

Lauren Rose Nikolai

She/Her/Hers

611 Tappan Ave.
Lorch Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
lnikolai@umich.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

sign languages, semantics, syntax, syntax-semantics interface, cartography, event structure

EDUCATION

PhD in Linguistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI *In Progress*

BA in Linguistics, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN *May 2019*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Sign Language & Multi-Modal Communication Lab, advisor Natasha Abner

Research Assistant *Fall 2019-present*

Co-Location of Associated Referents in American Sign Language (ASL)

- Annotating and analyzing corpus and elicited data as well as analyzing previous literature to study the nature of the relationship between nominal signs in discourse that share a locus in the sign space to indicate that they are semantically associated.

Sign Language Linguistics Laboratory, advisor Ronnie B. Wilbur

Research Assistant *May 2018-Dec. 2018*

Is there regularity in the irregular behavior of American Sign Language (ASL) verbs?

- Annotating and analyzing elicited ASL data from 4 native signers using ELAN to find patterns among 20 telic and 20 atelic verbs

Research Assistant *Jan. 2018-present*

Facial expressions in Sign Language grammar: What does the 'flat chin' mean?

- Annotated and analyzed ASL corpus data using ELAN to discover patterns in the non-manual marker (NMM) “flat chin”
- Discovered four possible functions of “flat chin” in ASL, increasing knowledge of its linguistic purpose; data will feed project developing automatic recognition of NMM

Peer-to-Peer Mentor *Aug. 2018-May 2019*

- Trained three undergraduates to annotate and analyze sign language data
- Answered questions and addressed problems undergraduates had in the lab

Lab Assistant *Sept. 2017-Aug. 2019*

- Developed and implemented an organizational system for lab files and books to improve ease of access
- Created guidelines for lab assistants to follow when annotating sign language data
- Collaborated with graduate students to streamline management of undergraduates in order to improve undergraduates' lab experience

PRESENTATIONS

- Nikolai, L. R., Wilbur, R. B. (2019, Sept. 26-28). [The “Flat Chin” Marker in ASL](#). *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR) 13*, Hamburg, Germany. [Poster]
- Wilbur, R. B., Nikolai, L. R. (2019, May 15). [What does AU-17 ‘flat chin’ mean?](#) Workshop: *Automatic Recognition and Analysis of American Sign Language*, The University of Chicago. Chicago, Illinois.
- Nikolai, L. R., Wilbur, R. B. (2019, April 9). [Testing Predictions on AU-17: What does the ‘flat chin’ mean?](#) *Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference*. West Lafayette, Indiana. [poster]
- Nikolai, L. R., Wilbur, R. B. (2018, Nov. 12). [Facial expressions in Sign Language grammar: What does the ‘flat chin’ mean?](#) *Purdue Fall Undergraduate Research Expo*. West Lafayette, Indiana.
- Nikolai, L. R., Wilbur, R. B. (2018, Sept. 29-30). [Facial expressions in Sign Language grammar: What does the ‘flat chin’ mean?](#) *7th Meeting of Signed and Spoken Language Linguistics (SSLL2018)*. Osaka, Japan. [poster]
- Nikolai, L. R., Wilbur, R. B. (2018, April 10). [Facial expressions in Sign Language grammar: What does the ‘flat chin’ mean?](#) *Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference*. West Lafayette, Indiana. [poster]

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

University of Michigan Rackham Travel Grant	Sept. 2019
University of Michigan Linguistics Block Grant	Sept. 2019
1 st place Liberal Arts Poster at Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference	April 9, 2019
Outstanding Senior in Linguistics (Purdue University)	April 3, 2019
Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research Scholarship	Fall 2018 – Spring 2019
Purdue University Wilke Internship	Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
1 st place in Purdue Fall Undergraduate Research Expo	Nov. 12, 2018
Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Grant	Oct. 2018
<i>Funding for travel to SSLL2018 conference in Osaka, Japan, \$500</i>	

MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

Sign Language Linguistics Society	2019-Present
Linguistic Society of America	2019-Present
Eta Sigma Phi	2018 – 2019
Purdue Classics Club	2016 – 2019
Purdue Russian Club	2016 – 2019
Purdue ASL Club	2016 – 2019
Purdue Linguistics Association	2016 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Social Chair, Purdue Linguistics Association	2018 – 2019
Treasurer, Purdue Classics Club	2017 – 2019
Treasurer, Purdue Russian Club	2017 – 2019

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, Mishawaka, IN

Circulation Assistant

Page

Volunteer Library Assistant

June 2015 – July 2016

May 2014 – June 2015

Dec. 2012 – May 2014

LANGUAGES

English – *Native*

American Sign Language – *Highly Proficient*

Spanish – *Conversational*

Russian – *Conversational*

Classical Latin – *Reading Knowledge*

Portuguese – *Rudimentary*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Certified fMRI Secondary Operator, Purdue University

Adobe Creative Suite (including Photoshop, Premiere, & InDesign)

Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, & Excel

LaTeX

ELAN

Praat

R statistical software