

Adam Liter

Department of Linguistics
1401 Marie Mount Hall
7814 Regents Dr
College Park, MD 20742-7505
io@adamliter.org
adamliter.org
adamliter

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Linguistics 08/2017 – (expected) 05/2022
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

M.A., Linguistics 01/2013 – 05/2016
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Thesis: The Acquisition and Syntax of the Passive in English
Advised by: [Alan Munn](#) (Chair), [Cristina Schmitt](#), [Marcin Morzycki](#)

2015 Linguistic Institute 07/2015
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

B.A., Linguistics (High Honors) & B.A., Philosophy (High Honors) 08/2010 – 05/2014
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Thesis: Passives in English: A Theoretical and Experimental Investigation Thereof
Advised by: [Cristina Schmitt](#)

- Cognitive Science Specialization
- Women's and Gender Studies Minor

2013 Linguistic Institute 06/2013 – 07/2013
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

POSITIONS

Faculty Research Specialist 06/2016 – 08/2017
Center for Advanced Study of Language, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

AWARDS, HONORS, & FELLOWSHIPS

FUNDED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Flagship Fellowship 08/2017 – 05/2022
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (NSF #2116270; \$18,539) 08/2021 – 07/2023
National Science Foundation,

Fellow, NSF-NRT Training Program (NSF: #1449815) 09/2018 – 05/2020
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant 01/2020
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Outstanding Scholars Program Fellowship (declined) <i>University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut</i>	04/2017
Teaching Assistantship <i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	08/2015 – 05/2016
Research Assistantship <i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	08/2014 – 05/2015
Board of Trustees' Award <i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	05/2014
University Distinguished Scholarship <i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	08/2010 – 05/2014
National Merit Scholar <i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	08/2010 – 05/2014
Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee <i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	10/2013 – 05/2014
2013 Linguistic Institute Fellowship <i>Linguistic Society of America, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i>	06/2013 – 07/2013
Genevieve Gillette Fellowship <i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	05/2013 – 08/2013
Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee <i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	10/2012 – 05/2013
Professorial Assistantship <i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	08/2010 – 05/2012

HONORS

2016 Outstanding Graduate Student in Linguistics <i>Department of Linguistics and Languages, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	05/2016
Outstanding Graduating Senior in LGSAAL <i>Department of Linguistics and Languages, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	05/2014

PRESENTATION AWARDS

Award Winner, Poster Presentation <i>MSULC, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	04/2014
Category Winner (with C. Heffner) <i>UURAF, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	04/2012
Award Winner, Poster Presentation (with C. Heffner) <i>MSULC, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	04/2012

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNALS

- 2020 Durvasula, Karthik & **Adam Liter**. There is a simplicity bias when generalising from ambiguous data. *Phonology* 37(2). 177–213. DOI: [10.1017/S0952675720000093](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0952675720000093).
- 2017 **Liter, Adam**, Christopher C. Heffner & Cristina Schmitt. The interpretation of plural morphology and (non-)obligatory number marking: An argument from artificial language learning. *Language Learning and Development* 13(4). 451–480. DOI: [10.1080/15475441.2017.1324307](https://doi.org/10.1080/15475441.2017.1324307).

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2021 **Liter, Adam** & Jeffrey Lidz. Non-actional passives can be comprehended by 4-year-olds. In Danielle Dionne & Lee-Ann Vidal Covas (eds.), *BUCLD 45: proceedings of the 45th annual Boston University conference on language development*, vol. 2, 513–527. Somerville, MA: Cascadia Press.
- 2020 **Liter, Adam** & Naomi H. Feldman. Modeling the learning of the Person Case Constraint. In Allyson Ettinger, Gaja Jarosz & Max Nelson (eds.), *Proceedings of the society for computation in linguistics*, vol. 3, 372–381. DOI: [10.7275/38dj-hj49](https://doi.org/10.7275/38dj-hj49).
- 2018 **Liter, Adam**, Tess Huelskamp, Christopher C. Heffner & Cristina Schmitt. Grammaticalized number, implicated presuppositions, and the plural. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 3(1): *Acquisition of quantification*. Magda Oiry (ed.). DOI: [10.5334/gjgl.532](https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.532).

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Grolla, Elaine, **Adam Liter** & Jeffrey Lidz. “Why do you think why kids produce medial wh-phrases?: Grammar or performance?” Michigan State Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (MSULC), Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- 2016 Durvasula, Karthik & **Adam Liter**. “Learning phonological patterns from ambiguous data.” North American Phonology Conference (NAPhC), Concordia University, Montréal, Canada.

REFEREED CONFERENCE TALKS

- 2020 **Liter, Adam** & Naomi H. Feldman. “Modeling the learning of the Person Case Constraint.” Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL), New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 Munn, Alan, Rachel Stacey, Robert Felster, Adam Smolinski, **Adam Liter** & Cristina Schmitt. “Context effects in children’s calculation of scalar implicatures: The case of disjunction.” Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting (SRCD), Baltimore, MD.
- Muller, Hanna, Phoebe Gaston, Bethany Dickerson, **Adam Liter**, Karthik Durvasula, Mina Hirzel, Kasia Hitczenko, Margaret Kandel, Paulina Lyskawa, Jacqueline Nelligan, Maxime Papillon & Laurel Perkins. “Gender bias in representation and publishing rates across subfields.” Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), New York, NY.

- 2018 Munn, Alan, Rachel Stacey, Robert Felster, Adam Smolinski, **Adam Liter** & Cristina Schmitt. “Scalar implicature variability in adults and children: the case of ‘or’.” *Scalar Implicatures: Formal and Experimental Exploration (SIFEE)*, Università di Siena, Siena, Italy.
- 2015 **Liter, Adam**, Tess Huelskamp, Christopher C. Heffner & Cristina Schmitt. “Non-grammaticalized number entails an exclusive interpretation of plural morphology.” *Workshop on Linguistics and Cognitive Aspects of Quantification (LCQ)*, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2013 **Liter, Adam**, Christopher C. Heffner & Cristina Schmitt. “Inclusive plural interpretations depend on grammaticalized number: An argument from artificial language learning.” *Workshop on the Acquisition of Quantification*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

REFEREED CONFERENCE POSTERS

- 2020 **Liter, Adam** & Jeffrey Lidz. “Non-actional passives can be comprehended by 4-year olds.” *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2016 Durvasula, Karthik & **Adam Liter**. “Generalising from ambiguous data.” *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*, Washington, DC.
- 2015 **Liter, Adam**, Tess Huelskamp, Susima Weerakoon & Alan Munn. “What drives the Maratsos Effect, agentivity or eventivity?” *Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- Durvasula, Karthik & **Adam Liter**. “Learning generalisations in the face of ambiguous data.” *Annual Meeting on Phonology (AMP)*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.

CONFERENCE TALKS

- 2014 **Liter, Adam**. “Toward an explanatory account of appositives.” *Graduate Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies (GWAMP)*, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- LING 419E – “Investigating Linguistic Competence: Theory and Methods”** Fall 2020
Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- [Syllabus](#)
 - Designed & taught advanced undergraduate seminar with 8 students
 - Adapted format for online teaching due to COVID-19 pandemic
 - Graded & held office hours

TA

- LING 312 – “Syntax II”** Spring 2021
Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- Co-taught course (\approx 15 students) with Juan Uriagereka
 - Graded & held office hours

LING 311 – “Syntax I”

Spring 2020

Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Graded & held office hours
- Helped with transition to online teaching due to COVID-19 pandemic

LING 200 – “Introductory Linguistics”

Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Taught 1 discussion section (\approx 30 students)
- Graded & held office hours

IAH 204 – “Asia and the World”

Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Department of Linguistics and Languages, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Taught 3 discussion sections (\approx 20 students each)
- Graded & held office hours

TUTORING

Departmentwide Undergraduate Tutor

Fall 2013, Spring 2014

Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Tutored peers in all undergraduate philosophy courses weekly

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

SPRING 2020

- Katie Kincaid
 - *Passives are known by everyone (even four-year olds)*
 - Poster presented at [UMD’s Undergraduate Research Day](#)

FALL 2018

- Bekki Kline
 - *Acquisition of the English Passive*
 - Poster presented at [UMD Acquisition Lab poster session](#)

SUMMER 2018

- Rosetta Previti
 - *What factors make passives easier for children to understand?*
 - Poster presented at [Language Science Day 2018](#)

2015 – 2016

- Tess Huelskamp
 - *Reassessing the Verbal Distinction of the Maratsos Effect*
 - Poster presented at [GLEEFUL](#) & [UURAF](#); talk given at [MSULC](#)
- Julia Andary, Robert Felster, & Natalie Chemey

- *It is either high or low: Investigating children's and adult's understanding of 'or'*
- Poster presented at [UURAF](#) & [MSULC](#)
- Rachel Stacey & Adam Smolinski
 - *C-or-pus: How children learn the properties of 'either/or'*
 - Poster presented at [UURAF](#) & [MSULC](#)

2014 – 2015

- Tess Huelskamp, Susima Weerakoon, & Adam Smolinski
 - *Seeking perfection in death*
 - Poster presented at [UURAF](#), [MSULC](#), & [GLEEFUL](#)
- Tess Huelskamp, Susima Weerakoon, & Taylor Sydow
 - *What underlies the Maratsos Effect, agentivity or eventivity?*
 - Poster presented at [UURAF](#), [MSULC](#), & [GLEEFUL](#)

2013 – 2014

- Tess Huelskamp & Emily Glaser
 - *An Artificial Language Investigation of Number & Number Neutrality*
 - Poster presented at [UURAF](#) & [MSULC](#)
- Adam Greene & Kevin Kain
 - *Accounting for Comprehension Asymmetries in Children's Acquisition of the Passive*
 - Poster presented at [UURAF](#) & [MSULC](#)

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

SERVICE

COSIAC Committee Member	07/2015 – present
<i>Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC</i>	
Organizing Committee Member	2019 –
<i>Mayfest 2020 – 2020 Hindsight, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Organizing Committee Member	05/2019
<i>Mayfest 2019 – WSCLA, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Co-Chair	02/2019
<i>ECO-5, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Organizing Committee Member	05/2018
<i>Mayfest 2018, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Organizing Committee Member	09/2016
<i>MidPhon 21, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
President	08/2012 – 05/2014
<i>qUALMS, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	

Chair ('13 & '14), Vice Chair ('11 & '12) <i>GLEEFUL</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	04/2011, 04/2012, 04/2013, 04/2014
Vice Chair ('13 & '14), Chair ('11 & '12) <i>MSULC</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	04/2011, 04/2012, 04/2013, 04/2014

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

<i>Language Acquisition</i>	2020
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CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWER

<i>GLEEFUL</i>	2015, 2016, 2017
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EDITORIAL BOARD

Assistant Editorial Board Member <i>Stance</i> , Ball State University, Muncie, IN	2012 – 2014
Student Editorial Board Member <i>ReCUR</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member <i>Linguistic Society of America</i>	2012 – present
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SKILLS

LANGUAGES

Native English (specifically, *North-Central American English*)

Intermediate German, French

Beginner Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese

COMPUTING

Advanced \LaTeX , R (including knitr, Shiny), Linux, git, Docker, HTML, Jekyll

Intermediate Python (including NumPy, pandas), nginx, CSS, PsychoPy, E-Prime, psiTurk

Beginner JavaScript, CLAN, Praat, CorpusSearch, Django