

*Adam Liter*

Department of Linguistics  
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## EDUCATION

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**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

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**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

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### FUNDED AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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

<b>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant</b> (NSF #2116270; \$18,539)	08/2021 – 07/2023
<i>National Science Foundation,</i>	
<b>Fellow, NSF-NRT Training Program</b> (NSF: #1449815)	09/2018 – 05/2020
<i>University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
<b>Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant</b>	01/2020
<i>University of Maryland, College Park, MD</i>	
<b>Outstanding Scholars Program Fellowship</b> (declined)	04/2017
<i>University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut</i>	
<b>Teaching Assistantship</b>	08/2015 – 05/2016
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>Research Assistantship</b>	08/2014 – 05/2015
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>Board of Trustees' Award</b>	05/2014
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>University Distinguished Scholarship</b>	08/2010 – 05/2014
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>National Merit Scholar</b>	08/2010 – 05/2014
<i>Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee</b>	10/2013 – 05/2014
<i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>2013 Linguistic Institute Fellowship</b>	06/2013 – 07/2013
<i>Linguistic Society of America, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</i>	
<b>Genevieve Gillette Fellowship</b>	05/2013 – 08/2013
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>Undergraduate Research Initiative – Grantee</b>	10/2012 – 05/2013
<i>College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	
<b>Professorial Assistantship</b>	08/2010 – 05/2012
<i>Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</i>	

## HONORS

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

## PRESENTATION AWARDS

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### REFEREED JOURNALS

- 2022 **Liter, Adam**, Elaine Grolla & Jeffrey Lidz. Cognitive inhibition explains children's production of medial wh-phrases. *Language Acquisition* 29(3). 327–359. 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: 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### SERVICE

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

<b>President</b>	08/2012 – 05/2014
<i>qUALMS</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	
<b>Chair ('13 &amp; '14), Vice Chair ('11 &amp; '12)</b>	04/2011, 04/2012, 04/2013, 04/2014
<i>GLEEFUL</i> , Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	
<b>Vice Chair ('13 &amp; '14), Chair ('11 &amp; '12)</b>	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

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

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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

## SKILLS

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### LANGUAGES

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

**Intermediate** German, French

**Beginner** Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese

### COMPUTING

**Advanced**  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , 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