Allyson Ettinger

Assistant Professor
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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: Colin Phillips, Philip Resnik
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

2019   *Challenges in NLP evaluation (and how linguists can help).* Invited panel talk, Society for Computation in Linguistics Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

2019   *Vector space models.* Invited tutorial, Society for Computation in Linguistics Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

2018   *Bridging language research in humans and machines: toward a productive symbiosis.* Invited talk, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

2018   *Opening the black box: leveraging insights from linguistics and cognitive neuroscience to assess the linguistic capacities of NLP systems.* Invited presentation, University of Chicago Department of Linguistics, Chicago, IL.

2018   *Bridging language research in humans and machines: toward a productive symbiosis.* Invited talk, University of Chicago Department of Linguistics, Chicago, IL.

2018   *Bridging NLP and brain science to improve natural language understanding.* Invited talk, Toyota Technological Institute, Chicago, IL.

2017   *Building and evaluating meaning representations for NLP.* Invited talk, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan.

2017   *Drawing cognitive insights from NLP: Assessing the usefulness of engineering models in modeling human language processing.* Invited talk, Tohoku University, 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.

Service

- **Program committee chair**, Society for Computation in Linguistics 2020

- **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

- ACL, EMNLP, ICLR, ICML, NAACL, NeurIPS, EACL, COLING

- Workshop on Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP (BlackBoxNLP)

- Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL)

- Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP (RepEval)

- *Computational Linguistics* (journal)

Natural Languages

- **English**: native

- **Mandarin Chinese**: fluent

- **Spanish**: proficient

- **French, German, Modern Standard Arabic**: reading / communicative knowledge

Honors and Awards

- Best Proposal Award, Workshop on Evaluating Vector Space Representations for NLP, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) Annual Meeting 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

Teaching

- **LING449R** *Meaning in Language: Brains and Machines*

  - Interdisciplinary seminar course for advanced undergraduate students from computer science and linguistics (University of Maryland)

- **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 (University of Maryland)

- **LING240** *Language and Mind*

  - Teaching assistant (University of Maryland)

Prior 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.