

Dawson Petersen

*Linguistics Program,
University of South Carolina
DHP1@email.sc.edu*

Education

PhD Candidate, Linguistics, *University of South Carolina*; Columbia, SC
August 2020 – May 2025 (Anticipated)

Master of Arts, Linguistics, *University of South Carolina*; Columbia, SC
August 2019 – May 2022

Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, *North Greenville University*; Tigerville, SC
Summa cum laude
Aug 2015 - May 2019

Fellowships and Awards

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Research Grant,
NSF Linguistics Program, 2024
\$12,000

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship,
University of South Carolina, 2024
\$40,000

SPARC Graduate Research Grant,
University of South Carolina, 2024
\$4,800

McCausland Innovation Fund Award,
University of South Carolina, 2022
Faculty lead: Amit Almor; graduate students: **Dawson Petersen** and Sarah Wilson
\$10,000

Linguistics Program Summer Research Award,
University of South Carolina, 2021, -24
\$670, \$400

Interdisciplinary Student of the Year (BS)
North Greenville University, 2018-2019

Linguistics Student of the Year
North Greenville University, 2017-2018

Research Experience

Publications

- Petersen, D., Almor, A. & Shalin, V. L. (2024). Linguistic framing affects moral responsibility assignments towards AIs and their creators. *Proceedings of Agency and Intentions in Language 4*. <https://ail-workshop.github.io/AIL4-Workshop/program.html>
- Petersen, D. & Almor, A. (2023). Anthropomorphism, not depiction, explains interaction with social robots. [Peer commentary on the paper “Social robots as depictions of social agents” by H. H. Clark & K. Fischer]. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 46. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0140525X22001698>
- Petersen, D. (2022). The role of force dynamic schemas in the comprehension of causal language [MA thesis]. <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/etd/6800/>
- Petersen, D. (2018). Embodied simulation in response to semantic priming [Unpublished undergraduate thesis].

Presentations

Invited Talks

- Petersen, D. (2024, November 7). The effects of anthropomorphic linguistic framing on the online processing of texts about AI [Keynote Presentation]. University of North Georgia Linguistics Symposium.

National Conference Presentations

- Petersen, D., Almor, A. & Shalin, V. L. (2024, January 10-12). Linguistic framing affects moral responsibility assignments towards AIs and their creators [Lightning Talk]. Agency and Intentions in Language 4.
- Petersen, D., Almor, A. & Shalin, V. L. (2023, November 16-19). “Dr. A.I.” can be convicted of malpractice, but only if the jury is inexperienced with language AI [Poster presentation]. The Psychonomic Society’s 64th Annual Meeting 2023.
- Petersen, D. & Almor, A. (2022, November 17-20). Force dynamic schemas and the comprehension of causal language [Poster presentation]. The Psychonomic Society’s 63rd Annual Meeting 2022.
- Petersen, D. (2022, November 4-6). Ad hoc concepts and conceptual metaphors [Paper presentation]. 5th International Conference of the American Pragmatics Association (AMPRA) 2022.
- Dubinsky, S., Gavin, M., Starr, H.; **Petersen, D.**, Rees-White, G., Smith, K.; D’Souza, V., Whalen, L., Ginn, J., Bickham, A. (2022, June 27) The Language Conflict Project:

Perspectives on 21st century ethnolinguistic conflict [Paper presentation].
Desmond Tutu Center Conference on Conflict, Communication, and Peace.

Petersen, D. (2022, May 23). Form-interaction mismatch in (im)politeness [Paper presentation]. X International Symposium on Intercultural, Cognitive and Social Pragmatics 2022.

Petersen, D. (2022, January 7). Ad hoc concepts and figurative language: The contribution of conceptual metaphors [Poster presentation]. Linguistic Society of America 2022.

Regional Conference Presentations

Nichols, C., **Petersen, D.**, Almor, A., & Shalin, V. L. (2024, April 13). AI as an Agent: The Effects of Linguistic Framing on Descriptions of AI [Paper Presentation]. University of South Carolina 2024 Linguistics Student Research Symposium.

Petersen, D., Almor, A. & Shalin, V. L. (2023, October 21). Linguistic framing effects on responsibility assignments towards large language models [Poster presentation]. The Florida Psycholinguistics Meeting 2023.

Petersen, D. & Almor, A. (2022, March 17). The role of force dynamic schemas in the comprehension of causal language [Paper presentation]. University of South Carolina 2022 Linguistics Student Research Symposium.

Petersen, D. (2021, March 20). The metaphoric structuring of the ad hoc concept [Paper presentation]. University of North Carolina 2021 Linguistics Colloquium.

Lab Experience

Language and Cognition **aLab**
Research Assistant for Amit Almor,
Psychology Department, University of South Carolina
Spring 2020 – Present

Concepts, Language, and the Brain Lab
Research assistant for Rutvik Desai,
Psychology Department, University of South Carolina
Summer 2024

The Language Conflict Project
Research assistant for Stanley Dubinsky,
Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina
Spring 2022

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught

Linguistics 300: Introduction to Language Sciences, *University of South Carolina*
Upper level survey of Linguistics, Cross-listed in Psychology and Anthropology

Linguistics 101: Introduction to Language, *University of South Carolina*
Introductory level survey of Linguistics

English 101: Critical Reading and Composition, *University of South Carolina*

English 102: Composition and Rhetoric, *University of South Carolina*

Courses Assisted

Linguistics 567: Psychology of Language, *University of South Carolina*
Cross listed in Psychology

Psychology 420: Survey of Developmental Psychology, *University of South Carolina*

Psychology 3330: Social Psychology, *North Greenville University*

Guest Lectures

Petersen, D. (2022, Nov 14). Introduction to pragmatics [Invited lecture]. Lecture given in LING 101 – Introduction to Language.

Petersen, D. (2020, Nov 18). Introduction to psycholinguistics [Invited lecture]. Lecture given in LING 300 - Introduction to Language Sciences.

Petersen, D. (2020, Feb 3). Language Development [Invited lecture]. Lecture given in PSYC 420 – Survey of Developmental Psychology.

Academic and Departmental Service

Conference and Workshop Organizing

Lead Workshop Organizer
Experimental Pragmatics: Bridging Theory and Praxis
with invited speakers: Mira Ariel and Anna Papafragou
American Pragmatics Association, November 11, 2023

Conference Volunteer & Session Chair
Annual Meeting, *American Pragmatics Association*
November 2022

Conference Poster Reviewer
Discover Day, *University of South Carolina*
April 2022

Conference Volunteer
Annual Meeting, *Linguistic Society of America*,
January 2021, -22

Conference Organization Committee Member
Linguistics Program Student Research Symposium, *University of South Carolina*,
November 2019

Leadership

Vice President
Graduate Student Council
American Pragmatics Association, November 2022 - Present

President
Graduate Students in Linguistics
University of South Carolina, Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

Vice President
Graduate Students in Linguistics
University of South Carolina, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Committee Service

Graduate Curriculum Committee
Linguistics Program, University of South Carolina, 2024

First-Year English Curriculum Subcommittee
English Department, University of South Carolina, 2022

Research Interests

Anthropomorphism, human-AI interaction, metaphor, conceptual grounding,
relevance theory, ad hoc cognition