

Curriculum Vitae
Douglas C. Merchant
mercator@uga.edu
520-260-8999

EDUCATION

- Jan. 2019 (expected) PhD in Linguistics, University of Georgia Athens, GA
Specializations: Psycholinguistics, Syntax, Semantics
Committee: Timothy Gupton, Paula Schwanenflugel, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld
- Aug. 2013 BA in Linguistics w/ Honors, University of Arizona Tucson, AZ
Minors in Arabic and English Literature
Honors thesis: *Effects of familial handedness on language processing*
Advisors: Thomas G. Bever, Massimo Piatelli-Palmarini (informal)

TEACHING

- Instructor* LING 2100 Study of Language (Fall 2015 to Spring 2018; 9 sections)
Instructor LING 2100H Study of Language-HONORS (Fall 2018; 2 sections)
Instructor LING 3150 Generative Syntax (Summer 2016, 2017, 2018)
Instructor LING 4130 Psychology of Language (Summer 2015)
-Invited by Linguistics department to create and teach a Special Topics course in psycholinguistics (a full professor has since been hired to teach its equivalent)

RESEARCH

Publications

‘What’s in the bucket? Aspectual (non)compositionality in phrasal idioms: An argument for late insertion’. (Submitted for review to *Linguistic Inquiry*: June 2018)

‘Syntax from the roots: Towards a top-down, phase-theoretic model of sentence generation’. (Submitted for review to *UGA Working Papers in Linguistics*: May 2018)

Current projects

Untitled dissertation. A psycholinguistically plausible phase-theoretic model of sentence generation with a focus on phrasal idioms, arguing for post-syntactic lexical insertion and top-down structure building. (In progress)

'Processing and Control in Brazilian Portuguese'. A cross-modal repetition-priming study of empty categories, i.e., traces and null pronouns. Experimental/theoretical collaboration with Tim Gupton and Rachel Olsen. (2015-present)

"Talk to the hand!": Group differences in semantic activation during idiom processing'. An experimental study investigating the impact of sex and familial handedness on figurative language processing. (2014-2017; publication in preparation)

Conference Presentations

"Later, alligator!" The postsyntactic insertion of phrasal idioms'. *Fifth Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*. Athens, GA. October 8-9, 2018.

"Herding cats": A late insertion account of the syntactic mobility of phrasal idioms'. *Arizona Linguistics Circle 11*. Tucson, AZ. October 20-22, 2017.

'Functional dissociations between production and comprehension: The case of Distributed Morphology'. *Second Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*. Athens, GA. October 9-11, 2015.

'Differences in semantic processing as a function of sex and familial handedness'. *First Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*. Athens, GA. October 24-26, 2014.

Colloquium and Invited Presentations

'What goes up doesn't actually go up: Towards a psycholinguistically plausible model of sentence generation'. *University of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. February 2, 2018.

"Herding cats": A late insertion account of the syntactic behavior of phrasal idioms'. *University of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. April 8, 2016.

"To each his own": Idiolectal variation in the syntacto-semantic representations of phrasal idioms'. *University of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. April 24, 2015.

"An introduction to psycholinguistics and eyetracking as a research paradigm." Invited Guest Lecture, *Seminar in Linguistic Theory: Language Acquisition and Universal Grammar* (LING 8080). Athens, Georgia. March 31, 2014.

AWARDS

Linguistics Teaching Assistantship (2018-2019)

(\$14,400 / year + tuition waiver)

Presidential Graduate Fellowship (2013 to 2018)

(\$27,000 / year + tuition waiver; five-year funding package awarded to (at most) twelve incoming UGA graduate students annually)

Linguistics Travel Funding (2017)

(\$150)

Graduate School Travel Funding (2017)

(\$350)

Laura and Arch Brown Honors Scholarship (2012-2013)

(\$500 / semester)

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT ACTIVITIES

Conducted literature reviews on eyetracking technology and methodology (for Tim Gupton; 2013-2014)

Proofread a book on Serbo-Croatian lexical and phonological variation and annotated related sound files in Praat (for Keith Langston; 2013-2015)

Transcribed intonation patterns from audio/video for systemic functional linguistics project (for Ruth Harman; 2013-2014)

Transcribed morphophonological data in Chaga (for Lioba Moshi; 2014-2015)

SERVICE

Co-Chair Third Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (2016)

Vice-President Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia (2014-2017)

Conference committee,

Abstract reviewer Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (2014-2018)

Co-organizer Syntax Reading Group (2015-2018)

Organizer, founder Psycholinguistics Reading Group (2014-2016)

Co-organizer, co-founder Eyetracking Reading Group (2014)

Best Paper reviewer Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (2014)

LANGUAGES

Intermediate (reading) Modern Standard Arabic, Spanish

Basic (reading) Latin, Portuguese, German

Other exposure French, Chaga, Serbo-Croatian

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Intermediate/Advanced E-Prime, SPSS, Minitab, MS Word
Proficient DMDX, Praat, MS Excel, Photoshop/GIMP

CERTIFICATIONS

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI):
Social and Behavioral Research
Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research