

Aljoša Milenković

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Research interests

BROAD

Phonology; Corpus Linguistics; Computational Linguistics; Acoustic Phonetics; Historical Linguistics; Metrics; Experimental Syntax
Phonology-Syntax interface; Phonology-Morphology interface

NARROW

Phonological effects on word order; End-weight
Opacity; Morphophonological alternations
Dialectology; South Slavic languages; Language contact in the Balkans
Prosody; Stress; Pitch accent; Tone; Syllable weight; Stress typology
Acoustic correlates of stress and pitch accent
Harmonic Grammar and Optimality Theory (and their stochastic implementations)
Cumulativity; Harmonic bounding; Variation; Learnability
Hyperraising; Copy Raising; Cross-clausal dependencies; Syntactic variation

Education

expected
2026

PHD in Linguistics, Harvard University
Dissertation: *Metrical grammar: Variation, gradience, and cumulativity at the syntax-phonology interface*
Advisor: Kevin Ryan
Committee: Kevin Ryan, Jeremy Rau, Aleksei Nazarov

2023

MA in Linguistics, Harvard University
Generals paper: *Superadditive cumulativity in categorical prosodic patterns: Prosodic minimality in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian*

- 2021 MA in Serbian (specialization: phonetics), University of Belgrade
Thesis: *Acoustic correlates of stress in the Kosovo-Resava dialect of Serbian*
Supervisor: Ana Batas
Advising committee: Ana Batas, Nikola Radosavljević
- 2020 BA in Serbian and South Slavic languages and literatures, University of Belgrade

Non-degree training

- 2024-2025 Visitor, Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2018 Leiden Summer School of Languages and Linguistics, Leiden University

Grants, honors & awards

- 2025-2026 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2025 Harvard GSAS Summer Research Award
- 2024 Harvard GSAS Summer Research Award
- 2023 Harvard GSAS Summer Research Award
- 2022 Ljubomir Stojanović Award for MA thesis (3rd prize),
Matica srpska, Novi Sad, Serbia
- 2022 Harvard GSAS Summer Research Award
- 2021-2025 Stipend, Harvard University

Publications & manuscripts

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2026 Milenković, Aljoša, “Superadditive cumulativity in categorical prosodic patterns: Prosodic minimality in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian.” *Phonology* 43: 1–33. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0952675726100311>
- 2025 Milenković, Aljoša, “Against strict stratum-internal transparency: Within-stratum countershifting in Gallipoli Serbian.” *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 10: 1–47. <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.23107>
- 2019a Milenković, Aljoša, “Two etymological reexaminations: *šćępjàti and *velikŭ/velikŭ in Lekhitic.” *Zbornik Matice srpske za filologiju i lingvistiku* 62(2): 19–26.

- 2019b Milenković, Aljoša, “Archaisms and innovations in Polabian phonology: Some comparative remarks.” *Anali Filološkog fakulteta* 31(1): 311–330.
- 2018 Milenković, Aljoša, “SCr. *krd(o)* ‘herd’.” *Zbornik Matice srpske za filologiju i lingvistiku* 61(2): 7–20.
- 2017 Milenković, Aljoša, “Grčko *einai* i *gignesthai* u staroslovenskom prevodu Jevanđelja po Jovanu.” [Greek *einai* and *gignesthai* in the Old Church Slavonic translation of the Gospel of John]. *Lucida intervalla* 46, 127–146.

MANUSCRIPTS

- under review Milenković, Aljoša, *(Hyper)raising in Serbian: Experimental evidence and theoretical considerations*. <https://aljosamilenkovic.github.io/syntax.pdf>
- under review Milenković, Aljoša and Kevin Ryan, *Stress-weight and stress-tone interaction in South Slavic folk meter*. <https://aljosamilenkovic.github.io/metrics.pdf>
- 2026 Milenković, Aljoša, *The syntax–phonology interface in meter: Phonologically conditioned word-order variation in South Slavic oral folk meter*. <https://aljosamilenkovic.github.io/syntax%20phonology.pdf>
- in prep. Milenković, Aljoša, *Noisy Harmonic Grammar and MaxEnt bound differently: An argument for MaxEnt*.
- in prep. Milenković, Aljoša, *Constraint conjunction does not salvage strict ranking: An argument against Optimality Theory*.
- in prep. Milenković, Aljoša and Micheal Becker, *Source-oriented generalizations in gradient similarity avoidance in Slavic*.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2025 Milenković, Aljoša, “Hyperraising and copy raising are structurally different: Experimental evidence from Serbian.” *LSA Proceedings* 10(1) <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v10i1.5938>
- 2024 Milenković, Aljoša, “Tone-sensitive vowel lengthening in BCMS monosyllables.” *CLS 59: Proceedings of the Fifty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, 319–330.
- 2023 Milenković, Aljoša, “Towards a more comprehensive theory of tone-stress interaction.” *NELS 53: Proceedings of the Fifty-third Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society. Volume two*, 209–218.
- 2020 Milenković, Aljoša, “Between semantics and phonological theories: The origin of Proto-Slavic *jstŭ ‘that, the same’.” *Proceedings of the international conference of the Society for Indo-European Studies and IWoBA XII, Ljubljana 4–7 June 2019, celebrating one hundred years of Indo-European comparative linguistics at the University of Ljubljana*. Hamburg: Baar-Verlag, 507–526.

NON-REFERRED INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

2021

Milenković, Aljoša, “Teorija optimalnosti u fonologiji.” [Optimality Theory in phonology] *Svet reči*, 51-52: 8–18.

THESES

- 2026 Milenković, Aljoša, *Metrical grammar: Variation, cumulativity, and generalization*, Doctoral dissertation, Harvard University.
- 2021 Milenković, Aljoša, *Akustički korelati naglasaka u kosovsko-resavskom dijalektu srpskog jezika* [Acoustic correlates of stress in the Kosovo-Resava dialect of Serbian], MA thesis, University of Belgrade.

Presentations

INVITED

- Jul 08, 2026 TBA. Colloquium talk at Leipzig University.
- Apr 10, 2026 *Source-oriented gradient similarity avoidance in Slavic prepositional allomorphy* (with Michael Becker, UMass Amherst). Talk at the UMass Sound Workshop, Amherst, MA.
- Oct 17, 2025 *Learning superlinear cumulative interactions across stochastic models*, Talk at the UMass Sound Workshop, Amherst, MA.
- Sep 15, 2025 *Stress-weight and stress-tone interaction in South Slavic folk verse* (with Kevin Ryan, Harvard), Talk at the MIT Phonology Circle, Cambridge, MA.
- Nov 15, 2024 *(Un)expected immobile accent in some Slavic infinitives*, Invited talk at the Harvard Historical & Indo-European Workshop.
- Jun 21, 2024 *Hyperraising in Serbian: Experimental evidence and typological considerations*, Invited talk at the Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg, Austria.
- Dec 05, 2022 *Markedness is not enough: Tone-stress interaction in OT revisited*, Talk at the MIT Phonology Circle, Cambridge, MA.
- Sep 16, 2022 *Variable quantity-sensitivity in Neoštokavian Serbian and its origin*, Invited talk at the Harvard Historical & Indo-European Workshop, Cambridge, MA.
- May 26, 2021 *Does morphology constrain sound change? Kiparsky’s Law in Greek and its consequences for historical linguistics*, Invited talk at the University of Belgrade Spring Seminar in Indo-European Linguistics (virtually).

REFERRED

- July 2026 *Source-oriented gradient similarity avoidance in Slavic allomorph selection*. (with Michael Becker, UMass Amherst), Talk at the Réseau Français de Phonologie 2026 (RFP 2026), Paris.

- Sep 26, 2025 *Stress-tone-weight interaction in poetic meter: South Slavic folk meter revisited* (with Kevin Ryan, Harvard), Talk at the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2025 (AMP 2025), University of California Berkeley.
- May 30, 2025 *OCP-place beyond phonotactics: Sandhi place restrictions in Croatian*, Talk at the 31st Manchester Phonology Meeting (mfm 31), University of Manchester, UK.
- May 18, 2025 *Cross-clausal dependencies in Serbian: An experimental study*, Talk at the Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 34 (FASL 34), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (talk only).
- May 10, 2025 *Hyperraising and copy raising are structurally different: Against the unified base-generation account*, Talk at the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 61 (CLS 61), University of Chicago.
- Feb 05, 2025 *Gradient similarity in antigemination: Evidence from allomorph selection*, Talk at the 22nd Old-World Conference in Phonology (OCP22), University of Amsterdam.
- Jan 12, 2025 *Hyperraising in Serbian: Experimental evidence and theoretical implications*, Talk at the LSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Aug 30, 2024 *Timing matters: Remorphologization in the Šatrovački language game* (with Andrew Nevins, UCL), Talk at the Linguistics Association of Great Britain Meeting, Newcastle.
- Jun 27, 2024 *Inversion and remorphologization in the Šatrovački language game* (with Andrew Nevins, UCL), Talk at the Réseau Français de Phonologie 2024 (RFP 2024), Université de Picardie à Amiens.
- May 18, 2024 *Stratification is not enough: Within-stratum countershifting in Gallipoli Serbian*, Talk at the Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 33 (FASL 33), Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS (virtually).
- Dec 04, 2023 *Sonority thresholds and phonological change: Presonorant Lengthening in BCMS revisited*, Talk at the Sixth Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Phonology (ESHP 6), The University of Edinburgh, UK.
- Nov 29, 2023 *Metrical incoherence in Neoštokavian Serbian: Synchrony and diachrony*, Talk at the Formal Descriptions of the Slavic Languages 16 (FDSL 16), University of Graz, Austria (talk only).
- Oct 21, 2023 *How powerful is too powerful? Constraint conjunction in weighted constraint grammar and its typological consequences*, Talk at the Annual Meeting on Phonology 2023 (AMP 2023), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (virtually).
- Sep 10, 2023 *Against strict cycle-internal transparency: Multiple opacity in Gallipoli Serbian*, Poster at the Morris Halle @ 100 conference (M@100), MIT, Cambridge, MA (poster only).
- May 20, 2023 *Superadditivity in categorical prosodic patterns: The minimal foot in Serbian*, Talk at the Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 32 (FASL 32), Indiana University Bloomington (talk only).
- Apr 30, 2023 *Serbian monosyllabic lengthening as a superadditive gang effect*, Poster at the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 59 (CLS 59), University of Chicago.
- Jan 19, 2023 *Subsegmental faithfulness in Lithuanian palatalization*, Talk at the Fonologi i Norden (FiNo), Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania (virtually).

- Jan 13, 2023 *Towards a less restrictive theory of tone-stress interaction*, Poster at the Annual Meeting of the North-East Linguistics Society (NELS 53), University of Göttingen, Germany.
- May 26, 2022 *Stratification versus gradualness: Opaque metrical structure in Gallipoli Serbian*, Talk at the 29th Manchester Phonology Meeting (mfm 29), University of Manchester, UK (virtually).
- Jun 07, 2019 *The origin of Proto-Slavic *jistŭ ‘true, the same’*, Talk at IG Arbeitstagung “100 Jahre Indogermanistik an der Universität Ljubljana”, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (talk only).

INVITED LECTURES

- Oct 30, 2025 *What linguists can learn from poetry: New perspectives on poetic meter*, Invited lecture at the HXWeek conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Oct 28, 2024 *The wugs glinged: Assessing linguistic knowledge using experiments*, Invited lecture at the HXWeek conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Nov 13, 2023 *Historical linguistics*, Invited lecture at Harvard University (Ling 101, instructor: Tatyana Bondarenko).

NON-REFERRED/MISCELLANEOUS

- Apr 27, 2024 *Tone-stress-weight interaction in the meter: The South Slavic epic decasyllable* (with Kevin Ryan, Harvard), Talk at the Phonetics and Phonology in New England (PhPhoNE), University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Feb 23, 2024 *Hyperraising in Serbian: Experimental evidence and typological considerations*, Talk at the Harvard Working on Languages in the Field Laboratory (WOLF Lab) meeting, Cambridge, MA.
- Oct 04, 2023 *Constraint conjunction in weighted constraint grammar and its typological consequences*, Talk at the Harvard Harvard University Phonetics and Phonology Laboratory (PhonLab) meeting, Cambridge, MA.
- Apr 07, 2023 *Prominence-driven tone and tone-driven prominence in Optimality Theory: A fresh look*, Talk at the Harvard Harvard University Phonetics and Phonology Laboratory (PhonLab) meeting, Cambridge, MA.
- Feb 25, 2023 *Symmetric trade-offs are diachronically unstable: Superadditive constraint cumulativeness in Serbian*, Talk at the ECO-5, University of Connecticut.
- Oct 19, 2022 *Superadditive cumulativeness in Serbian metrical parsing*, Talk at the Harvard Harvard University Phonetics and Phonology Laboratory (PhonLab) meeting, Cambridge, MA.

Teaching

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Graduate

Fall 2024 *Linguistics 118: Historical and Comparative Linguistics*. Teaching Fellow for Jay Jasanoff.

Undergraduate

Spring 2025 *Linguistics 102: Sentence Structure*. Teaching Fellow for Kaden Holladay.

Fall 2024 *Linguistics 98A: Group Tutorial – Junior Year*. Primary instructor, topic: L^AT_EX for linguists.

Spring 2024 *Linguistics 83: Language, Structure, and Cognition*. Teaching Fellow for Kathryn Davidson.

Spring 2024 *Linguistics 105: Sounds of Language*. Teaching Fellow for Kathryn Franich.

Fall 2023 *Linguistics 108: Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Teaching Fellow for Jeremy Rau.

Fall 2023 *Linguistics 101: The Science of Language: An Introduction*. Teaching Fellow for Tatyana Bondarenko.

HARVARD SUMMER SCHOOL

2025 *Linguistics S-120: Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Teaching Assistant for Jeremy Rau.

2024 *Linguistics S-120: Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Teaching Assistant for Jeremy Rau.

BELGRADE WINTER SCHOOL IN INDO-EUROPEAN LINGUISTICS

2020 *Gothic: An introduction*. Primary instructor.

2020 *Selected Topics in Indo-European Phonology*. Primary instructor.

Service & Membership

GENERAL

2024–2025 Pedagogy Fellow, The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University.

2024–2025 Linguistics department librarian, Harvard University.

2024 Session chair, PhPhoNE, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2023–2024 Harvard Linguistics Colloquium Series organizer, with Natasha Thalluri, Jian Cui, and James Lee.

2023 Harvard Graduate Students in Linguistics committee member, with Hayley Ross, Anabelle Caso and Melody Wang.

2023 Session chair, Tu+ 8, Harvard University.

- 2022–2024 ECO-5 coordinator.
- 2022–2023 Harvard Historical & Indo-European Workshop coordinator, with Joost Botman.
- 2020 Belgrade Winter School in Indo-European Linguistics organizer, with Orsat Ligorio, Danilo Savić, Isidora Tolić, and Aleksa Krivošija.

REVIEWER

- Ad hoc Phonology (2024, 2026)
 Advances in Formal Slavic Linguistics (2024–2025)
 Formal Descriptions of the Slavic Languages (FDSL, 2023); Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS; 2026).

AFFILIATIONS

- 2024– Affiliate, The Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), Harvard University.
- 2026– Member, Slavic Linguistic Society (SLS).
- 2024– Member, Linguistic Society of America (LSA).
- 2024– Member, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW).
- 2023– Member, Harvard Fieldwork Lab (WOLF Lab).
- 2022– Member, Harvard PhonLab.
- 2021– Graduate Student Associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.
- 2020– Founding Member, Društvo indoevropaista u Srbiji (DIEUS) [Society of Indo-European Scholars in Serbia].

Languages & skills

LANGUAGES

Communication

Serbian (native), English (proficient), Polish (beginner), Lithuanian (beginner), Greek (beginner)

Fieldwork

Old Štokavian Serbian

Elicitation (graduate coursework)

Bemba, Javanese, Turkish

Extinct & classical languages

Sanskrit, Old Persian, Avestan, Classical Greek, Homeric, Mycenaean, Phrygian, Latin, Gothic, Old English, Old Norse, Old Church Slavonic, Old Prussian, Polabian, Slovincian.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming, data analysis, and markup

R, Python, Matlab, HTML/CSS, L^AT_EX

Phonetic and phonological tools

Praat, OT-Help, OT-Soft, VoiceSauce