

# 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

College of Arts and Sciences 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 Embodied simulation in response to semantic priming [Unpublished undergraduate thesis].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 Conferences**

- 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 64<sup>th</sup> 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 Conferences**

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