

Sabriya I. Fisher

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Professional Appointments

2018- Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences, Wellesley College

Education

2018 PhD in Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania

2011 MS in Language Sciences, University of Lyon (Lyon 2)

2003 BA in English Literature and Rhetoric, Anthropology Minor, Binghamton University

Grants

2021- Diana Chapman Walsh Assistant Professorship

2020- Lyle M. Spencer Research Award (with Nicole Holliday, University of Pennsylvania) for the project '*Don't Take that Tone with Me: Linguistic Variation and Disciplinary Action on African American Children in Schools*' (\$829,058)

2019 Lecture funding for Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences from the Wellesley College Committee on Lectures and Cultural Events (\$1,190)

2017-2018 National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Improvement Grant for the project *Variation & Change in Past Tense Negation in African American English* (\$12,814)

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles

Accepted **Sabriya Fisher.** '[T]he heart of the city, where the accent's the strongest': Localizing Perceptions of the 'Strong Boston Accent' in a Changing City. *The Journal of Linguistic Geography*.

2024 **Sabriya Fisher.** Verbal Morphology and Tense-Aspect Meaning. *American Speech*.
Advanced Publication: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-11014491>

- 2022 **Sabriya Fisher.** The Status of *ain't* in Philadelphia African American English. *Language Variation and Change*.
- 2016 William Labov, Anita Henderson, **Sabriya Fisher**, Duna Gylfadóttir, Hilary Prichard, and Betsy Sneller. Competing Systems in Philadelphia Phonology. *Language Variation and Change* 28.3:273-305.
- 2015 **Sabriya Fisher.** Is French Guianese Creole *sa* a Pronoun or a Copula? In Katia Golovko and Maria Mazzoli, editors, *Lingue e Linguaggio: Special Issue on Copulas*, 271-286.

Articles in Edited Volumes

- Invited Resubmission* **Sabriya Fisher.** Mass Migration and Linguistic Change: The Proliferation of *Ain't* for *Didn't* in Post-Migration Philadelphia. *Movement, Economy, Orientation: 20th Century Shifts in North American Language*. In Joey Stanley, Monica Nesbitt, and Margaret Renwick, editors, *Publication of the American Dialect Society*. Duke University Press.
- 2023 Nicole Holliday and **Sabriya Fisher.** Building Equity in Theoretical Linguistics and the Classroom. In Alice Corr and Anna Pineda, editors, *Theoretical Linguistics in the Pre-University Classroom*. Proceedings of the British Academy Series. Oxford University Press.
- 2015 William Labov and **Sabriya Fisher.** African American Phonology in a Philadelphia Community. In Sonja Lanehart, editor, *The Oxford Handbook of African American Language*, 256-279. Oxford University Press.

Proceedings and Working Papers

- 2018 **Sabriya Fisher.** Change over Time in the Grammar of African American English. In Lacey Arnold Wade and Jordon Kodner, editors, *Selected Papers from NWA 46*, University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics 24.2.
- 2015 **Sabriya Fisher**, Hilary Prichard, and Betsy Sneller. The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree: Incremental Change in Philadelphia Families. In Sabriya Fisher, editor, *Selected Papers from NWA 43*, University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics 21.2.
- 2015 Betsy Sneller and **Sabriya Fisher.** When *Get* Got Noticed: the Emerging Salience of *Get*-passives. In David Wilson, editor, *Proceedings of the Penn Linguistics Conference 38*, University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics 21.1.

Unpublished Manuscripts

- 2018 **Sabriya Fisher.** Variation and Change in Past Tense Negation in African American English. Dissertation Committee: William Labov, Meredith Tamminga, David Embick.

Volumes Edited

- 2015 Selected Papers from NWA 43, *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*, vol. 21.2

Invited Talks, Conference Papers, and Posters

Invited Talks, Workshops & Colloquia

- 2023 Nicole Holliday and **Sabriya Fisher**. ‘Don’t Take that Tone with Me’: Linguistic Variation and Disciplinary Action on African American Children in Schools. Invited talk at the LSA Institute conference on *Understanding Variation in African American English: Corpus and Prosodic Fieldwork Perspectives*, July 8 & 9, 2023
- 2022 **Sabriya Fisher**. Innovation in the Grammar of African American English. Invited talk at Harvard University Linguistics Department *Universals Workshop*, November 4, 2022
- 2022 **Sabriya Fisher**. Innovation and Social Stratification in African American English Negation. Invited talk at the Brown University Cognitive Linguistic & Psychological Sciences Lectureship on *the Linguistic Expression of Racial and Ethnic Identity*, April 19, 2022.
- 2022 **Sabriya Fisher**. Innovation in the Grammar of African American English. Invited talk at the Brandeis University Department of Linguistics and Computational Linguistics Colloquium Series, April 8, 2022.
- 2020 **Sabriya Fisher**. Variation and Change in the Grammar of African American English. Invited talk at the Institute of People and Technology at Georgia Institute of Technology’s Workshop on Language, Technology & Society, Oct. 14, 2020

Conference Papers

- 2024 **Sabriya Fisher**. Mass Migration, Social Networks, and Generational Change: The Proliferation of *Ain’t* for *Didn’t* in Post-Migration Philadelphia. Paper presented at the American Dialect Society Panel on Movement, Economy, Orientation: 20th Century Shifts in North American Language, January 2024
- 2019 **Sabriya Fisher**. Parallel Development: Two Cases of Perfect-to-Past Reanalysis in African American English. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 48, Eugene, October 2019.
- 2019 **Sabriya Fisher**. More than One Way to be Black in Philly: Ethnic Identity and Philadelphia’s Short-a Systems. Paper presented at the Georgetown University Roundtable in Linguistics, Georgetown, March 2019.
- 2019 **Sabriya Fisher**. Another Case of Perfect-to-Past Reanalysis in African American English. Paper presented at the American Dialect Society, New York, January 2019.
- 2017 **Sabriya Fisher**. The Expansion of *ain’t* in AAE. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Austin, January 2017.
- 2016 **Sabriya Fisher**. What’s *ain’t* Got to Do with Tense in AAE? Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 45, Vancouver, November 2016.

- 2015 William Labov, **Sabriya Fisher**, Guðrún Gyöfadóttir, Anita Henderson, Hilary Prichard, and Betsy Sneller. The Re-organization of Short-*a* Systems in Philadelphia. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44, Toronto, October 2015.
- 2015 **Sabriya Fisher** and Betsy Sneller. The Limits of the Sociolinguistic Monitor. Paper presented at Formal Ways of Analyzing Variation 2, Reykjavik, May 2015.
- 2015 **Sabriya Fisher**. Contact and Linguistic Behavior: African Americans in Philadelphia. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, January 2015.
- 2014 **Sabriya Fisher**, Hilary Prichard, and Betsy Sneller. The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree: Incremental Change in Philadelphia Families. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 43, Chicago, October 2014.
- 2014 **Sabriya Fisher**. Portuguese Influence on the French Guianese Creole Copula. Paper presented at the 20th Biennial Conference of the Society of Caribbean Linguistics, Aruba, August 2014.
- 2014 **Sabriya Fisher**. Evidence for a Copula Continuum: the Case of Pronominal Copulas. Paper presented at the 1st Workshop on Copulas, Bologna, March 2014.
- 2014 Betsy Sneller and **Sabriya Fisher**. When *Get* Got Noticed: the Emerging Salience of *get*-passives. Paper presented at the 38th Penn Linguistics Conference, Philadelphia, March 2014.
- 2013 **Sabriya Fisher** and Betsy Sneller. *Get* vs. *Be*: Social Class Differences in Variable Passive Auxiliary Use. Paper presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 42, Pittsburgh, October 2013.
- 2013 **Sabriya Fisher**. Grammatical Factors Affecting Copula Use in French Guianese Creole. Paper presented at the Summer Meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, Lisbon, June 2013.

Conference Posters

- 2023 **Sabriya Fisher**. '[T]he heart of the city, where the accent's the strongest': Localizing Perceptions of the 'Strong Boston Accent' in a Changing City. Poster presented at the American Dialect Society, January 2023
- 2017 **Sabriya Fisher**. *Ain't* for *Didn't* in African American English: Change vs. Age Grading. Poster presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 46, Madison, WI, November 2017.
- 2016 **Sabriya Fisher**. Verbal Morphology and Tense Aspect Meaning. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington, D.C., January 2016.
- 2015 **Sabriya Fisher**. Innovation in the Tense-Aspect System of AAVE: the Emergence of Past-tense *ain't*. Poster presented at UK Language Variation and Change 10, York, September 2015.
- 2015 Betsy Sneller and **Sabriya Fisher**. Syntax, Stigmatization, and the Sociolinguistic

Monitor. Poster presented at UK Language Variation and Change 10, York, September 2015.

- 2015 Laura Walker, Betsy Sneller, and **Sabriya Fisher**. Untangling Language Attitudes from Linguistic Knowledge in Self-reports of Stigmatized Speech. Poster presented at the 36th Penn Linguistics Conference, Philadelphia, March 2015.
- 2015 William Labov, **Sabriya Fisher**, Anita Henderson, Hilary Prichard, and Betsy Sneller. A Systematic Partition of the Speech Community: Short-*a* in Philadelphia. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, January 2015.
- 2012 **Sabriya Fisher**. On the Topic of Creole Copulas: the Case of French Guyanais Creole. Poster presented at the 19th Biennial Conference of the Society of Caribbean Linguistics, Bahamas, July 2012.

Teaching

Wellesley College

- LING 114: Introduction to Linguistics
LING 238: Sociolinguistics
LING 244: Language: Form & Meaning
LING 338: African American English (seminar)

University of Pennsylvania

- URBS 300: Fieldwork, Urban Studies Program (Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Spring 2018)
LING 001: Introduction to Linguistics (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2014 – Instructor: Florian Schwartz, Fall 2012 – Instructor: Rolf Noyer)
LING 102: Introduction to Sociolinguistics (Teaching Assistant, Spring 2013 -- Instructor: Aaron Dinkin)

Invited Teaching

- Fall 2021 *Variation and Change in the Grammar of African American English* for Language Variation and Social Context, Instructor: Lisa Green (UMass Amherst)
- Spring 2019 *African American Phonology in Philadelphia* for Language, Race, and Gender
Instructor: Daniel Erker (Boston University)
- Spring 2018 *African American English* for Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Instructor: Meredith Tamminga (University of Pennsylvania)
- Spring 2017 *African American English* for Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Instructor: Meredith Tamminga (University of Pennsylvania)

Undergraduate Advising & Supervision of Independent Work

2024-2025	Honors Thesis Advisor to Jab'ellalih Ixmata Schaaff
Summer 2024	Science Center Summer Research Program and Knapp Social Science Summer Research Program Supervisor to Ava Gessner and Marietta Lochner DeCastro
2023-2024	Ling 350 (Independent Study) Supervisor to Anna Kraffmiller
2023-2024	Supervisor to undergraduate Research Assistants Taryn Castro, Ava Gessner, Anna Kraffmiller, and Nandini Ramanathan
2022-2023	Honors Thesis Advisor to Grete Feldman
2021-2023	Supervisor to undergraduate Research Assistants Elizabeth Chen, Camille Osumah, Annika Schafer, Zoe Taylor, Sanaa Walker, and Miranda Zhu
2021- 2022	Sophomore Early Research Supervisor to Elizabeth Chen
Fall 2020	Honors Thesis Advisor to Molly McLachlan
Summer 2020	Knapp Social Science Summer Research Program Supervisor to Jiahui Zhang
2019-2020	Ling 350 (Independent Study) Supervisor to Mariel Rojas
Summer 2019	Nancy Walker Benjamin '63 Endowed Research Fund Supervisor to Molly McLachlan
Spring 2019	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program Advisor to Maria Anderson
2019-	Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences Program (Linguistic Concentration) Major Advisor

Professional Service

College-wide Service (Wellesley College)

2021	Invited guest speaker in the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship seminar, April 28
2020	Faculty Ambassador, Wellesley College Virtual Spring Open Campus
2019	Panelist, New Faculty Orientation Panel on First Year Faculty
2019-	Member, Committee on Extramural Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships
2019-	Affiliated Faculty, Latin American Studies Program

Departmental Service (Wellesley College)

2024	Honors Thesis Committee member for Selale Gunal, <i>Exploring Differences in Grammatical Processing of Turkish in Heritage Speakers with Differing Primary Languages</i>
2024	Honors Thesis Committee member for Nerine Uyanik, <i>Helping Hands: Gesturing in the Videoconference Environment</i>
2023	Honors Thesis Committee member for Ann Zhao, <i>Phonetic qualities of second-generation Chinese Americans in the Chicago suburbs</i>
2023-2024	Search Committee, Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences and Psychology
2023	Honors Thesis Committee member for Dagny McCullumsmith, <i>This Study is Gay: An Analysis of How Syntactic Category Affects the Interpretation of LGBTQ Labels</i>
2023	Honors Thesis Committee member for Nafisa Rashid, <i>A Window into Krio Heritage Speakers Through Their Use of Propositions and Verb Serialization</i>
2023	Honors Thesis Committee member for Xiaomeng (Miranda) Zhu, <i>The Modified Mother Tongue: Examining Chinese Vowel Quality Shift in Chinese-Dominant Chinese-English Code-Switching Environments</i>
2023	Honors Thesis Committee member for Sofia Rubio, <i>Kyrgyzstan: The Last Cyrillic Stronghold of Central Asia</i>

- 2019-20 Organizer, Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences Annual Lecture (Dr. Lisa Green)
 2018-19 Organizer, Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences Annual Lecture (Dr. Walt Wolfram)

Service to Discipline & Earlier Service Work

- 2024- Reviewer, *Language*
 2019- Reviewer, *American Speech*
 2019- Member, LSA Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics
 2019- Member, American Dialect Society
 2018- Abstract Reviewer, New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAY) Conference
 2018- Member, Linguistic Society of America
 2018-2019 Consultant, Penn Infant Language Center, run by Dr. Daniel Swingley, UPenn
 2016-2018 Coordinator, U. Penn Urban Studies Program Colloquium Series
 2016-2017 Coordinator, Panel on Job Diversity for Linguistics PhDs
 2015- Abstract Reviewer, Penn Linguistics Conference
 2013-2016 Co-editor in Chief, Penn Working Papers in Linguistics
 2012-2014 Representative, Graduate Student Government of the School of Arts and Sciences
 2012-2013 Speaker Series Coordinator, Department of Linguistics
 2011-2018 Editorial Board, Penn Working Papers in Linguistics
 2011-2013 Organizing Committee, Penn Linguistics Conference

Media Appearances

- Forthcoming* “Talking Black in America” film series (Walt Wolfram, executive producer)
- February 2019 “Philly Accent: There’s a lot youse don’t know about it. Just ask these experts” by Patricia Madej. <https://www.philly.com/news/philadelphia/philly-accent-philadelphia-english-words-20190215.html>
- January 2019 “Dissecting Language” by Deborah Lynn Blumberg. <https://magazine.wellesley.edu/winter-2019/dissecting-language>
- April 2016 “How does Philly’s accent change around the city? Hear for yourself.” by Cassie Owens <http://billypenn.com/2016/04/11/how-does-phillys-accent-change-around-the-city-hear-for-yourself/>