

Adam Liter

Department of Linguistics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Linguistics 08/2017 – 05/2022
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Thesis: Explorations in Diagnosing Competence and Performance Factors in Linguistic Inquiry
Advised by: [Jeff Lidz](#) (Co-chair), [Norbert Hornstein](#) (Co-chair), Yi Ting Huang, [Howard Lasnik](#), [Colin Phillips](#), and [Omer Preminger](#)

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

Machine Learning Scientist 01/2022 – present
[Glassdoor](#)

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
<i>National Science Foundation,</i>	
Fellow, NSF-NRT Training Program (NSF: #1449815)	09/2018 – 05/2020
<i>University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant	01/2020
<i>University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
Outstanding Scholars Program Fellowship (declined)	04/2017
<i>University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut</i>	
Teaching Assistantship	08/2015 – 05/2016
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
Research Assistantship	08/2014 – 05/2015
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
Board of Trustees' Award	05/2014
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
University Distinguished Scholarship	08/2010 – 05/2014
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
National Merit Scholar	08/2010 – 05/2014
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee	10/2013 – 05/2014
<i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
2013 Linguistic Institute Fellowship	06/2013 – 07/2013
<i>Linguistic Society of America, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i>	
Genevieve Gillette Fellowship	05/2013 – 08/2013
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee	10/2012 – 05/2013
<i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
Professorial Assistantship	08/2010 – 05/2012
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	

HONORS

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

PRESENTATION AWARDS

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

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNALS

- in press **Liter, Adam**, Elaine Grolla & Jeffrey Lidz. Cognitive inhibition explains children's production of medial wh-phrases. *Language Acquisition*. DOI: [10.1080/10489223.2021.2023813](https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2021.2023813).
- 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: Cascadilla 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 <i>Linguistic Society of America, Washington, DC</i>	07/2015 – present
Organizing Committee Member <i>Mayfest 2020 – 2020 Hindsight, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	2019 –
Organizing Committee Member <i>Mayfest 2019 – WSCLA, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	05/2019
Co-Chair <i>ECO-5, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	02/2019
Organizing Committee Member <i>Mayfest 2018, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	05/2018

Organizing Committee Member	09/2016
<i>MidPhon 21</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	
President	08/2012 – 05/2014
<i>qUALMS</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	
Chair ('13 & '14), Vice Chair ('11 & '12)	04/2011, 04/2012, 04/2013, 04/2014
<i>GLEEFUL</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	
Vice Chair ('13 & '14), Chair ('11 & '12)	04/2011, 04/2012, 04/2013, 04/2014
<i>MSULC</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

SKILLS

LANGUAGES

Native English (specifically, [North-Central American English](#))

Intermediate German, French

Beginner Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese

COMPUTING

Advanced \LaTeX , Python (including NumPy, pandas, Scikit-Learn, PyTorch, PySpark, spaCy, NLTK, Gensim), R, Linux, git, Docker, HTML

Intermediate nginx, CSS, PsychoPy, E-Prime, psiTurk

Beginner JavaScript, CLAN, Praat, CorpusSearch