

Francis Mollica

416 Meliora Hall
Rochester, NY 14627
✉ mollicaf@gmail.com

Education

- 2014 **PhD Brain and Cognitive Sciences**, *University of Rochester*, Rochester, NY.
- 2014 **MA Brain and Cognitive Sciences**, *University of Rochester*, Rochester, NY.
Committee: Steven Piantadosi, Michael Tanenhaus, Robbie Jacobs (chair)
- 2010 **BA Linguistics**, *University at Buffalo*, Buffalo, NY.
Language and Cognition Concentration
- 2010 **BS Psychology**, *University at Buffalo*, Buffalo, NY.

Honors and Awards

- 2017 **Student Travel Award**, *Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2016 **Honorable Mention**, *NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program*.
- 2015 **Student Travel Award**, *Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2015 **Honorable Mention**, *NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program*.
- 2014 **Outstanding Senior Award**, *Dept. of Linguistics, University at Buffalo*.
- 2012 **Grace W. Capen Academic Award**, *University at Buffalo*.

Funding

- 2017 **Donald M. and Janet C. Bernard Fellowship**, *University of Rochester*.
- 2015 **Discover Grant**, *University of Rochester*.
- 2010 **Provost Scholarship**, *University at Buffalo*.
- 2010 **Johnson Controls Foundation Scholarship**.

Journal Publications

- Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. (under review) *Information theoretic bounds on human knowledge of language*.
- Register, Jenna, Francis Mollica, and Steven T. Piantadosi. (under review) *Semantic verification is flexible and sensitive to context*.

Martí, Louis, Francis Mollica, Steven T. Piantadosi, and Celeste Kidd. (to appear) *Certainty is primarily determined by past performance during concept learning*. *Open Mind*.

2017 • Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. "How data drives early word learning: a cross-linguistic waiting time analysis." In: *Open Mind* 1.2, pp. 67–77.

Conference Proceedings

2017 • Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. "An incremental information theoretic buffer supports sentence processing." In: *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society., pp. 805–810.

2017 • Mollica, Francis, Shirlene Wade, and Steven T Piantadosi. "A rational constructivist account of the characteristic to defining shift." In: *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society., pp. 799–804.

2016 • Martí, Louis, Francis Mollica, Steven T Piantadosi, and Celeste Kidd. "What determines human certainty?" In: *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society., pp. 698–703.

2015 • Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. "Towards semantically rich and recursive word learning models." In: *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society., pp. 1607–1612.

2015 • Mollica, Francis, Steven T Piantadosi, and Michael K Tanenhaus. "The perceptual foundation of linguistic context." In: *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society., pp. 1613–1618.

Conference Talks

2017 • Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. *An incremental information theoretic buffer supports sentence processing*. 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. London, UK.

2017 • Mollica, Francis, Shirlene Wade, and Steven T Piantadosi. *A rational constructivist account of the characteristic to defining shift*. 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. London, UK.

2017

Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. *An incremental information theoretic buffer supports sentence processing*. 30th CUNY Sentence Processing Conference. Cambridge, MA.

2015

Mollica, Francis and Steven T Piantadosi. *Characterizing data-driven word learning: A cross-linguistic analysis*. More on Development. Columbus, OH.

2015

Mollica, Francis, Steven T Piantadosi, and Michael K Tanenhaus. *The perceptual foundation of linguistic context*. 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Los Angeles, CA.

Conference Posters

2015

Mollica, Francis, Steven T Piantadosi, and Michael K Tanenhaus. *The perceptual foundation of linguistic context*. The 28th CUNY Sentence Processing Conference. Los Angeles, CA.

2016

Galette, Claude, Francis Mollica, and Rajeev Raizada. *Unconverging the representation of ambiguous words*. 30th Anniversary National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Asheville, NC.

Departmental/Colloquia Talks

2017

, An information-theoretic buffer supports language processing. *The Computational Psycholinguistics Lab* MIT, November, 2017.

2017

, A contextual diversity hypothesis of lexical retrieval in online language processing. *The Language Lab* MIT, October, 2017.

2017

, How data drives word learning: A cross-linguistic analysis. *The Language Lab* MIT, September, 2017.

2016

, Formalizing conceptual development: The case of kinship. *NRT Mini-Conference* University of Rochester, September, 2016.

2016

, How data drives word learning: A cross-linguistic analysis. *Evolution and Development Talk Series* University of Rochester, April, 2016.

Teaching

2018

BCS 259: Language Development, *Teaching Assistant*, Spring, University of Rochester.

2017

BCS 153: Cognition, *Teaching Assistant*, Spring, University of Rochester.

2016

BCS 310: Senior Seminar, *Co-Instructor*, Fall, University of Rochester.

2016

Building the Language Machine: An Intro to Computational Linguistics, *Instructor*, Summer, Rochester Scholars Program.

2016

BCS 153: Cognition, *Teaching Assistant*, Spring, University of Rochester.

2015

The Language Scientist: Linguist, Psychologist, Computer Scientist, *Instructor*, Summer, Rochester Scholars Program.

2013

LIN 207: Language, Society and the Individual, *Teaching Assistant*, Fall, University at Buffalo.

2013

PSY 207: Psychological Statistics, *Teaching Assistant*, Summer, University at Buffalo.

Ad-hoc Reviewing

Behavioral Research Methods

Morphological Typology and Linguistic Cognition

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society