

# Sabriya I. Fisher

Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences  
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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

*In Press* **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.

### **Book Chapters**

- In Press*       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**

- 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

- 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 Gylfadóttir, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

- 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 36<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Society of Caribbean Linguistics, Bahamas, July 2012.

### Teaching

#### Wellesley College

- Spring 2021 Ling 114: Introduction to Linguistics [Term 4, Remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
 Spring 2021 Ling 338: African American English [Term 3, Remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic]

Fall 2020 Ling 238: Sociolinguistics [Term 2, Remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
 Fall 2020 Ling 114: Introduction to Linguistics [Term 1, Remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
 Spring 2020 Ling 244: Form & Meaning [Remote from 3/30 on due to the COVID-19 pandemic]  
 Spring 2020 Ling 338: African American English [Remote from 3/30 on due to COVID-19]  
 Fall 2019 Ling 114: Introduction to Linguistics  
 Fall 2019 Ling 238: Sociolinguistics  
 Spring 2019 Ling 338: African American English  
 Spring 2019 Ling 114: Introduction to Linguistics  
 Fall 2018 Ling 238: Sociolinguistics

### **University of Pennsylvania**

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

### **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**

2021- 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  
 2020-2021 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

## 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
- 2019-2021 Member, Committee on Extramural Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships
- 2019- Affiliated Faculty, Latin American Studies Program

### Departmental Service (Wellesley College)

- 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

- 2019- Reviewer, *American Speech*
- 2019- Member, LSA Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics
- 2019-2020 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

- 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/>