

D.C. Merchant
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Curriculum Vitae
Douglas C. Merchant
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Department of Linguistics
University of Michigan
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200 Northcrest Dr.
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EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Georgia (UGA) Athens, GA
Specializations: Syntax, Psycholinguistics, Semantics
PhD Committee: Tim Gupton, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Paula Schwanenflugel
Dissertation: *Idioms at the interface(s): Towards a psycholinguistically grounded model of sentence generation*
- 2013 B.A. in Linguistics w/ Honors, University of Arizona (UA) Tucson, AZ
Minors: Arabic, English Literature
Honors thesis advisor: Tom Bever
Honors thesis: *Effects of familial handedness on language processing*

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2022 *Lecturer*
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan (UM)
- 2021 *Lecturer*
Department of Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 2019; 2021 *Lecturer*
Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages,
San Diego State University (SDSU)
- 2020 *Visiting Researcher / Scholar*
Department of Romance Languages, UGA

RESEARCH

Refereed journal articles

Merchant, D.C. (2021). What's in the bucket? Aspectual (non)compositionality in phrasal idioms. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*. DOI: [10.1007/s11049-021-09528-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-021-09528-9).

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.

Dissertation

Merchant, D.C. (2019). *Idioms at the interface(s): Towards a psycholinguistically grounded model of sentence generation*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia dissertation.

Manuscripts in revision

Processing dissociations between raising and control in Brazilian Portuguese. Collaboration with Tim Gupton (UGA).

Acceptability and processing of control phenomena in Brazilian Portuguese: Evidence against the Movement Theory of Control. Collaboration with Tim Gupton (UGA) and Marcello Modesto (Universidade de São Paulo).

Manuscripts in draft form

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 during the processing of idiomatic sentences (sole-authored).

Manuscripts in planning stages

Thematic structure in semantically unaccusative and unergative idioms. An investigation concerning the syntax and semantics of theta role assignment in phrasal idioms, with arguments for identical theta role assignment in truth-conditionally equivalent sentences.

Book reviews

Merchant, D.C. (2021). *The role of constituents in multiword expressions: An interdisciplinary, crosslinguistic perspective*. Edited by Sabine Schulte im Walde and Eva Smolka. In *LinguistList*: <http://linguistlist.org/issues/32/32-1302.html>.

TEACHING

University of Michigan

Introduction to Syntax	<i>Lecturer</i>	Winter 2022
World of Words	“ ”	“ ”
Word Whizzes (Lexical Acquisition)	“ ”	“ ”

University of California, Los Angeles

Syntax I	<i>Lecturer</i>	Fall 2021 (virtual)
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San Diego State University

Psycholinguistics	<i>Lecturer</i>	Fall 2021 (vir.)
Introduction to Syntax	“ ”	“ ”
Language Acquisition	“ ”	2021 (vir.; 2 sections)
Fundamentals of Linguistics	“ ”	2021 (vir.)
Introduction to Syntax	“ ”	2019 (2 sect.)

University of Georgia

Study of Language-HONORS	<i>Instructor of record</i>	2018-19 (4 sections)
Study of Language	“ ”	2015-18 (9 sections)
Generative Syntax	“ ”	2016-18 (3 sections)
Psychology of Language	“ ”	2015

FELLOWSHIPS/ASSISTANTSHIPS

2018-19	Linguistics Teaching Assistantship (Dept. of Linguistics; for Honors classes) \$19,200 /yr. + tuition waiver
2013-18	Presidential Graduate Fellowship (The Graduate School at UGA) \$27,000 /yr. + tuition waiver; awarded to ~12 new UGA students annually

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

- 2019 'Down the up staircase: Reversing the directionality of incremental structure-building'. **Invited talk w/ honorarium**. *Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages, San Diego State University*. San Diego, CA. Nov. 4.
- 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 (virtual). Nov. 8.

Conference Presentations

- 2021 'Processing of empty categories in Brazilian Portuguese'. (With Tim Gupton.) *Going Romance 2021*. Amsterdam (virtual). Dec. 3.
- 2020 'Plausibility denied: Semantic activation in the cerebral hemispheres during idiom processing'. *Experiments in Linguistic Meaning 1 (ELM 1)*. Philadelphia, PA (virtual). Sept. 16-18.
- 2020 'Kicking the bucket and other unlikely events: On the (non)compositionality of inner aspect in phrasal idioms'. *Events and Event Structure at the Limits of Grammar Workshop*. Oxford, UK (virtual). Sept. 15-16.
- 2019 'Castles made of sand: The semantic inertness of idiom components in sentence generation'. *Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL)*. 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 (LCUGA 5)*. Athens, GA. October 12-13.
- 2017 'Herding cats: A late insertion account of the syntactic mobility of phrasal idioms'. *Arizona Linguistics Circle 11 (ALC 11)*. Tucson, AZ. October 20-22.
- 2015 'Functional dissociations between production and comprehension: The case of Distributed Morphology'. *Second Annual Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (LCUGA 2)*. 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 (LCUGA 1).
Athens, GA. October 24-26.

Other Presentations

2021 'Processing and control in Brazilian Portuguese'. (With Tim Gupton.) *Univ. of Georgia Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA (virtual). April 16.

2021 'Hand-me-down syntax: Towards a top-down, phase-theoretic model of sentence generation.' *Center for Research on Language (CRL), University of California, San Diego*. San Diego, CA (virtual). March 2.

2020 'Monotonic composition and noncompositional idioms'. *Tense and Aspect Workshop, Univ. of Georgia*. Athens, GA. April 17.

2018 'What goes up doesn't actually go up: Towards a psycholinguistically plausible model of sentence generation'. *Univ. 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.

SERVICE

Peer review activities

2019-21 Reviewer/panelist, *National Science Foundation (NSF)* (\$200)
2019 Journal manuscript reviewer, *Lingua*
2014-18 Abstract reviewer, *Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia*
2014 Best Paper reviewer, *Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) at the University of Georgia*

SOFTWARE SKILLS

<i>Intermediate/Advanced</i>	E-Prime, SPSS, Minitab, MS Word
<i>Proficient</i>	MS Excel, GIMP, DMDX, Praat
<i>Currently learning</i>	R, Python

MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATIONS

Linguistics Society of America (LSA)

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI):

Social and Behavioral Research; Social & Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research

REFERENCES

Timothy M. Gupton (Associate Professor)

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University of Georgia

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Betty Samraj (Professor, former Dept. Chair)

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Thomas G. Bever (Regents' Professor)

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