Curriculum Vitae

**Douglas C. Merchant**

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Education

2018 PhD in Linguistics, University of Georgia (expected) Athens, GA  
 Specializations: Psycholinguistics, Syntax, Semantics

*Committee: Timothy Gupton, Paula Schwanenflugel, Pilar Chamorro*

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*

Teaching

*Instructor* LING 2100 Study of Language (Fall 2015 to Spring 2018; 9 sections)

*Instructor*  LING 3150 Generative Syntax (Summer 2016, 2017, 2018)

*Instructor*  LING 4130 Psychology of Language (Summer 2015)

*-Invited by UGA Linguistics to create and teach a Special Topics course in psycholinguistics*

Awards

Presidential Graduate Fellowship (2013 to 2018)

(*$27,000 / year + tuition waiver*)

Laura and Arch Brown Honors Scholarship (2012-2013)

(*$500 / semester*)

Research

*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 (crucially) 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-present)

*Conference Presentations*

“‘Herding cats’: A late insertion account of the syntactic mobility of phrasal idioms.” *Arizona Linguistics Circle 11*. Tucson, AZ. To be presented 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 Presentations*

“‘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.

*Graduate Research Assistant Activities*

Conducted literature reviews on eyetracking technology and methodology (for Dr. Tim Gupton;

2013-2014)

Proofread a book on Serbo-Croatian lexical and phonological variation, and annotated related

sound files in Praat (for Dr. Keith Langston; 2013-2015)

Transcribed intonation patterns from audio/video for systemic functional linguistics project

(for Dr. Ruth Harman; 2013-2014)

Transcribed morphophonological data in Chaga (for Dr. 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 (2013-2017)

*Co-organizer*  Syntax Reading Group (2015-present)

*Organizer, founder* Psycholinguistics Reading Group (2014-present)   
*Co-organizer, co-founder* Eyetracking Reading Group (2014)

*Best Paper reviewer* Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (2014)

Languages

*Intermediate (reading)* Spanish, Modern Standard Arabic

*Basic (reading)* Latin, Portuguese, German

*Other exposure* French, Chaga, Serbo-Croatian

Software skills

*Advanced* E-Prime, MS Word, Minitab

*Proficient* SPSS, DMDX, Praat, MS Excel, Photoshop/GIMP

Certifications  
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI):

*Social and Behavioral Research   
Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research*