

EDUCATION

Georgetown University
Linguistics Ph.D. Candidate

Washington, DC
May 2027

Dissertation Title: *Race, Authenticity, and the Use of African American English by White Artists in Pop Music.*
Committee Advisors: Jennifer Nycz, Nadja Tadic, Lara Bryfonski, and Nicole Holliday

M.S. in Linguistics

May 2025

Thesis Title: *Sounding Black, Looking White: Perceptions of Racial Identity in Pop Music.*
Committee Advisors: Jennifer Nycz and Nadja Tadic

University of Southern California
B.A. in Linguistics with Honors
B.A. in Spanish with Honors

Los Angeles, CA
May 2022
May 2022

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociolinguistic perception, experimental and mixed-methods sociolinguistics, stylistic variation in performance, raciolinguistic ideologies, language and social interaction, cross-cultural interaction and interpersonal meaning-making in social media contexts

PUBLICATIONS

- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). Digital Metacommunication: Exploring Language Attitudes towards *Voseo* across Social Media Platforms. *Spanish in Context* 22(3). <https://doi.org/10.1075/sic.24013.kil>
- **Killam, Abby.** (2026). Seeing vs. Believing: Gauging Perceptions of Racial Identity and Authenticity in Pop Music. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 32.1: *Proceedings of 49th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PWPL 32.1)*, 68–77.
<https://repository.upenn.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/56ac8372-f510-41d4-8b69-63f95963b530/content>
- **Killam, Abby.** (2026). Sounding Black, Looking White: Perceptions of Racial Identity in Pop Music. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (PLSA 11.1)*.
<https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v11i1.6071>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- **Killam, Abby.** (revise & resubmit). National Ideologies and Regional Voices: How Sociopolitical Exclusion Shapes Perceptions of *Voseo* in Online Metalinguistic Discourse. *Language & Communication*.
- **Killam, Abby.** (under review). A Membership Categorization Analysis of Chilean *Voseante* Speakers. *Spanish in Context*.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- **Killam, Abby.** (2026). "A Membership Categorization Analysis of Chilean *Voseante* Speakers." (10-minute paper presentation). 12th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS12). 9–11 April. Georgetown University. Washington, DC.

- **Killam, Abby.** (2026). "Sounding Black, Looking White: Perceptions of Racial Identity in Pop Music." (20-minute paper presentation). LSA 99th Annual Meeting. 6–9 January. New Orleans, LA.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). "National Ideologies and Regional Voices: How Sociopolitical Exclusion Shapes Perceptions of *Voseo* in Online Metalinguistic Discourse." (20-minute paper presentation). National Communication Association 111th Annual Convention. 20–23 November. Denver, CO.
 - "Top Paper" Panelist in the Language & Social Interaction Division.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). "Life in the Fast Lane": The Evolution of Fame and Identity in Justin Bieber's Autobiographical Narratives." (20-minute paper presentation). National Communication Association 111th Annual Convention. 20–23 November. Denver, CO.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). "Sounding Black, Looking White: Perceptions of Racial Identity in Pop Music." (10-minute paper presentation). New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV53). 5–7 Nov. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). "A Membership Categorization Analysis of Chilean *Voseante* Speakers." (10-minute paper presentation). Language and Social Interaction Working Group (LANSI-13). 10–11 October. Columbia University. New York, NY.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025). "National Ideologies and Regional Voices: How Social and Political Exclusion Shapes Perceptions of *Voseo* in Online Metalinguistic Discourse." (20-minute paper presentation). Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA 2025). 29–31 May. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2025) "Disentangling Audiovisual Cues in the Construction of Racial Identity in Popular Music." (20-minute paper presentation). Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC49). 5–6 April. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2024). "Echoes of Digital Voices: The Role of Media Engagement on Intraspeaker Dialectal Variation and Change." (Project Launch Poster). New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV52). 7–9 Nov. Florida International University. Miami Beach, FL.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2024). "Digital Metacommunication: Exploring Language Attitudes towards *Voseo* across Social Media Platforms" (20-minute paper presentation). 11th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS11). 18–20 April. SUNY Buffalo. Buffalo, NY.
- **Killam, Abby.** (2024). "Digital Metacommunication: Exploring Language Attitudes towards *Voseo* across Social Media Platforms" (20-minute paper presentation). OSU Congress on Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics. 22–23 March. The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH.
- **Jarvis, Abigail.** (2023). "Adopting Black Speech in Popular Music: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Justin Bieber's Invented Identities" (poster). LSA 97th Annual Meeting. 5–8 January. Denver, CO.
- **Jarvis, Abigail.** (2022). "Adopting Black Speech in Popular Music: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Justin Bieber's Invented Identities" (10-minute paper presentation). New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV50). Stanford University. 13–15 October.
- **Jarvis, Abigail.** (2022). "A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Phonology Switches in *Dora the Explorer*" (poster). LSA 96th Annual Meeting. 6–9 January. Washington, D.C.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record/Teaching Associate

- **Cross-Cultural Communication.** (Spring 2025). Georgetown University.

Teaching Coordinator

- **Introduction to Linguistics.** (Fall 2026). Georgetown University.

Teaching Assistant

- **Language and Food.** (Spring 2026). Dr. Cynthia Gordon. Georgetown University.
- **The Discourse of Social Media.** (Fall 2025). Dr. Cynthia Gordon. Georgetown University.
- **Cross-Cultural Communication.** (Fall 2024). Dr. Deborah Tannen. Georgetown University.
- **Introduction to Linguistics.** (Spring 2024). Dr. Lara Bryfonski. Georgetown University.

Invited Guest Lecturer

- **Sociolinguistic Field Methods** (Fall 2026). Taught by Dr. Nadja Tadic. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **Introduction to Linguistics** (Fall 2026). Taught by Dr. Nadja Tadic. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **African American Language** (Spring 2026). Taught by Dr. Minnie Quartey-Annan. Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- **Language & Food** (Spring 2026). Taught by Dr. Cynthia Gordon. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **Sociolinguistic Field Methods** (Fall 2025). Taught by Dr. Nadja Tadic. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **African American English** (Fall 2025). Taught by Dr. Nicole Holliday. University of California (UC Berkeley) Washington Center, Washington, D.C.
- **Cross-Cultural Communication** (Fall 2024; Fall 2025). Taught by Dr. Deborah Tannen. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- **The Discourse of Social Media** (Fall 2025). Taught by Dr. Cynthia Gordon. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Undergraduate Student Mentoring

- **Sophie Mayle.** (Fall 2025; Spring 2026; Fall 2026). Research-Based Undergraduate Linguistics Experience (RULE).
- **Aria Wang.** (Summer 2026). Pomona College Internship Program (PCIP) Summer Experience.
- **Kyndall Jackson.** (Spring 2026). Research-Based Undergraduate Linguistics Experience (RULE).
- **Thomas Gaita.** (Spring 2026). Research-Based Undergraduate Linguistics Experience (RULE).
- **Hayley Young.** (Fall 2025). Research-Based Undergraduate Linguistics Experience (RULE).
- **Grace Stephenson.** (Fall 2023). Research-Based Undergraduate Linguistics Experience (RULE).

LEADING WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University

- Interaction Lab Data Session (Apr 16, 2026).
- NWAV Practice Talks (Oct 31, 2025).
- Hearing vs. Believing in Sociolinguistic Perception Tasks (Oct 17, 2025).
- Accommodation/Phonetic Convergence Workshop (Nov 18, 2024).
- NWAV Practice Talks (Oct 21, 2024).
- Perception Methods Workshop (Sept 30, 2024).
- Sociolinguistics in the Real World (Sept 16, 2024).

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP EXPERIENCE

Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University

- Linguistics Lab Research Manager (Spring 2023 & Fall 2023).
- Linguistics Research Assistant to Dr. Jennifer Nycz (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, & Fall 2023).

Department of Linguistics, University of Southern California

- Linguistics Research Assistant to Dr. Maria Luisa Zubizarreta (Nov 2020 – Aug 2022).
- Linguistics Research Assistant to Dr. Khalil Iskarous (May 2021 – Aug 2021).

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

2021

Department of Writing, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences

- **Jarvis, Abigail.** (2021). Linguistic Diversity WRIT 150 Unit Curriculum. Developed a new linguistically-inclusive writing curriculum for the introductory writing course at USC in order to combat internalized linguistic prejudice against linguistically diverse students.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Georgetown Linguistics Doctoral Assistantship. \$42,444. 2022 - present
- Georgetown GradGov GSAS Research Project Award. \$500. 2026
- Georgetown Graduate Fellowship Conference Travel Grant. \$300. 2025
- Georgetown Linguistics Department Conference Travel Grant. \$670. 2025
- Georgetown GradGov GSAS Research Project Award. \$425. 2025
- Georgetown Linguistics Department Travel Grant. \$1,250. 2025
- Georgetown Linguistics Department Travel Grant. \$500. 2023
- USC Discovery Scholar Grant. \$10,000. 2022
- Dean Joan Metcalf Schaefer-Stemler Family Scholarship. \$2,500. 2021-2022
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF grant). \$3,000. 2021
- Harry A. Miller Endowed Scholarship. \$1,500. 2020-2021

HONORS

- Top Paper Panelist in Language and Social Interaction Division, NCA 2025
- University Trustees Award 2022
- The Order of Troy (Undergraduate Service and Active Leadership Award) 2022
- Latin American and Iberian Cultures Outstanding Undergraduate Service Award 2022
- USC Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2nd Prize in Social Sciences Category 2022
- USC Dean's List 2019-2022
- USC Academic Achievement Award 2019-2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- Variation Lab. *Organizer*. Georgetown University Linguistics Department. 2024-present
- Interaction Lab. *Member*. Georgetown University Linguistics Department 2023-present
- 12th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics. *Volunteer*. 2026
- Abstract Reviewer for the 12th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics 2025
- Sociolinguistic Student *Ambassador*. Georgetown University Linguistics Department. 2025-present
- Linguistic Society of America. *Member*. 2020-present
- Society for Linguistic Anthropology Annual Meeting. *Volunteer*. 2025
- Georgetown University Round Table (GURT). *Volunteer*. 2025
- LingComm23. Virtual conference. *Volunteer*. 2023
- Kopikon: A ConLang Conference. *Volunteer*. 2023
- Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Future Annual Meetings Student Focus Group. 2023
- Assisted in the Georgetown Linguistics Department search for Sociolinguistics faculty. 2023

MEDIA

- The Georgetown Independent, April 2, 2024: [*The Issues with Linguistic Appropriation in Popular Music*](#) by Grace Stephenson.

SKILLS

[Language Proficiency:](#) English and Spanish fluency
French intermediate proficiency

Computer Skills: Eye-tracking (Tobii Pro Lab), Praat, R Studio, ELAN, Python, HTML, CSS, Matlab, Amazon web services, Sentiment Analysis, Cluster Analysis, Montreal Forced Aligner, WordPress, Microsoft Word Suite, Google Workspace