

E. Nadav Benjamin, MA

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Danville, PA, USA | London, ON, Canada | Zaragoza, Aragón, Spain

Education

University of Western Ontario

PhD Student in Hispanic Studies (linguistics) September 2023 - Present

Dissertation topic: Iconic, conceptual, and grammatical motivation in the processing and acquisition of multimodal language

Supervisors: Dr. Iraide Ibarretxe-Antuñano (University of Zaragoza) & Dr. Olga Tararova (Western University)

Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies (linguistics) September 2022 - August 2023

Thesis title: El zapato, la chaussure, the shoe: The gender congruency effect in third language learners

Supervisor: Dr. Olga Tararova

University of British Columbia, Okanagan, 88.2% average

May 2020 - May 2022

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Political Science, and Philosophy

The Pennsylvania State University, 3.550 GPA

August 2018 - May 2020

Pursued the following before transferring to UBC Okanagan:

- Bachelor of Science, World Language Education
 - Certificate and minor in English as a Second Language
- Bachelor of Arts, Spanish

Laboratory Experience

MA Thesis Research

- Experimental, psycholinguistic research investigating third language acquisition of grammatical gender and underlying facilitative processes
- Responsible for developing an ethics protocol, recruiting participants, and running two experimental tasks with participants

Graduate Research Assistant - L3 Project

September 2022 - Present

- Research assistant for Dr. Olga Tararova's project investigating linguistic transfer to the L3 when the previous languages are typologically distinct from the L3
- Responsible for running participants through translation and grammaticality judgement tasks, recruiting participants, and coding accuracy and response time data.

Undergraduate Academic Assistant - Inclusive Languages Project

September 2021 - April 2022

- Research assistant at UBC Okanagan for Drs. Diana Carter, Francis Langevin, and Angela George
- Researched the emergence of novel gender-neutral language in Spanish on social media, especially Twitter
- Coded linguistic data from Tweets and collecting audio examples of gender-neutral language in Spanish with the end goal of creating didactic materials for Spanish teachers and their gender non-conforming students to navigate gender neutrality in a gendered language.

- Developed Python scripts using the Natural Language Toolkit to automate processing of data

PIRE Undergraduate Fellow

August 2019 - May 2020

- Research fellowship through the National Science Foundation, Penn State's Center for Language Science, and the Dussias Brain Tracking Lab, advised by Drs. Paola Dussias and Katrina Connell of the Pennsylvania State University
- Aided investigation into relationships between incremental sentence processing and second language proficiency
- Ran participants through eye tracking, category fluency, AX-CPT, and picture naming tasks. Coded phonetic data and response times in Praat, performed basic statistics in R, aided in creation of a digital version of the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

Publications

Benjamin, N. (2024, forthcoming). Teaching inclusive language against exclusive norms: Theoretical, empirical, and practical considerations for the L2 Spanish classroom and beyond. *ELLA – Education, Literature, Language – Utdanning, litteratur, språk*.

Tararova, O., Martínez Loyola, G., Black, M., **Benjamin, N.**, & Wang, Q. (2024, forthcoming). Gender agreement among Russian learners of Spanish in an instructed versus naturalistic learning environment. *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*.

Presentations

Benjamin, N. (2023). Asuntos del lenguaje inclusivo en el aula de español [Issues of Inclusive Language in the Spanish Classroom]. Presentation at the LIX Congreso de la Asociación Canadiense de Hispanistas [Congress of the Canadian Association of Hispanists].

Benjamin, N. (2023). El zapato, la chaussure, the shoe: The gender congruency effect in third language learners. Presentation at the Western Research Forum.

Carter, D. & **Benjamin, E.** (2022). Elle, ellx, ell@ and ell 🧐 : Spanish gender inclusive neopronouns and suffixes of the future. Presentations at the UBC Language Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference and the UBC Okanagan Language Network.

Interests

- Experimental and psycholinguistics.
- Second language acquisition (especially of morphosyntax) and bilingualism studies
- Theories (e.g., L1 Privilege, L2 Status, Typological Primacy, Cumulative Enhancement, and Scalpel Models) and experimental validation of multilingual transfer of morphosyntax, particularly of grammatical gender
- Acquisition, production, and teaching of gender-inclusive language

Pedagogical Experience

SPAN 1030 Teaching Assistantship

September 2022 - Present

- Introductory Spanish at the University of Western Ontario

- Responsible for assisting in a 70-student lecture, teaching an 11-student tutorial, marking assignments and exams, and hosting office hours and conversation lab sessions.

Private Spanish Tutor

September 2020 - June 2021

- Tutored two high school-aged students in Spanish I and II

CI 280: Teaching English to English Language Learners

Fall 2019

- Instructed by Dr. Uju Anya at the Pennsylvania State University
- Volunteer virtual tutoring middle school students in the English as a second language programme at Juniata Park Academy in Philadelphia was integrated into this course

Undergraduate assistant for Dr. Sunhye Bai

Spring 2019

- Aided Dr. Bai in preparing lectures, assigning marks on exams, and communicating with students for her HDFS 239: Adolescent Development course. Led exam review sessions and processed student feedback for the course.

Skills

Intermediate experience in:

- Python (incl. Natural Language Tool Kit), R, Stata, and Java
- Coding and processing linguistic data in Praat and Excel/Google Sheets
- Building experimental tasks in PsychoPy

Linguistic training in experimental linguistics, psycholinguistics, phonology, morphosyntax, L2 acquisition, bilingualism, and quantitative methods.

Languages (expressed on the CEFR scale by approximate self-evaluation)

- English - C2 (L1)
- Spanish - B2
- American Sign Language - A2
- French - A2

Experience in applying for human subjects ethics approval. Training in research ethics.

Training in phonology, with classroom experience under Dr. Alexander McAllister (Pennsylvania State University) and Drs. Yasaman Rafat and Jeff Tennant (Western University), including training in both first and second language acquisition, attrition, both perception and production, and at both experimental and theoretical levels.

In-Class Research Experience

L2-L3 Acquisition of Morphosyntax

Spring 2023

- I designed and implemented a small-scale study investigating the acquisition of SVO word order in Spanish by L1 Korean-L2 English learners of Spanish as an L3

Quantitative Methods in Political Science

Spring 2022

- Using Stata and data from the Canadian Election Study, I analyzed and modelled strategic voting in the 2019 Canadian Federal election.

Introduction to Chinese Politics

Fall 2021

- Used machine learning methods to perform topic modelling on a corpus of Tweets from Western and Chinese journalists, ultimately to further define the role that Chinese journalists play and characterize the messaging of their reporting.

Service and Extracurricular Experience

Chief Steward, Arts and Humanities - PSAC Local 610

October 2023 - Present

- Head union representative for a 13-department, 364-member unit of teaching assistants at the University of Western Ontario, responsible for representing members and disseminating union information

Volunteer Interpreter/Translator - American Immigration Council

April 2022- Present

Penn State Sign Language Organization

August 2019 - May 2020

The Penn State Underground

October 2018 - August 2019

- Worked as a reporter and Identity Editor at Penn State's only multicultural news publication.

Membership

- Student Member, American Translators Association
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese
- Asociación Canadiense de Hispanistas