

Luke Smith

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Basic Info

EMAIL : luke@luke-smith.xyz GITHUB : github.com/LukeSmithxyz
WEBSITE : <https://luke-smith.xyz> YOUTUBE : youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz

- Maintainer and developer of an Arch Linux-based metadistribution at larbs.xyz.
- Doctoral candidate in linguistics at the [University of Arizona](https://www.arizona.edu), focusing mostly on deriving linguistic traits and tendencies from non-linguistic cognitive traits and theoretical reform.
- Since late 2016, I run a [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz) mostly on technology tutorials and Linux configuration and system management.

Institutions

2015–	Ph.D. program in Linguistics <i>University of Arizona, Tucson</i> Focusing on biolinguistics, syntax and computational linguistics. Advisors: Tom Bever , Mike Hammond .
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> . Advisor: Vera Lee-Schoenfeld .
2012	Exchange Program, Zhèngzhōu University (郑州大学) <i>Zhèngzhōu, China</i> Studying Chinese history.
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 luke-smith.xyz/classes.

2017–	ESOC210 – “The History of Hacking and Open Source Culture” – Graduate Assistant (Online) <i>University of Arizona</i> With David Seng.
2018	LING150 – “Language” (Online) <i>University of Arizona</i> With Amy Fountain .
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 administria.
2015–2017	LING150 – “Language” – Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> With Amy Fountain . 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.

- 2014 | **LING3150 – “Generative Syntax” – Co-teacher** *University of Georgia* Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course. Taught with [Jennimaria Palomäki](#).
- 2014 | **Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant** *University of Georgia* Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

Presentations

- 2018 | **“Linux is the Wild West! And Let It Be That Way!”** *Southeast Linuxfest 2018*
- 2018 | **“The Evolution of the Ibero-Romance Irregular Imperfect: A Constraint-based Analysis”** *28th Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language and Culture*
- 2017 | **“Scope without Syntax: Towards a Game Theoretic Approach”** *University of Arizona Synsalon*
- 2017 | **“Language as Synesthesia”** *Seminar on language and consciousness* Clarification of some points from [my qualifying paper](#).
- 2015 | **“Towards Biolinguistic Clarity in Generative Syntax”** *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 Lectures

This list is non-exhaustive.

- 2018 | **“Linguistics Isn’t 60 Years Old!: Pāṇinian Approaches to the Syntax and Semantics of Natural Language”** *Guest Lecture For [Simin Karimi](#)’s class *Major Works in Syntax**
- 2018 | **“Quantifier Scopep is Just All Fun and Games!”** *Linguistics Department Graduate Student Showcase*
- 2017 | **“The Origins and Mechanics of the Greek Alphabet”** *Guest Lecture For Shannon Gripando’s class *The Psychology of Writing Systems**
- 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**

Languages

HUMAN	Spanish, Mandarin, Latin, some Persian and French, reading knowledge of classical Greek and most Romance languages. Grammatical knowledge of a many Indo-European languages, Korean and others.
MACHINE	Python, Perl, R, PHP, SQL, Matlab/GNU Octave, bash/shell; some knowledge of C, common LISP and Haskell; markup languages including \LaTeX / \XeTeX , R Markdown, HTML, CSS.

Tools I Use

I have lots of tutorials on many of these programs and tools on my [my YouTube channel](#) .

Usual Workflow

I use a **vim**-based setup in a tiling window manager (**i3-gaps**). I compile documents using **R Markdown** or \LaTeX , and **biber** for references. I prefer to do multimedia manipulation in the terminal with tools like **imagemagick** and **ffmpeg** for extensibility’s sake. I’ve run personally Microsoft, MacOS and GNU/Linux systems (both Debian and Arch-based varieties, as well as Void Linux).

Programs I’m Familiar With

In addition to those mentioned above: ssh, Apache servers, RStudio, Blender (mostly for video-editing), Praat, Audacity, E-Prime, GIMP, pandoc, ffmpeg, imagemagick, Jupyter, WordPress. Many others.

Current public software projects

- | **lb** *Lightweight blogging system* A blog system for static HTML sites which generates a blog, RSS feed, standalone pages, a blog index and an directory view for Apache web servers, all in less than 100 lines of POSIX-compliant shell script.
- | **mutt-wizard** *A fully-featured email configuration tool.* A tool for automatically configuring mutt, offlinelMAP, notmuch and other parts of a full email system with email accessible offline, automatic detection of IMAP and SMTP protocols and automatic password encryption
- | **Luke’s Auto-Rice Bootstrapping Scripts (LARBS)** *A dynamic installer for an i3wm Arch Linux distribution*
- | **Voidrice** *Linux dotfiles* 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 dynammmically configured and synced rc files.
- | **st (fork)** *The suckless terminal, maintained with extra key bindings*

Other

My build of the the suckless [simple terminal \(st\)](#) with added vimlike homerow binds and small improvements.

Online Tutorials

I produce screencasts and produce other videos for public use as tutorials on YouTube on my channel. As of May 2019, over 50,000 subscribers, with 6 million views on over 100 different videos. All of these series below are ongoing.

R / STATISTICS	[1]: Arithmetic, Variables and Vectors; [2]: Basic Statistical Functions and Logic; [3]: Dataframes, Subsetting and Ifelse
LaTeX	[0]: Installation; [1]: Compiling, Titles, Sections, Formatting, Syntax; [2]: Labels, References and Lists; [3]: Bibliographies; [4]: Résumé-making Part 1; [5]: Résumé-making Part 2; [6]: Images, Figures; [7]: Beamer Slideshow Presentations; [8]: Macros
VIM	Macros; Workflow with LaTeX; Basic Tips After Vimtutor; SC-IM - Vim-based Terminal Spreadsheet Editor; Custom code snippets, for IDE functionality; Vi-mode in bash; Spell-checking and Dictionaries; How vim Makes my Daily Life Easier
LINUX	Videos on hacking and modifying Linux graphical environments particularly on i3-gaps, including customization, window management, program-shortcutting, optimization.

Service

2017–2018	Manager for Tom Bever's Language and Cognition Lab site <i>University of Arizona</i>
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 at luke-smith.xyz/pie .
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, reviewed papers and did audio and video for conference.
2014–2015	Graduate Student Mentor <i>University of Georgia</i>
2014	Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director <i>University of Georgia</i>
2014	Typology Reading Group Director <i>University of Georgia</i> Covered classical Greenbergian typology, particularly with relevance to historical linguistics.

Writings

Section incomplete. Only contains major degree requirements now. To be updated. More minor squibs of mine can be found at <https://luke-smith.xyz/papers>.

2017	Scope Without Syntax: A Game Theoretic Approach <i>Second qualifying paper, University of Arizona</i> Committee: Robert Henderson , Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini , Tom Bever , Mike Hammond .
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- 2017 | **Syntax Without Syntax** *First qualifying paper, University of Arizona* Committee: [Mike Hammond](#), [Simin Karimi](#), [Heidi Harley](#).
- 2015 | **External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics** *Master's thesis, University of Georgia* Committee: [Vera Lee-Schoenfeld](#), [Tim Gup-ton](#), [Pilar Chamorro](#).

Hobbies

Classical languages, human evolution and prehistory, free (i.e. libre) software, survivalism, cybernetics, medieval thought, Rhaeto-Romance poetry.

References

- Email me with your interests in me and I'll refer you to someone who can vouch for me or defame me, depending on what you want.
- I upload all of my teaching evaluations to <https://lukesmith.xyz/evals> and they can be read there.