

# CURRICULUM VITAE

SIGRÍÐUR MJÖLL BJÖRNSDÓTTIR, PHD

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## ADDRESS

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## POSITIONS AND EDUCATION

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| 2022-present | Adjunct lecturer, University of Iceland   |
| 2021         | PhD in Linguistics, UiT The Arctic University of Norway<br><b>Title of dissertation:</b> Discovering gender and inflection. A view from Icelandic.<br><b>Advisors:</b> Dr. Marit Westergaard and Dr. Terje Lohndal.<br><b>Dissertation committee:</b> Dr. Jennifer Culbertson, Dr. Kathryn Schuler and Dr. Peter Svenonius. |
| 2014-2016    | PhD in Linguistics, The University of Maryland, College Park  |
| 2014         | MA in Linguistics (summa cum laude), University of Iceland<br>Advisor: Dr. Höskuldur Thráinsson<br>Master thesis: Morphosyntactic variation in North American Icelandic.  |
| 2012         | BA (summa cum laude) in Russian and Linguistics, University of Iceland  |

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research is at the interaction between linguistic theory and first language acquisition. I am interested in understanding how children acquire their native languages on the basis of the input data. Conversely, I am interested in how learning shapes grammatical systems cross-linguistically and how typological patterns may be rooted in learning. My research has primarily focused on the acquisition of morphosyntax in morphologically rich languages, such as Icelandic.

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## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- in preparation    Absence of productivity and language change: A case study of leveling in Icelandic noun inflection.
- under review     Predicting ineffability: Gender and plural formation in Icelandic. [Available on request]
- 2021                Productivity and the acquisition of gender. *Journal of Child Language*
- 2020                The Effect of Attrition on Grammatical Gender: A view from North-American Icelandic (with Marit Westergaard and Terje Lohndal) *Heritage Language Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.46538/hlj.17.3.2>.

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## BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2018                Málbreytingar í sendibréfum Vestur-Íslendinga. [Morphosyntactic variation in North American Icelandic]. In Thráinsson et al. (Eds.), *Sigurtunga* [North American Icelandic]. Háskólaútgáfan [The University of Iceland Press].

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## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2019                Predicting Icelandic gender assignment: a longitudinal corpus case study. (with Sigríður Sigurjónsdóttir) *Proceedings of the Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Cascadia Press.

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021                *Children learn interdependencies within inflectional paradigms by productive rule formation: Evidence from Icelandic*. Paper to be presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development.
- 2021                *Predicting ineffability in gender and plural formation in Icelandic*. Poster presented at Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition in North America.
- 2019                *Predicting children's ineffability*. Poster presented at Boston University Conference on Language Development.
- 2018                **Björnsdóttir, S.** and Sigurjónsdóttir, S. *Predicting Icelandic gender assignment*. Poster presented at Boston University Conference on Language Development.

- 2018 *How to forget gender? A longitudinal case study of attrition in North American Icelandic.* Presentation delivered at The Ninth Annual Workshop on Immigrant Languages in the Americas, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
- 2017 Williams, A., Perkins, L., **Björnsdóttir, S.** and Lidz, J. *A New Test of One-to-One Matching Between Arguments and Participants in Verb Learning.* Poster presented at Boston University Conference on Language Development.
- 2017 Angantýsson, Á., **Björnsdóttir, S.**, Nowenstein, I., Rögnvaldsson, E., and Sigurjónsdóttir, S. *Language contact without contact: A nationwide study of digital minoritization.* Paper presented at DiGS 19 contact workshop.
- 2017 Morphosyntactic variation in North-American Icelandic. Poster presented at the Georgetown University Round Table.
- 2016 Perkins, L., He, A.X., Williams, A., **Björnsdóttir, S.** and Lidz, J. *Can intransitive clauses name 2-participant events? A new test of Participant-to-Argument Matching in verb learning.* Presentation delivered at the Pre-CUNY Workshop on Events in Language and Cognition, Gainesville.
- 2013 *Case in North American Icelandic.* Presentation delivered at the Fourth Annual Workshop on immigrant Languages in the Americas, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.
- 2013 *The acquisition of verb second in Icelandic as a Second Language.* Presentation delivered at the 25th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.

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#### GENERAL AUDIENCE PRESENTATIONS

- September 2020 *Understanding the magic of children's language learning.* Presentation at the Norwegian Research Grand Prix.
- May 2016 *How do young babies learn words?* Presentation at the Paint Branch high school in Montgomery county, Maryland.
- May 2015 *Learning your first language.* Presentation at the Paint Branch high school in Montgomery county, Maryland.

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#### AWARDS

- 2021 Paula Menyuk Award for top rated student abstract, Boston University
- 2019 Paula Menyuk Travel Award, Boston University

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## TEACHING

- 2022-present      *Language Acquisition*  
An advanced undergraduate course on theories of language acquisition.
- Spring 2018-2021   *Second Language Acquisition*  
A masters-level course at UiT on topics in second language acquisition research. Taught jointly with Dr. Marit Westergaard, Dr. Yulia Rodina, Dr. Natalia Mitrofanova and Isabel Nadine Jensen.
- Fall 2015-Spring 2016   *LING 200: Introduction to Linguistics*  
An undergraduate introductory course to linguistics for non-linguistics majors at the University of Maryland. Instructors: Dr. Margaret Antonisse and Dr. Tonia Bleam.
- Fall 2013      *Introduction to linguistics*  
An undergraduate introductory course to linguistics majors at the University of Iceland. Teaching assistant of Dr. Sigrídur Sigurjónsdóttir.
- 2013-2014      Language instructor at the Lingua language school, Reykjavík.
- Spring 2012-Spring 2014   *Icelandic grammar*  
Various undergraduate courses for second language learners of Icelandic at the University of Iceland.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### University

- 2020-21      Organizer of the AcqVa Aurora lunch seminar, UiT
- 2019      Organizing committee of the Uniting Gender Research Workshop, UiT
- 2017      Organizing committee of the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 48), University of Iceland
- 2015      Organizing committee of the 6th bi-annual Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition, University of Maryland
- 2015      Organizing committee of *MorphFest*, University of Maryland

### Field

- 2020-present      *Journal of Child Language*: Reviewer

2021-present	<i>Glossa, a journal of general linguistics</i> : Reviewer
2020-present	<i>Milli mála</i> : Reviewer
2015-2016	<i>Language Acquisition. A journal of developmental linguistics</i> : Managing editor

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## LANGUAGES

<b>Icelandic</b>	native
<b>English</b>	fluent
<b>Norwegian</b>	fluent
<b>Danish</b>	fluent
<b>Russian</b>	advanced
<b>German</b>	advanced
<b>Attic Greek</b>	intermediate
<b>Classical Hebrew</b>	basic

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X**  
**R**  
**Unix**  
**HTML, CSS**  
**Python**

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## REFERENCES

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Hafnarfjörður, February 19, 2022