

D.C. Merchant
December 2022

Curriculum Vitae
Douglas C. Merchant
dcmerch@umich.edu

Department of Linguistics
University of Michigan
Lorch Hall 411
611 Tappan Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1220

Home
2096-TA Pauline Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(520) 260-8999

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

- 2022-23 *Lecturer*
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan (UM)
- 2021 *Lecturer*
Department of Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 2019-21 *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* 40 (4), 1117 - 1158. [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.

Manuscripts under review

Merchant, D.C., & Gupton, T. (2022). *Processing dissociations between raising and control in Brazilian Portuguese*.

Gupton, T., Merchant, D.C., & Modesto, M. (2022). *The debate over inflected infinitives in Brazilian Portuguese: Evidence against the Movement Theory of Control*.

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 draft form

Merchant, D.C. (2022). *Group differences in semantic activation during idiom processing*.

Manuscripts in planning

Merchant, D.C. (2022). *Thematic structure in semantically unaccusative and unergative idioms*.

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 Linguistic Analysis	<i>Lecturer</i>	Winter 2023
Language and Human Mind	“ ”	Fall 2022
First Language Acquisition	“ ”	“ ”
World of Words	“ ”	2022-23 (3 sections)
Word Whizzes (Lexical Acquisition)	“ ”	2022-23 (2 sect.)
Introduction to Syntax	“ ”	2022

University of California, Los Angeles

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

Psycholinguistics	<i>Lecturer</i>	2021 (virtual)
Language Acquisition	“ ”	2021 (vir.; 2 sections)
Fundamentals of Linguistics	“ ”	2021 (vir.)
Introduction to Syntax	“ ”	2019-21 (3 sect.)

University of Georgia

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

FELLOWSHIPS/ASSISTANTSHIPS

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

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

- 2022 'Thematic structure in semantically unaccusative and unergative idioms'. *Synsem Discussion Group, University of Michigan Department of Linguistics*. Ann Arbor, MI. December 9.
- 2022 'On the processing of control and raising in Brazilian Portuguese'. (With Tim Gupton.) *Morphology and Syntax Syndicate at Penn State*. University Park, PA (virtual). March 14.
- 2021 'Processing and control in Brazilian Portuguese'. (With Tim Gupton.) *Univ. of Georgia (UGA) 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, UGA*. Athens, GA. April 17.
- 2018 'What goes up doesn't actually go up: Towards a psycholinguistically plausible model of sentence generation'. *UGA Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. February 2.
- 2016 'Herding cats: A late insertion account of the syntactic behavior of phrasal idioms'. *UGA Spring Linguistics Colloquium*. Athens, GA. April 8.
- 2015 'To each his own: Idiolectal variation in the syntacto-semantic representations of phrasal idioms'. *UGA 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 (UGA)*. Athens, GA. March 31.

SERVICE

Peer review activities

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

Other service / activities

2016	Third Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia (LCUGA 3) <i>Co-Chair</i>
2014-18	Linguistics Conference at the University of Georgia <i>Conference committee</i>
2014-2017	Linguistics Society at the University of Georgia (LSUGA) <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>

AWARDS / HONORARIA

2019	Honorarium for invited talk. Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages, SDSU (\$500)
2017	UGA Graduate School Travel Funding (\$350)
2017	UGA Linguistics Department Travel Funding (\$150)
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 and organized a reading group on eyetracking technology and methodology
2013-14 Transcribed audio/video intonation for systemic functional linguistics project

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

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

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)
gupton1@uga.edu
Department of Romance Languages
University of Georgia
210 Herty Drive

Betty Samraj (Professor, former Dept. Chair)
bsamraj@sdsu.edu
Dept. of Linguistics & Asian / ME Languages
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive

D.C. Merchant
December 2022

Athens, GA 30601
(706) 542-4730

San Diego, CA 92182-7727
(619) 594-5268

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

Massimo Piatelli-Palmarini (Professor)

massimo@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) 542-3663