

# 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.** [*to appear*]. A Unified Syntactic Analysis of Double Negation in Slavic Languages. *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)*.

**McMahan, C.** [*to appear*]. Hella MUCH variation: Intensification in Northern California English, as seen through the South Bay. *Yale Working Papers in Grammatical Diversity* 6(1), 1-18.

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

**McMahan, 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**  
SYNC 2024 (Stony Brook, Yale, NYU, and CUNY graduate student conference)

**Skills**

**Programming**  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, R, Python

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

**Awards and  
Grants**

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