

## *Human language*

is a multifaceted phenomenon. It is simultaneously a property of individual minds and of whole speech communities, and thus both internal and external to us. It both shapes and is shaped by our societies over time. It is a combination of sound (or sign), which has physical properties that can be measured, and meaning, which does not. Accordingly, becoming a linguist involves mastering a variety of methods, both quantitative and qualitative.



## *The BA in Linguistics*

equips students with an understanding of fundamental questions driving modern linguistic research on formal structure, universals, acquisition, variation and change, and social dimensions of use; foundational knowledge in the core areas of linguistic theory; and the ability to identify and describe the empirical patterns found in language data and construct well-reasoned analyses by formulating, testing, and refining hypotheses.

## *Programs of study*

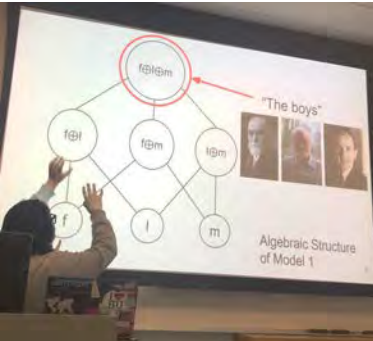
- Major and minor in **Linguistics**
- Joint majors in **Linguistics & Computer Science**, **Linguistics & Speech-Language- Hearing Sciences**, **Linguistics & Philosophy**, **Linguistics & Language** (African Languages, French, Italian, Japanese, Spanish)
- **Dual BA/MA** in Linguistics



Investigation of pitch perception sensitivity in speakers of languages with tone systems differing in complexity (e.g., Mandarin, Cantonese), as well as whether and how pitch is processed differently in speech and music.



**Phonology Lab** Jon Barnes



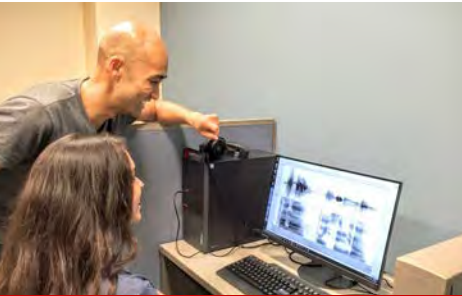
Focus on foundational questions in semantic/pragmatic theory through empirically rich studies of diverse languages. Areas of interest include definiteness, quantification, gradability, and the fault lines where they meet.

**Linguistic Semantics Lab** Elizabeth Coppock

Large-scale urban sociolinguistics initiative investigating the outcomes of language and dialectal contact among Spanish-speaking Bostonians and the possibility of the emergence of a Boston Spanish speech community.



**Spanish in Boston Project** Daniel Erker



**PAMLab** Charles Chang

Focus on phonetics, acquisition, and multilingualism, examining developments in speech production and perception over the lifetime of language learners and bi-/multilinguals via primarily behavioral methods.

Focus on ASL syntax; development of publicly shared linguistically annotated video corpora that serve as a basis for collaborative research with computer scientists interested in sign language recognition from video.



**ASL Linguistic Research Project** Carol Neidle



Focus on the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, typology, documentation, description, and revitalization of lesser-known languages, such as Ende, Quechua, and Northern Pomo.

**Structures of Under-researched Languages Lab** Kate Lindsey, Neil Myler