November 7, 2016.
- “Unnatural Phenomena and Phonological Typology.” Sound Workshop. **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**. April 1, 2016.
- “Novo pravilo v vedski metriki [A New Rule in Vedic Metrics].” Linguistic Circle. **University of Ljubljana**. May 26, 2014.

Panels

- “Phonetics and Phonology.” Led a panel at the South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC). University of Chicago Center, Paris, France. September 23, 2016.

At Harvard

- “Diachronic Treatment of Unnaturalness: A Blurring Process.” GSAS Workshop on Indo-European and Historical Linguistics. Harvard University. April 5, 2017.
- “Why do vowel durations differ across phonetic environments?” **Mind-Brain-Behavior Open Science Conference**. Harvard University. April 21, 2016.
- “Vedic Metrics and the Restoration of the Lost *v.” GSAS Workshop on Indo-European and Historical Linguistics. Harvard University. April, 14 2014.
- “The RUKI-Rule and Some Related Topics in Indo-Iranian Phonology.” GSAS Workshop on Indo-European and Historical Linguistics. Harvard University. November 2, 2012.

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mind-Brain-Behavior Graduate Student Award, Harvard University (\$8,396) 2016
- The Harvard Merit/Term Time Research Award (\$13,800) 2016
For “outstanding GSAS students in all fields”
- Committee on Australian Studies Research Materials Grant, Harvard (\$1,666) 2016
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence award, Bok Center, Harvard University 2016
For “the excellence of work with students and the strength of commitment to teaching”
- Mind-Brain-Behavior Graduate Student Award, Harvard University (\$7,100) 2016
- Nominee for the Star Family Prize in Excellence in Advising, Harvard University 2015
For “exemplary intellectual and personal guidance of undergraduate students”
- LSA Linguistic Summer Institute Fellowship (\$2,000) 2015
- Mind-Brain-Behavior Graduate Student Award, Harvard University (\$2,725) 2015
- Tao & Cheng Research and Travel Fund, Harvard University (\$3,000) 2015
- Fairbanks Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, Harvard (\$4,000, declined) 2015
- Conference Travel Grant, Graduate Student Council (2×), Harvard (\$1,500) 2014 & 2017
- Fairbanks Graduate Summer Research Grant, Harvard University (\$3,000) 2014
- Full tuition for Harvard Summer School, Harvard University (\$5,540) 2013

- Škrabec's Association Scholarship, Škrabec's Foundation (€3,600) 2012 - 2013
- Zois Scholarship for distinctly talented students, Republic of Slovenia 2007 - 2012
- Erasmus Exchange Scholarship, University of Ljubljana 2010 - 2011
- Summer School Grant (3×), Ad Futura, Republic of Slovenia 2010 - 2011

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- "Influences of Transmission and Learnability on Human Speech" Fall 2016
Awarded funding for artificial grammar learning experiments, recording equipment, and undergraduate research assistants
Mind-Brain-Behavior Interfaculty Initiative at Harvard University
- "The Phonetics of Ejective Stops and Neighboring Sounds" Summer 2016
Conducted an experiment with twelve Georgian speakers, in which I measured and modeled vowel duration before ejective stops, managed eight undergraduate research assistants
Mind-Brain-Behavior Interfaculty Initiative and Davis Center at Harvard University
- "Tocharians of the Taklamakan Desert: Language, Culture, Contact" Summer 2014
Conducted research on Tocharian manuscripts and on the grammaticalization of Tocharian case markers at the University of Vienna and École pratique des hautes études
Fairbank Center at Harvard University

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

LSA Linguistic Summer Institute, <i>University of Chicago</i>	2015
Intensive Latin Course, <i>Harvard Summer School</i>	2013
Summer School in Diachronic Natural Syntax, <i>University of Ljubljana</i>	2012
Summer School for Indo-European Linguistics, <i>University of Pavia</i>	2011
8 th Indo-European Dahlem Summer School, <i>Free University of Berlin</i>	2011
LOT Summer School, <i>Catholic University of Leuven</i>	2011
Erasmus exchange program in Comparative Linguistics, <i>University of Vienna</i>	2010 - 2011
7 th Indo-European Dahlem Summer School, <i>Free University of Berlin</i>	2010
5 th Leiden Summer School in Languages and Linguistics, <i>Leiden University</i>	2010

TEACHING

Sole instructor

- LING 97r: Linguistic Phonetics (tutorial) Harvard, Spring 2015
- LING 97r: Language Evolution (tutorial) Harvard, Spring 2016
- LING 97r: Phonology of Poetic Meter (tutorial) Harvard, Spring 2015

- LING 98a: Language Evolution (tutorial) Harvard, Fall 2014

Teaching fellow

- LING 115: Phonological Theory I (*graduate*) (Kevin Ryan) Harvard, Fall 2015
- LING 105: Sounds of Language (Edwin Tsai) Harvard, Fall 2015
Won the *Certificate of Teaching Excellence* award
- LING 107: Introduction to Indo-European (Jay Jasanoff) Harvard, Spring 2015
- LING 83: Language, Structure, and Cognition (Maria Polinsky) Harvard, Fall 2014

Summer school with online module

- LING S-101: Introduction to Linguistics, TA for Andrew Nevins Harvard, Summer 2017
Facilitated learning experience for online students, administered online exams

Guest lecture

- “Caucasian Phonology”; LING 149: Languages of the Caucasus Harvard, Fall 2015
- “Synchrony and Diachrony”; LING 105: Sounds of Language Harvard, Fall 2015
- “Morphology”; LING 83: Language, Structure, and Cognition Harvard, Fall 2014
- “Language evolution”; LING 83: Language, Structure, and Cognition Harvard, Fall 2014

Consulting and advising on teaching

- Departmental Teaching Fellow in Linguistics 2016–2017
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

ADVISING

- *Sophomore Advising Coordinator*, Mather House, Harvard College 2015–present
Leadership position: Coordinated the advising process for sophomores in Mather House, led training for 28 sophomore advisers (graduate students and faculty)
- *Sophomore Academic Adviser*, Mather House, Harvard College 2014–present
Served as the primary academic adviser to undergraduate students in their sophomore year
- *Fellowships Tutor*, Mather House, Harvard College 2014–2015
Advised undergraduate students on applications for fellowships
- *Resident Tutor*, Mather House, Harvard College 2014–present
Served “as an academic adviser to Mather House students and a liaison to the many resources within Harvard College, helped create and maintain a safe and livable environment”
- *Student Tutor*, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana 2010

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Conference Reviewing 2017 - present
Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP) 2018, Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL) 12.5
- Peer Reviewer 2014 - present
Phonology, Oceanic Linguistics, Journal of Language Relationship
- Graduate Representative, Junior Faculty Search Committee 2014 - 2015
Department of Linguistics, Harvard University
- Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty 2014 - 2015
Department of Linguistics, Harvard University
- Organizer 2014 - 2015
GSAS Workshop in Indo-European and Historical Linguistics
- Department Representative in the Graduate Student Council 2012–2013
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Harvard University
- Student Member of the Senate 2011–2012
Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana
- Department Representative in the Student Council 2009–2012
Department of Comparative and General Linguistics, University of Ljubljana

LANGUAGES

- Native: Slovenian
 Fluent: English, German, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
 Functional: French
 Coursework: Vedic Sanskrit, Avestan, Old Persian, Greek, Latin, Hittite, Luwian (Hieroglyphic and Cuneiform), Old Irish, Tocharian, Old Church Slavonic, Classical Armenian
 Fieldwork: Žiri Valley Slovenian, Georgian and Mingrelian (in the Boston area)
- Programming: R, Python, Church, Matlab (basic)

AFFILIATIONS (past and present)

Linguistic Society of America
 Acoustical Society of America
 Indogermanische Gesellschaft
 American Oriental Society
 Asia Center, Harvard University
 Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

Last updated September 14, 2018.