

D.C. Merchant
May 2019

Curriculum Vitae
Douglas C. Merchant
mercator@uga.edu
May 2019

Department of Linguistics
142 Gilbert Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-6205
(706) 542-5099

Home
195 Royal Court
Athens, GA 30601
(520) 260-8999

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Georgia Athens, GA
 Specializations: Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
 Committee: Timothy Gupton, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Paula Schwanenflugel
 Dissertation: *Idioms at the interface(s)*
- 2013 B.A. in Linguistics w/ Honors, University of Arizona Tucson, AZ
 Minors: Arabic, English Literature
 Honors thesis advisor: Thomas G. Bever
 Honors thesis: *Effects of familial handedness on language processing*

TEACHING

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| LING 2100H | Study of Language-HONORS | <i>Instructor of record</i> | (2018 to '19; 4 sections) |
| LING 2100 | Study of Language | <i>Instructor of record</i> | (2015 to '18; 9 sections) |
| LING 3150 | Generative Syntax | <i>Instructor of record</i> | (Summer 2016, '17, '18) |
| LING 4130 | Psychology of Language | <i>Instructor of record</i> | (Summer 2015) |

FELLOWSHIPS/ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2018-19 Linguistics Teaching Assistantship
 (\$19,200 / yr. + *tuition waiver*)
- 2013-18 Presidential Graduate Fellowship
 (\$27,000 / yr. + *tuition waiver; awarded to 12 new UGA students annually*)

RESEARCH

Refereed journal articles

Merchant, D.C. (2019). Syntax from above: Towards a top-down, phase-theoretic model of sentence generation. *UGA Working Papers in Linguistics 4*. Linguistics Society at UGA: Athens, GA, 47–68.

Manuscripts under review

What's in the bucket? Aspectual (non)compositionality in phrasal idioms. An investigation of some lexically specified properties of idioms in the context of a privative features model of aspectual composition.

Manuscripts in preparation

Talk to the hand! Group differences in semantic activation during idiom processing. A divided visual field priming study of the effects of sex and familial handedness on semantic activation.

Dissertation

Idioms at the interface(s): Towards a psycholinguistically grounded model of sentence generation. An investigation of what the syntactic and semantic properties of phrasal idioms reveal about the lexical interface(s), with arguments for post-syntactic insertion and top-down structure building.

Ongoing projects

Processing and control in Brazilian Portuguese. A cross-modal repetition-priming study of empty categories (online) and inflected infinitives (offline). Experimental/ theoretical collaboration with Tim Gupton (UGA) and Marcello Modesto (Universidade de São Paulo).

CONFERENCE TALKS AND SERVICE

- 2019 'Castles made of sand: The semantic inertness of idiom components in sentence generation'. *Southeastern Conference on Linguistics*. Boca Raton, FL, May 30-June 2.
- 2018 'Later, alligator! The postsyntactic insertion of idioms (and everything else)'. *Fifth Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*. Athens, GA. October 12-13.
- 2017 'Herding cats: A late insertion account of the syntactic mobility of phrasal idioms'. *Arizona Linguistics Circle 11*. Tucson, AZ. October 20-22.
- 2016 Co-Chair, *Third Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*. Athens, GA. October 7-9.
- 2015 '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.

- 2014 '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.

DEPARTMENTAL AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 'You can't get blood from a stone: The semantic inertness of phrasal idioms in sentence generation'. Invited talk, *Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra Semana de la Investigación (Research Week)*. Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. Nov. 8.
- 2018 '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.
- 2016 'Herding cats: A late insertion account of the syntactic behavior of phrasal idioms'. *Univ. of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. April 8.
- 2015 'To each his own: Idiolectal variation in the syntacto-semantic representations of phrasal idioms'. *Univ. of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. April 24.
- 2014 'An introduction to psycholinguistics and eyetracking as a research paradigm'. Invited guest lecture, *Seminar in Linguistic Theory: Language Acquisition and Universal Grammar*. Athens, GA. March 31.

AWARDS

- 2017 UGA Linguistics Department Travel Funding (\$150)
2017 UGA Graduate School Travel Funding (\$350)
2012-13 UA Laura and Arch Brown Honors Scholarship (\$1000)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP ACTIVITIES

- 2014-15 Transcribed morphophonological data in Chaga (a Bantu language)
2013-15 Proofread a book on Serbo-Croatian lexical and phonological variation; annotated related sound files in Praat
2013-14 Conducted literature reviews on eyetracking technology and methodology
2013-14 Transcribed intonation patterns from audio/video for systemic functional linguistics project

OTHER SERVICE

2014-18	Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia. <i>Conference committee</i>
2014-2017	Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia <i>Vice-President</i>
2015-2018	Syntax Reading Group <i>Co-organizer</i>
2014-2016	Psycholinguistics Reading Group <i>Organizer, founder</i>
2014	Eyetracking Reading Group <i>Co-organizer, co-founder</i>
2014	Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities <i>Best Paper reviewer</i>

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

<i>Intermediate (reading)</i>	Spanish, Modern Standard Arabic
<i>Basic (reading)</i>	German, Portuguese, Latin
<i>Other exposure</i>	Luiseño, French, Serbo-Croatian, Chaga

SOFTWARE SKILLS

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

REFERENCES

Timothy M. Gupton (Associate Professor)
gupton1@uga.edu
Department of Romance Languages
University of Georgia
210 Herty Drive
Athens, GA 30601
(706) 542-4730

Massimo Piatelli-Palmarini (Professor)
massimo@email.arizona.edu
Department of Linguistics
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210025
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-6897

Thomas G. Bever (Regents' Professor)
tgb@email.arizona.edu
Department of Linguistics
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210025
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-6897

Vera Lee-Schoenfeld (Associate Professor)
vleesch@uga.edu
Department of Linguistics
University of Georgia
209 Joseph E. Brown Hall
Athens, GA 30602
(706) 542-5099