

LUKE SMITH

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BASIC INFO

EMAIL: luke@lukesmith.xyz

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I like clarity of thought, rigor and non-pretentiousness. I've worked as a linguist, economic researcher and do freelance technical consultation. I mostly just have fun.

In linguistics and cognitive science, I'm mostly interested in motivating linguistic alternations and tendencies in non-linguistic externals, for theoretical economy, and for the unification of linguistics with other fields.

Since late 2016, I've also run a YouTube channel focusing on technology and GNU/Linux.

INSTITUTIONS

2015–2017	Ph.D. in Linguistics — <i>University of Arizona, Tucson</i> . Focusing on biolinguistics, syntax and human language technology
2013–2015	M.A. in Linguistics — <i>University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia</i> . Major in Syntax; minor in Romance Languages . Thesis: <i>External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics</i> ; download link: lukesmith.xyz/dox/luke_thesis.pdf
2009–2012	B.A. in International Economics and Modern Languages — <i>Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta</i> . Specializations in Spanish and Chinese. Certificates in Economic History and International Trade

CLASSES TAUGHT

More teaching information, along with my teaching evaluations and some materials can be found on my website at [lukesmith.xyz/classes](#).

FALL 2017	ESOC210 – “The History of Hacking and Open Source Culture” – Graduate Assistant — <i>University of Arizona</i> . Under David Seng.
SPRING 2016	LING300 – “Introduction to Syntax” – Teaching Assistant — <i>University of Arizona</i> . Under Simin Karimi. Helped introduce undergraduates to the Gospel of Chomsky. Served as a substitute for main professor when gone, graded work and did adminstrivia.
2015–2017	LING150 – “Language” – Teaching Assistant — <i>University of Arizona</i> . I teach Friday sessions and conduct recitations for a break-out section of an auditorium classroom. I conduct my own activities and lectures off of my own syllabus.
2014–2015	LING2100 – “Study of Language” – Instructor — <i>University of Georgia</i> . I worked through my own syllabus and class plan and focus mainly on how language relates to wider issues in cognitive science. Also focused on the philosophy of language and historical linguistics.
FALL 2014	LING3150 – “Generative Syntax” – Co-teacher — <i>University of Georgia</i> . Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course. Taught with Jennimaria Palomäki.
FALL 2014	Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant — <i>University of Georgia</i> . Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Current projects and other information can be found [here](#).

2017	“Language as Synesthesia” (video link)— <i>Seminar on language and consciousness</i> . Clarification of some points from my qualifying paper .
2016	“The Phonetics of Language”— <i>Guest Lecture</i> . For Amy Fountain’s class <i>Language</i>
2016	“Constituent Structure—What is it and where does it come from?”— <i>Guest Lecture (series of 3)</i> . For Simin Karimi’s class <i>Introduction to Syntax</i>
2016	“An Introduction to Minimalism” & “Optimizing Structure”— <i>Guest Lectures</i> . For Doug Merchant’s class <i>Generative Syntax</i>
2015	“Towards Biolinguistic Clarity in Generative Syntax” (video link)— <i>The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, 2015</i> .
2015	“Syntactic Theory and Psycholinguistics”— <i>Guest lecture</i> . For Doug Merchant’s class <i>Psychology of Language</i>
2015	“Syntax is for Real! – Parameterization of Head Movement in Korean and its Effects on Scope and Alternations”— <i>LSUGA Tiny Talks</i> .
2015	“External Possession and the Undisentangling of Syntax and Semantics”— <i>University of Georgia Linguistics Program Spring Colloquium</i> .
2013	“The acquisition of <i>tú</i> and <i>usted</i> by English speakers: A study of non-native knowledge and usage of forms of address”— <i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i> .
2012	“Theories of contraction: A survey of macroeconomic theories of depression”— <i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i> .

SERVICE

FALL 2017	Arizona Linguistic Circle Peer-Reviewer — <i>University of Arizona</i> . Judged and gave feedback for scholarly articles submitted for the Arizona Linguistics Circle.
2015–2016	Indo-European Reading Group Director — <i>University of Arizona</i> . Covering general historical linguistics, and the particulars of PIE morphology, phonology and development. Group materials located here .
2014–2016	LSUGA Website Manager — <i>University of Georgia</i> . Created and managed the LSUGA website, http://www.lsuga.com . (Now apparently reformatted.)
2014–2015	LSUGA Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics Committee Member — <i>University of Georgia</i> . Managed email and recording and audio and video for conference.
2014–2015	Graduate Student Mentor — <i>University of Georgia</i> .
FALL 2014	Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director — <i>University of Georgia</i> .
SPRING 2014	Typology Reading Group Director — <i>University of Georgia</i> . Covered classical Greenbergian typology, particularly with relevance to historical linguistics.

LANGUAGES

HUMAN	Spanish, Mandarin, Latin, reading knowledge of classical Greek and most Romance languages. Grammatical knowledge of a many Indo-European languages, Korean and others.
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MACHINE	Python, Perl, R, PHP, Matlab, bash, some knowledge both of common LISP and Haskell, \LaTeX , HTML, CSS
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TOOLS I USE

USUAL WORKFLOW

I use a **vim**-based setup in a tiling window manager (**i3-gaps**). I compile documents using \LaTeX , and **biber** for references. I prefer to do multimedia manipulation in the terminal with tools like **imagemagick** and **ffmpeg**. **tmux**, **ranger**, **ssh**, **mutt/notmuch/OfflineIMAP**. Have run Microsoft, MacOS and GNU/Linux systems (both Debian and Arch-based varieties). I currently run Void Linux on my machines.

PROGRAMS I USE

Matlab, R/RStudio, Blender, Praat, Audacity, E-Prime, GIMP, pandoc, Jupyter. I've managed websites manually via **ssh** and **vim** using HTML/CSS/PHP and with tools such as WordPress via either **cpanel** or **wp-cli**.

PUBLIC CODE AND SCRIPTS

PRE-RELEASE	Memespeaker — <i>Narrated slideshow creator</i> . An ffmpeg -based tool for illustrating audio talks and lectures with pictures, without the time-consuming process of using video-editing software.
2016-NOW	Voidrice — <i>Linux dotfiles</i> . A set of GNU/Linux dotfiles that I popularized on YouTube, aiming at creating a powerful, optimized, all-purpose and lightweight general computing environment. Innovated dynamically configured and synced rc files.
2015—NOW	http://LukeSmith.xyz — <i>My website</i> . I proudly report my website is minimal, yet attractive, with no sore-eyed CSS pseudo-magic and good readability. Modern traditional feel. Written in HTML/CSS/PHP.
2016	/Comfy/ Arch — <i>Automatic ricing tool</i> . A web-based deployment system for configuration files which focuses on enabling novice Linux users to get immersed quickly in advanced ricing environments. No longer actively maintained, but likely to undergo an update.
2013	Vulgarizer — <i>Sound Change Simulator</i> . A string-manipulization paradigm written in Python for simulating phonetic and phonological change over time. The original implementation focused on modeling changes between Latin and Spanish and then other Romance languages, but if I continue the project, my hope is to generalize this.

ONLINE TUTORIALS

I produce screencasts and produce other videos for public use as tutorials on YouTube on my channel (youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz).

\LaTeX	Covering \LaTeX basics and advanced techniques: formatting, use of bibtex for automatic citations sectioning, image-use, beamer presentations, macros.
VIM	Covering the extensible text-editor vim : basic tips, use of text objects, macros, remaps for creating IDE-like environments and some screencasts of practical uses in my day-by-day life.
LINUX RICING	Videos on hacking and modifying Linux graphical environments particularly on i3-gaps , including customization, window management, program-shorcutting, optimization.

WRITINGS

Section incomplete. To be updated.

IN PROGRESS | **The Game Theoretics of Quantifier Scope**—*Second qualifying paper.*

2017 | **Syntax Without Syntax**—*First qualifying paper.* ([video casually explaining it](#))

2015 | **External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics**—*My Master's thesis.* ([download link](#))

HOBBIES

Classical languages, human evolution and prehistory, cybernetics, medieval thought.