Biographical Statement
Andrea Sims, Associate Professor
Department of Linguistics
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Dr. Andrea Sims is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. Her major area of expertise is morphology – the study of word structure. In her research she investigates how word patterns (e.g. *cat – cats*, but *ox – oxen*, not *oxes*) arise, evolve, and are generalized. While many linguists focus on the ways in which languages are systematic and regular, Dr. Sims is fascinated by the 'idiosyncratic fringes' of word structure. Much of her work emphasizes that the oddball examples on the fringe sometimes offer the best insight into how language systems work. She has taught at OSU for most of the past 18 years, first as a graduate student and then as a faculty member (with brief interludes at other universities). She mostly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on morphology, the linguistic analysis of Slavic languages, and the combination of these things. She is co-author of *Understanding Morphology*, a widely used undergraduate textbook about word structure.