

# Alexander Kilpatrick

University of Aizu

Associate Professor

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3134-3797>

[alex@u-aizu.ac.jp](mailto:alex@u-aizu.ac.jp)

## Education

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**Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics**, University of Melbourne, 2020

**B.A. (Honours) in Linguistics**, University of Melbourne, 2015

**B.A./B.Ed. in Linguistics and ESL Education**, La Trobe University, 2014

## Experience

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*2025 – Current*

### **Associate Professor / University of Aizu**

Courses taught:

- Introductory English
- Languages and Linguistics
- Machine Learning for Linguistics

*2023 – 2025*

### **Associate Professor / Nagoya University of Commerce and Business**

Courses taught:

- Linguistics 1 (Phonetics)
- Linguistics 2 (Phonology)
- TOEIC Progress
- Seminar
- English Fundamentals

*2019 – 2022*

### **Assistant Professor / Nagoya University of Commerce and Business**

Courses taught:

- Linguistics 1 (Phonetics)
- Linguistics 2 (Phonology)
- TOEIC Progress
- Seminar
- English Fundamentals

2017 – 2019

### **Teaching Assistant / University of Melbourne**

Courses taught:

- LING20005 – Phonetics
- LING30002 – Phonology
- ESLA90001 – Professional Communication
- ARTS90006 – Introductory Academic Program

2015 – 2018

### **Lecturer / Navitas, La Trobe University**

Courses taught:

- 079164E – English for Further Studies
- 079163F – General English

2014 – 2015

### **English Teacher / Navitas, La Trobe University**

Courses taught:

- 079164E – English for Further Studies
- 079163F – General English

## **Scholarships, Short-term Placements, Awards, and Grants**

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**2026**

- *Visitorship at the University of Melbourne*

**2024**

- *Visitorship at the University of Melbourne*

**2023**

- *Research Award NUCB undergraduate school*

**2020**

- *Kakenhi research grant (number: 20K13055)*

**2019**

- *Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship*

**2018**

- *Graduate Research in Arts Travel Scholarship*
- *Research and Graduate Studies Scholarship (Languages and Linguistics)*

**2017**

- *Australian Government Research Training Program Scholarship*

**2016**

- *Dean's Honours List - Faculty of Arts*

**2015**

- *W. T. Mollison Scholarship*
- *Dwight Final Assessment Prize in Linguistics*

## Journal Publications

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Townley, A., Nae, N., & Kilpatrick, A. J. (2026). Inclusive diverse learning environments at the forefront of internationalization in higher education: A case study of international student experiences at a private business university in Japan. *Forum of International Development Studies*.

Kilpatrick, A., & Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. (2026). Say it like you mean it: Linguistic vividness and the attentional optimization hypothesis. *Cognition*, 269, 106406.

Flaksman, M., & Kilpatrick, A. J. (2025). Against the tide: How language-specificity of imitative words increases with time (as evidenced by surprisal). In M. Flaksman & P. Akumbu (Eds.), *SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics*.

Kilpatrick, A. J., & Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L. (2025). Exploring the dynamics of Shannon's information and iconicity in language processing and lexeme evolution. *PLOS ONE*, 20(4), e0321294.

Kilpatrick, A. J. (2025). The negativity bias is encoded in language. *JASA Express Letters*, 5(2).

Ngai, C. H., Kilpatrick, A. J., & Ćwiek, A. (2024). Sound symbolism in Japanese names: Machine learning approaches to gender classification. *PLOS ONE*, 19(3), e0297440.

Kilpatrick, A. J., & Ćwiek, A. (2024). Using artificial intelligence to explore sound symbolic expressions of gender in American English. *PeerJ Computer Science*, 10, e1811.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Ćwiek, A., Lewis, E., & Kawahara, S. (2023). A cross-linguistic, sound symbolic relationship between labial consonants, voiced plosives, and Pokémon friendship. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 14, 722.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Ćwiek, A., & Kawahara, S. (2023). Random forests, sound symbolism and Pokémon evolution. *PLOS ONE*, 18(1), e0279350.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Kawahara, S., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R., Baker, B., & Fletcher, J. (2020). Japanese perceptual epenthesis is modulated by transitional probability. *Language and Speech*, 63(4), 980–1003.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., & Baker, B. J. (2019). Japanese co-occurrence restrictions influence second language perception. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 40(2), 585–611.

## Conference Proceedings

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- Kilpatrick, A. J., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., & Iida, H. (2026). Markedness as surprisal: Information theory and language inefficiency. *In Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2026)*.
- Mooshammer, T., & Kilpatrick, A. J. (2025). Age-related positivity effects in the perception of constructed languages. *Proceedings of the 21st P&P: Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L. (2025). Say what you mean: Linguistic vividness and information theory. *Proceedings of the 31st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L. (2025). Language processing insights from average phonemic bigram surprisal. *Proceedings of the 31st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Flaksman, M. (2025). The exception of humor: Iconicity, phonemic surprisal, memory recall, and emotional associations. *In Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Computational Humor*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L. (2024). Decoding informativity and iconicity in American English. *Proceedings of the 19th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Peperkamp, P. (2024). Coarticulation and transitional probability in Japanese perceptual epenthesis. *Proceedings of the 19th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J. (2024). Information equilibration in English and Japanese morphemes. *Proceedings of the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J. (2024). Sound symbolism in automatic emotion recognition and sentiment analysis. *Proceedings of Cognitive A.I.*
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Wang, Y. (2023). Training artificial intelligence to assess ESL writing using complexity measures. *The Japanese Society for Language Sciences Handbook*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., & Kawahara, S. (2022). Using random forests to identify sound symbolic relationships in Pokémon names. *Proceedings of the 13th Iconicity in Language and Literature Conference*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., Kawahara, S., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., Baker, B. J., & Fletcher, J. (2019). Predictability, word frequency and Japanese perceptual epenthesis. *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., Kawahara, S., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., Baker, B. J., & Fletcher, J. (2018). Japanese listeners are more likely to perceive illusory vowels in predictable contexts. *Proceedings of the 2018 Annual Meeting on Phonology*.
- Kilpatrick, A. J., Kawahara, S., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., Baker, B. J., & Fletcher, J. (2018). Japanese vowel devoicing modulates perceptual epenthesis. *Proceedings of the 17th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology* (pp. 121–124). ASSTA: Sydney, Australia.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Kawahara, S., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., Baker, B. J., & Fletcher, J. (2018). Japanese coda [m] elicits perceptual epenthesis and assimilation. *Proceedings of the ISAPh 2018 International Symposium on Applied Phonetics*.

Kilpatrick, A. J., Bundgaard-Nielsen, R. L., & Baker, B. J. (2016). Japanese vowel deletion occurs in words in citation form. *Proceedings of the 16th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology* (pp. 325–328). ASSTA: Sydney, Australia.

## Presentations

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Machine Learning Analysis of Sinhala Vowel Length Perception. *Oral presentation at the International Conference on Phonetics and AI in Language Education* (Phonetics Hong Kong). Hong Kong (2026).

Markedness as surprisal: Information theory and language inefficiency. *Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (CogSci). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2026).

Information distribution in Japanese ideophones and adjectives. *Poster presentation at the Hanyang International Symposium on Phonetics and Cognitive Sciences of Language* (HisPhonCog) Conference. Seoul, Korea (2026).

Exploring Sound Symbolism in Japanese Ideophones: A Dictionary- and Machine Learning-Based Approach. *Oral presentation at the Japanese Language Society (JLS) 2025 Fall Conference*, Okayama, Japan (2025).

Phonemic Bigram Surprisal and the Decline of Expressivity in Iconic Lexicon. *Oral presentation at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)*, Bordeaux, France (2025).

Age-Related Positivity Effects in the Perception of Constructed Languages. *Oral presentation at the 21st Phonetik und Phonologie im deutschsprachigen Raum (P&P)*, Leipzig, Germany (2025).

Say what you mean: Linguistic vividness and information theory. *Poster presentation at the 31st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)*, Prague, Czech Republic (2025).

Language Processing Insights from Average Phonemic Bigram Surprisal. *Poster presentation at the 31st Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)*, Prague, Czech Republic (2025).

Exploring the Sound Symbolism of Size in American English with the XGBoost Algorithm using Phonemes and Phonological Features. *Poster presentation at the English Linguistic Society of Japan 18th International Spring Forum*, Tokyo, Japan (2025).

Machine Learning vs. Linear Regression: A Case Study on Gender Sound Symbolism in Japanese Given Names. *Oral presentation at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Name Society*. Online Conference (2025).

The Iconic Treadmill Hypothesis and Surprisal: Offsetting the Cognitive Costs of De-iconization. *Oral presentation at the Iconicity Seminar*, Otatu, Japan (2025).

The negativity bias is reflected in the iconic markedness of emotional valence. *Oral presentation at the Iconicity Seminar*, Otatu, Japan (2025).

Coarticulation and Transitional Probability in Japanese Perceptual Epenthesis. *Oral presentation at the 19th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*, Melbourne, Australia (2024).

Decoding Informativity and Iconicity in American English. *Oral presentation at the 19th Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*, Melbourne, Australia (2024).

Which phonological features express size sound symbolism? – A cross-linguistic analysis with extreme gradient machine learning. *Oral presentation at The 21st International Congress of Linguists (ICL)*, Poznan, Poland (2024).

Exploring the Gender of /k/ and /o/ in Japanese Sound Symbolism. *Oral presentation at the 31st Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference*, Melbourne, Australia (2024).

Information Equilibration in English and Japanese Morphemes. *Poster presentation at the 19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*, Seoul, South Korea (2024).

Sound Symbolism in Automatic Emotion Recognition and Sentiment Analysis. *Oral presentation at Cognitive A.I.*, Bari, Italy (2023).

Iconicity Through the Lens of Information Theory. *Oral presentation at Iconicity Seminar 2023*, Nagoya, Japan (2023).

Training Artificial Intelligence to Assess ESL Writing Using Complexity Measures. *Oral presentation at the The Japanese Society for Language Sciences*, Tokyo; Japan (2023).

Deriving gender from phonemes: Evidence from Mandarin names using the Random Forest algorithm. *Oral Presentation at the 45th Annual conference of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft*, Cologne, Germany (2023).

Using Random Forests to Identify Sound Symbolic Relationships in Pokémon Names. *Oral presentation at the 13th Iconicity in Language and Literature conference*, Paris; France (2022).

Predictability, Word Frequency and Japanese Perceptual Epenthesis. *Poster presentation at the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*, Melbourne; Australia (2019).

Japanese Vowel Devoicing Modulates Perceptual Epenthesis. *Oral presentation at the Seventeenth Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*, Sydney; Australia, (2018).

Japanese Listeners Are More Likely to Perceive Illusory Vowels in Predictable Contexts. *Poster Presentation at AMP2018: The 6th Annual Meeting on Phonology*, San Diego; USA (2018).

Japanese Coda [m] Elicits both Perceptual Assimilation and Epenthesis. *Oral Presentation at ISAPh2018: The 2nd International Symposium on Applied Phonetics*, Aizu; Japan (2018).

Japanese Perceptual Epenthesis is Modulated by Transitional Probability. *Oral Presentation at LabPhon16 Satellite Event: The role of predictability in shaping human sound systems*, Lisbon; Portugal (2018).

Japanese Vowel Deletion Occurs in Words in Citation Form. *Poster presentation at the Sixteenth Australasian International Conference on Speech Science and Technology*, Sydney; Australia, (2016).

Japanese Co-occurrence Restrictions Influence Second Language Perception. *Poster presentation at New Sounds 2016, the 8th International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech*, Aarhus; Denmark, (2016).

## Workshops

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Decision tree-based classification algorithms. Tutorial hosted on Envision Box (2024)  
[https://envisionbox.org/embedded\\_Decision\\_Tree.html](https://envisionbox.org/embedded_Decision_Tree.html)

Decision tree-based machine learning algorithms. Invited workshop at Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS). Berlin, Germany (2023).