

# Allyson Ettinger

Assistant Professor  
Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago

## Contact

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## Appointments

2019–present    Assistant Professor, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Chicago  
2018–2019      Research Assistant Professor, Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago

## Education

### University of Maryland, College Park

PhD - Linguistics, 2013–2018

With Certificate in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science

Advisors: Philip Resnik, Colin Phillips

Focus: *Development and evaluation of sentence composition models for NLP; computational modeling of sentence comprehension in human brain*

### Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies, Nanjing China

Graduate Certificate in Chinese and American Studies, June 2011

### Brandeis University

BA, Summa Cum Laude, May 2010

Double Major in Linguistics and Psychology, with Highest Honors in Linguistics

Cumulative GPA 4.0/4.0

## Publications

- 2018    **Ettinger, A.**, Elgohary, A., Phillips, C., & Resnik, P. Assessing Composition in Sentence Vector Representations. *Proceedings of the 27th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*.

- 2017 **Ettinger, A.**, Rao, S., Daumé III, H., & Bender, E. M. Towards Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems: A Workshop and Shared Task. *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Building Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems*.
- 2016 **Ettinger, A.**, Elgohary, A., & Resnik, P. Probing for semantic evidence of composition by means of simple classification tasks. *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP, ACL 2016*. **Recipient of Best Proposal Award.**
- 2016 **Ettinger, A.**, Resnik, P., & Carpuat, M. Retrofitting sense-specific word vectors using parallel text. *Proceedings of NAACL-HLT 2016*.
- 2016 **Ettinger, A.**, Feldman, N.H., Resnik, P., & Phillips, C. Modeling N400 amplitude using vector space models of word representation. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2016 **Ettinger, A.** & Linzen, T. Evaluating vector space models using human semantic priming results. *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP, ACL 2016*.
- 2015 Rao, S., **Ettinger, A.**, Daumé III, H., & Resnik, P. (2015). Dialogue focus tracking for zero pronoun resolution. *Proceedings of NAACL-HLT 2015*, 495-503.
- 2014 **Ettinger, A.**, Linzen, T., & Marantz, A. The role of morphology in phoneme prediction: Evidence from MEG. *Brain and Language* 129, 14-23.
- 2015 **Ettinger, A.** & Malamud, S. Mandarin utterance-final particle ba in the conversational scoreboard. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 2014*.

## Presentations

- 2017 *Building and evaluating meaning representations for NLP*. Invited talk at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan.
- 2017 *Drawing cognitive insights from NLP: Assessing the usefulness of engineering models in modeling human language processing*. Invited talk at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan.
- 2013 *Mandarin utterance-final particle ba in the conversational scoreboard*. [with Sophia Malamud]. Presented at 19th International Congress of Linguists, Geneva, Switzerland, and Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2012 *Mandarin utterance-final particle ba and conversational goals*. [with Sophia Malamud]. Presented at NYU Semantics Discussion Group Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2010 *Linguistic construction of gender and generations in Hmong-American communities*. [with Mai Youa Moua, James Stanford]. Presented at Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

## Teaching Experience

- **LING449R** *Meaning in Language: Brains and Machines*
  - Conceived and designed course from scratch, teaching a class of 16 undergraduates from computer science and linguistics

- **CMSC289J/LING499J** *Computational Approaches in Language Science*
  - Teaching assistant, with design and instructional responsibilities for a five-class segment on meaning and vector space models
- **LING240** *Language and Mind*
  - Teaching assistant

## Service

- **Organizer**, Workshop on Building Linguistically Generalizable NLP Systems, EMNLP 2017
- **Organizer**, Student Research Workshop, ACL 2017
- **Chair**, Research Training Committee, UMD Language Science Center (2016-2017)
- **Chair**, Annual Winter Storm graduate training workshop, UMD Language Science Center (2014-2016)

## Reviewing

- EMNLP, ICLR, ICML, NAACL
- Workshop on Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP
- Society for Computation in Linguistics
- European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics
- Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP

## Mentorship

- Mentored undergraduate research assistant (Fall 2016 - Spring 2017)
- Mentored high school lab intern (NYU, 2012)

## Natural Languages

- **English**: native
- **Mandarin Chinese**: fluent
- **Spanish**: proficient
- **French, German, Modern Standard Arabic**: reading and communicative knowledge

## Selected Work Experience

- 2011-2013 **Lab Manager/Research Assistant**, KIT/NYU MEG Research Lab, New York NY.
- 2009-2010 **Researcher**, Dartmouth Linguistics and Cognitive Science Program, Hanover NH/Boston MA.
- 2008-2010 **Annotation Judge/Annotator**, Brandeis Computer Science Department, Waltham MA.

## Honors and Awards

- Best Proposal Award, Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP, ACL 2016
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship recipient, 2014
- Member Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society, Brandeis University Chapter
- Justice Louis D. Brandeis full-tuition scholarship, Brandeis University, 2006-2010
- National Presidential Scholar, U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, 2006