Luke SMITH

BASIC INFO

MAIL: 1103 East University Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85721-0025
EMAIL: luke@lukesmith.xyz
WWW: http://www.lukesmith.xyz

I'm interested in uncovering and formalizing the primitives of the human mind, primarily by investigating the structure and variance of human language, and how the human linguistic system may have come about evolutionarily. This can put us marginally closer to understanding humankind and how our brains process and make sense of the world around us, and may aid in crafting technologies that can analogue or interface with the mind.

More likely, however is that it will help us understand how disheveled and confused our mental life is, and will thus hopefully temper the human arrogance so overwhelming in some circles. My main field is linguistics, but I jump seamlessly from it to behavioral economics, psychology, Game Theory and related fields. I strongly believe in interdisciplinarity (so long as we can avoid the pretentiousness that too often accompanies it).

INSTITUTIONS

2015–2017	Ph.D. in LINGUISTICS, **University of Arizona**, Tucson → Major in Syntax; minor in Human Language Techonology
2013-2015	M.A. in LINGUISTICS, **University of Georgia**, Athens, Georgia → Thesis entitled: "External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics," downloadable here. → Major in Syntax; minor in Romance Languages
2009–2012	B.A. in INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES, **Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University**, Atlanta → Specializations in Spanish and Chinese → Certificates in Economic History and International Trade

PRESENTATIONS

Current projects and other information can be found here.

2015	"Towards Biolinguistic Clarity in Generative Syntax" (video link) *The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, 2015*
2015	"Syntax is for Real! – Parameterization of Head Movement in Korean and its Effects on Scope and Alternations" *LSUGA Tiny Talks*
2015	"External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics" *University of Georgia Linguistics Program Spring Colloquium*
2013	"The acquisition of *tú* and *usted* by English speakers: A study of non-native knowledge and usage of forms of address" *Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference*
2012	"Theories of contraction: A survey of macroeconomic theories of depression" *Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference*

Guest Presentations

2016	"The Phonetics of Language" *Guest Lecture* For Amy Fountain's class *Language*
2016	"Constituent Structure—What is it and where does it come from?" *Guest Lecture (series of 3)* For Simin Karimi's class *Introduction to Syntax*
2016	"An Introduction to Minimalism" & "Optimizing Structure" *Guest Lectures* For Doug Merchant's class *Generative Syntax*
2015	"Syntactic Theory and Psycholinguistics" *Guest lecture* For Doug Merchant's class *Psychology of Language*

Teaching

More teaching information, along with my teaching evaluations and some materials can be found here.

2016-Now	LING300 – "Introduction to Syntax" – Teaching Assistant *University of Arizona* Helped introduce undergraduates to the Gospel of Chomsky. Served as a substitute for main professor when gone, graded work and did administrivia.
2015-Now	LING150 – "Language" – Teaching Assistant *University of Arizona* 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 *University of Georgia* 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 *University of Georgia* Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course.
Fall 2014	Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant *University of Georgia* Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

Service

2015–2016	Indo-European Reading Group Director
	University of Arizona
	Covering general historical linguistics, and the particulars of PIE morphology, phonology and development. Group materials located here.

2014–2016	LSUGA Website Manager
	University of Georgia
	Created and managed the LSUGA website, http://www.lsuga.com.

2014–2015	LSUGA Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics Committee Member
	University of Georgia
	Managed email and recording and audio and video for conference.

2014–2015	Graduate Student Mentor
	University of Georgia
	Took the new kids out on some hot dates.

FALL 2014	Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director
	University of Georgia

SPRING 2014	Typology Reading Group Director
	University of Georgia
	Covered classical Greenbergian typology, particularly with relevance to historical linguistics.

LANGUAGES (HUMAN)

NATIVE:	English
FLUENT:	Spanish
ADVANCED:	Mandarin
	French
READING:	Latin
	Greek (Koiné)
	Most all Romance languages
SOME KNOWLEDGE:	All the other ones
NONE:	Just German, which I can't force myself to learn for some reason

LANGUAGES (MACHINE)

LANGUAGES:	Python, Common Lisp, LaTeX, R, HTML/CSS/PHP for webdev, shell scripting
PROGRAMS:	vim, E-Prime, RStudio, Praat, Audacity, Blender (mostly for video editing, I'm less familiar with 3D modeling), GNU Octave (Matlab)
SYSTEMS:	I run GNU/Linux personally (Parabola), but am adept at Microsoft Windows as well. Put me in front of a MacOS GUI and I'll flop like a dying fish, but my familiarity with UNIX is plenty to deal with a Mac system by cli.