

Clara McMahan

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Address: 365 5th Avenue New York, NY 10016

Research Interests Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, Negation,
Slavic Linguistics, Psycholinguistics

Education **The Graduate Center, CUNY** New York, NY
Ph.D. in Linguistics 2022 – Present

Boston University Boston, MA
M.A. in Linguistics 2019 – 2022
GPA: 4.0

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
B.A. in French 2014 – 2018
Cum Laude GPA: 3.82

Publications **McMahan, C.** 2025. A Unified Syntactic Analysis of Double Negation in Slavic Languages. In X. Chen, S. Karakaş, & J. Shim (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)* (pp. 321-333, Vol. 60). Chicago Linguistic Society.

McMahan, C. 2024. Hella MUCH variation: Intensification in Northern California English, as seen through the South Bay. *Yale Working Papers in Grammatical Diversity* 6(1), 1-17.

Invited Talks **McMahan, C.** 2025. Analyzing Predicate NCIs in Russian and Polish. CUNY Syntax Lab, New York, NY, March 5.

McMahan, C., Modina, V., Klimek-Jankowska, D. & I. Sekerina. 2024. Aspect, Negation, and the Visual World Paradigm: An investigation into Russian and Polish. Slavic Linguistics Colloquium (SlavLingColl), Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, December 19.

McMahan, C. 2024. Double Negation in Strict Negative Concord Languages: Analyzing constituent negation. *Yale Syntax Reading Group (Yale SynRG)*, New Haven, CT. March 29.

McMahan, C. 2023. Not Unavailable: Toward a complete analysis of double negation readings in Slavic languages. *Syntax near NYU (SynNYU)*, New York, NY. November 17.

Conference Presentations

McMahon, C. 2025. Negation and Predication in Slavic Languages. Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 34 (FASL), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. May 16.

McMahon, C. & Modina, V. 2025. Interactions of Aspect and Negation in Russian and Polish: Evidence from the Visual World Paradigm. The Workshop on Processing and Evaluating Event Representations (PEER25), University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. April 18.

McMahon, C. & Modina, V. 2024. Aspect and Negation in Russian: A Visual World Paradigm experiment. Poster presented at *Psycholinguistics of Slavic Languages (PsychoSlav)*, Wrocław, Poland. July 10th.

McMahon, C. 2024. A Unified Syntactic Analysis of Double Negation in Slavic Languages. *60th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)*. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. April 27.

Kohut, A. & **McMahon, C.** 2023. Double Negation in Russian: Variation in the functional structure of PPs. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 51*, October 14.

Kohut, A. & **McMahon, C.** 2023. Disambiguating Double and Single Negation Readings in Russian. *18th Annual Meeting of the Slavic Linguistic Society*, Bratislava, Slovakia, August 26.

Presentations

McMahon, C. 2023. Syntactic Variation in American English Dialects. Guest Lecture for ENGL 280-05: Structures of Modern English at Hunter College, New York, NY, November 20.

McMahon, C. & Pember, K. 2020. Much Ado About For Nothing: Challenging the Definition of Strict Negative Concord. *Boston University Linguistics Department Graduate Research Forum*, Boston, MA, November 11.

Research Experience

Introduction to Psycholinguistics Fall 2023
Interactions of Aspect and Negation in Russian
Mentor: Irina Sekerina (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Designed and ran a pilot Visual World Paradigm experiment to examine pragmatic implicatures that result from different aspects under negation in Russian. In collaboration with Valeriia Modina.

Research Assistant Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Mentor: Christina Tortora (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Annotated interviews in Praat.

LX 733: Experimental Pragmatics Spring 2021

Mentor: Liz Coppock (Boston University)

Won an in-class experiment proposal contest. Directed a group to research if negative concord has an effect on the combination of the negative marker *ne* (not) plus affixal *ne-* (*un-*) in Russian.

Teaching

Hunter College New York, NY

Instructor of Record

Spring 2024 - Present

ENGL 28000: The Structure of Modern English

Designed and taught an undergraduate class.

Hunter College New York, NY

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023

ENGL 28000: The Structure of Modern English

Instructor: Angela Reyes.

Boston University Boston, MA

Grader

Spring 2020

LX 346: Language Variation and Change

Instructor: Danny Erker.

Boston University Boston, MA

Grader

Fall 2019

LX 120: Language and Music

Instructor: Charles Chang and Danny Erker.

Service

Reviewing

FDSL 18 (Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages), CLS 61 (Chicago Linguistic Society), SYNC 2024, SYNC 2025 (Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, and CUNY graduate student conference)

Other Education

INTERMET Program 2025 Krakow, Poland

Interdisciplinary Methodologies in Linguistic Research. Funded through the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) 2024 Braşov, Romania

Attended syntax and semantics classes.

Linguistic Society of America Summer School (LSA) 2019 Davis, CA

Hosted at UC Davis. Attended phonology, syntax, and semantics classes.

Skills

Programming

TeX, R, Python

Languages

English (native), French (fluent), German (basic), Dutch (basic),
Russian (basic), Arabic (basic)

Awards and Grants

INTERMET Travel Grant (\$1200)	2025
Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) (\$950)	2024
Cairns Student Travel Award (\$200)	2023
Charles E. Townsend Memorial Award - Honorable Mention	2023
Slavic Linguistic Society Travel Grant (\$500)	2023
Phi Beta Kappa Member, UCLA Chapter	2019
UCLA Department of Music Partial Scholarship	2014-2016