

Aaron Apple

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Profile

Cognitive scientist with a focus on human development and language, interested in improving learning outcomes in U.S. schools by applying quantitative methods to problems at the intersection of the learning sciences and education policy.

Education

Johns Hopkins University

Masters of Arts in Cognitive Science.

Advisors: Dr. Akira Omaki & Dr. Kyle Rawlins

Capstone Project: Filler-gap adaptation in coordinate structures

Baltimore, MD
Aug. 2015 - Aug. 2016

Linguistics Society of America

Graduate of the 2015 LSA Summer Institute at the University of Chicago

Chicago, IL
Jul. 2015 - Aug. 2015

New York University

Bachelors of Arts in Language and Mind, Minor in Creative Writing

New York, NY
Aug. 2008 - Dec. 2012

Skills

Research: Research design; Statistical analysis; Scientific writing; Public speaking; Grant editing; Data management

Programming languages: R; Python; MATLAB

Software: Microsoft Word, Excel & Powerpoint; Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator; FileMaker Pro; Audacity; SR Research Experiment Builder & Data Viewer

Professional Experience

Manager of the Language Processing and Development Lab

PI: Dr. Akira Omaki, Department of Cognitive Science, The Johns Hopkins University.

Baltimore, MD
Jan. 2013 - Jul. 2015

- Designed two experiments on child comprehension of syntactic ambiguities and adult comprehension of relative clause structures.
- Developed pipelines to manage, clean, and analyze data in R for psycholinguistic research from five methodologies: question answering, preferential looking, visual-world eye-tracking, eye-tracking during reading, and self-paced reading.
- Analyzed and visualized findings in R and Python for 12 experiments, primarily using multilevel regression methods.
- Wrote and edited three scientific articles submitted to peer-reviewed journals.
- Presented research findings in one conference talk and one poster presentation.
- Edited NSF grant application for a project on child sentence processing and executive control.
- Supervised five research assistants in designing and collecting data for four research projects.

Research Assistant in the Davachi Memory Lab

PI: Dr. Lila Davachi, Department of Psychology, New York University.

New York, NY
May 2012 - Dec. 2012

- Assisted in design, MATLAB programming, and data collection for an MEG experiment on the time-course of memory reactivation.

Research Assistant in the Consciousness and Computation Lab

PI: Dr. Hakwan Lau, Department of Psychology, Columbia University.

New York, NY
May 2012 - Dec. 2012

- Collected data for research on the dynamics of visual awareness as modulated by attention.

Research Assistant in the Neurolinguistics Lab

PI: Dr. Liina Pykkänen, Department of Linguistics, New York University.

New York, NY
Sept. 2011 - April 2012

- Designed experiment and collected data for research on the domain generality of compositional semantic processing in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex.

Intern at 826CHI

- Administrated the after-school tutoring program of 30 children and tutors.
- Taught writing as a teaching assistant in two English classes in a Chicago public high school.

Chicago, IL
Aug. 2010 - Dec. 2010

Publications, Presentations and Awards

Atkinson, E., Apple, A., Omaki, A. (2016). Similarity of Wh-Phrases and Acceptability Variation in Wh-Islands.

Frontiers in Psychology, 6.

Omaki, A., Lau, E. F., Davidson White, I., Dakan, M., **Apple, A.**, & Phillips, C. (2015). Hyper-active gap filling. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6.

Apple, A. & Omaki, A. (2015). Incrementality and garden-path recovery in children's resolution of direct object vs. sentential complement ambiguity. Paper presented at the *Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 13, 2015.

Apple, A. & Omaki, A. (2015). Development of sentential complement ambiguity processing. Poster presented at the *CUNY 2015 Conference on Sentence Processing*, March 21.

Omaki, A. & **Apple, A.** (2014). Adaptation of active gap filling in coordinated sentences. Talk presented at the *AMLaP 2014*, September 4.

Apple, A., Bemis, D., Marcus, G., Pytkänen, L. (2012). Domain General Compositional Processing: An MEG Study. *Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund*, NYU. Poster presented at the Dean's Undergraduate Research conference and grant recipient of the highest award, \$1000.

Apple, A., Omaki, A. (In preparation). The role of incremental parsing on Japanese infants' word learning.

Apple, A., Omaki, A. (In preparation). Japanese infants' abstract knowledge of word order.

Apple, A., Omaki, A. (In preparation). Filler-gap processing in coordinate structures.

Apple, A., Omaki, A. (In preparation). Incrementality and garden-path recovery in child resolution of complement ambiguity.

Volunteering

Harwood Community Association

Volunteer and organizer

Baltimore, MD

Jul. 2015 - Aug. 2016

- **Harwood's 2016 National Night Out Against Crime:** Solicited food donations from local businesses, ran the BBQ grill, and assisted in managing other volunteers.
- **The 2015 Ilchester Back to School Block Party:** Solicited school supplies donations from local businesses and assisted in managing other volunteers.