Curriculum Vitae

Douglas C. Merchant

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Department of Linguistics
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EDUCATION

2019 (expected) — Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Georgia — Athens, GA
Specializations: Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
Committee: Timothy Gupton, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Paula Schwanenflugel

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	*Instructor of record*	(2018 to '19; 4 sections)
LING 2100	Study of Language	*Instructor of record*	(2015 to '18; 9 sections)
LING 3150	Generative Syntax	*Instructor of record*	(Summer 2016, '17, '18)
LING 4130	Psychology of Language	*Instructor of record*	(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

Publications

2019 — 'Syntax from the roots: Towards a top-down, phase-theoretic model of sentence generation'. *UGA Working Papers in Linguistics.* (Accepted w/ revisions.)

'What's in the bucket? Aspectual (non)compositionality in phrasal idioms: An argument for late insertion'. (Revising for resubmission.)

Ongoing projects

2017-19 *Idioms at the interface(s)*. 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. (To defend in spring 2019)

2015-18 '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). (Ongoing)

2014-17 '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. (Publication in preparation)

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 (via Skype), *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.
Conference committee
2014-2017 Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia
Vice-President
2015-2018 Syntax Reading Group
Co-organizer
2014-2016 Psycholinguistics Reading Group
Organizer, founder

2014	Eyetracking Reading Group *Co-organizer, co-founder*
2014	Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities *Best Paper reviewer*

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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

REFERENCES

Timothy M. Gupton (Associate Professor)
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