

Allyson Ettinger

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Contact

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Appointments

2019–present Assistant Professor, Dept. of Linguistics, The 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

Dissertation: *Relating lexical and syntactic processes in language: Bridging research in humans and machines.*

Brandeis University

BA, Linguistics/Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, May 2010

Publications

- 2020 **Ettinger, A.** What BERT is not: Lessons from a new suite of psycholinguistic diagnostics for language models. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*.
- 2020 Klafka, J., & **Ettinger, A.** Spying on your neighbors: Fine-grained probing of contextual embeddings for information about surrounding words. *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*.
- 2020 Toshniwal, S., **Ettinger, A.**, Gimpel, K., Livescu, K. PeTra: A Sparsely Supervised Memory Model for People Tracking. *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*.
- 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*.

Grants

- 2019–present NSF EAGER grant: *World Modeling for Natural Language Understanding*.
(with Kevin Gimpel, Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago)
- 2014–2017 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Presentations

- 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19) “*Understanding*” and prediction in language: perspectives from AI and human cognition. Invited talk: University of California, Irvine Summer School on Computational Cognitive Modeling for Language, Irvine, CA.
- 2020 “*Understanding*” and prediction in language: perspectives from AI and human cognition. Invited talk, Northwestern University Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series, Evanston, IL.
- 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19) “*Understanding*” and prediction in language: perspectives from AI and human cognition. Invited talk: Georgia Institute of Technology Workshop on Language, Technology, and Society, Atlanta, GA.
- 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19) “*Understanding*” and prediction in language: perspectives from AI and human cognition. Invited talk: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2019 *NLP representations from a perspective of human cognition*. Invited talk, Johns Hopkins University Center for Language and Speech Processing Lecture Series, Baltimore, MD.

- 2019 Invited panelist, *A linguist, an NLP engineer, and a psycholinguist walk into a bar?*, interdisciplinary panel at RepEval Workshop, Minneapolis, MN.
- 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
- **Area chair**, Association for Computational Linguistics Annual Meeting, 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)
- *Cognitive Science* (journal)
- *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics* (journal)
- *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

- **Computational Linguistics I**
 - Interdisciplinary, mixed undergraduate/graduate level course in computational cognitive modeling and natural language processing (cross-listed in linguistics and computer science)
- **Computational Linguistics II**

- Advanced continuation of Computational Linguistics I
- **Seminar in Computational Linguistics**
 - Graduate seminar course focusing examining approaches to meaning in computational linguistics—particularly efforts to capture meaning and “understanding” in artificial intelligence
- **Meaning in Language: Brains and Machines**
 - Interdisciplinary seminar course for advanced undergraduate students from computer science and linguistics (University of Maryland)