

# Alexis Wellwood

---

Department of Linguistics  
2016 Sheridan Road  
Evanston IL, USA, 60208

wellwood@northwestern.edu  
847-491-5779 (tel)  
faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/wellwood

## Employment

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Northwestern University, Evanston IL Sep 2015-  
College Fellow, Northwestern University, Evanston IL Sep 2014-Aug 2015

## Education

PhD, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park MD Aug 2014  
Dissertation advisor: Valentine Hacquard  
Dissertation title: *Measuring Predicates*  
North American Summer School for Logic, Language & Information, Austin, TX Jun 2012  
North American Summer School for Logic, Language & Information, Bloomington, IN Jun 2010  
Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) school, Poznań, Poland Jul 2009  
B.A. Honours Linguistics (with Great Distinction), Concordia University, Montréal, QC 2006-2008  
Thesis advisor: Daniela Isac  
Thesis title: *To move or not to move: that is the Question*  
Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG) school, Brno, Czech Republic Jul 2007

## Publications

### Refereed journals

Hunter, T., J. Halberda, J. Lidz, D. Odic, A. **Wellwood**. (submitted). On how verification tasks are related to verification procedures: A reply to Kotek et al.

Dunbar,\* E., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (under review). Addressing the ‘two interface’ problem: Comparatives and superlatives.

Larson,\* B., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (under review). Constituency, implicit arguments, and scope in the syntax-semantics of degree constructions.

**Wellwood**, A., A. Gagliardi, and J. Lidz. (to appear). Syntactic and lexical inference in the acquisition of novel superlatives. *Language Learning & Development*.

**Wellwood**, A. (2015). On the semantics of comparison across categories. *Linguistics & Philosophy*, 38(1), 67-101. doi: 10.1007/s10988-015-9165-0

Vogel,\* C., A. **Wellwood**,\* R. Dudley, and B. Ritchie. (2014). Talking about Causing Events. *Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic, and Communication*: Vol. 9. doi: 10.4148/1944-3676.1092

**Wellwood**, A., V. Hacquard, and R. Pancheva. (2012). Measuring and comparing individuals and events. *Journal of Semantics*, 29(2), 207-228. doi: 10.1093/jos/ffr006

Hacquard,\* V. and A. **Wellwood**.\* (2012). Embedding epistemic modals in English: A corpus-based study. *Semantics & Pragmatics*, 5(4), 1-29. doi: 10.3765/sp.5.4

\* These authors contributed equally.

## Conference proceedings

**Wellwood**, A., A. X. He, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. (submitted). Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates. Volume 21.1 of *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics, Proceedings of PLC 38*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania.

**Wellwood**, A. (2012). Back to basics: *more* is always *much-er*. In E. Chemla, V. Homer, & G. Winterstein (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 17* (pp. 599-616). Paris, France: Ecole Normale Supérieure.

**Wellwood**, A., D. Odic, J. Halberda, T. Hunter, P. Pietroski, and J. Lidz. (To appear). Meaning *more* or *most*: evidence from 3-and-a-half year-olds. *Proceedings of the Chicago Linguistic Society annual meeting 2012*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

**Wellwood**, A., D. Odic, J. Halberda and J. Lidz. (2012). Choosing quantity over quality: syntax guides interpretive preferences for novel superlatives. In N. Miyake, D. Peebles, & R.P. Cooper (eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (pp. 1126-1130). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Gagnon,\* M., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (2011). Distributivity and modality: where *each* may go, *every* can't follow. In N. Ashton, A. Chereches, & D. Lutz (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 21* (pp. 39-55). Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.

Hunter, T., J. Lidz, A. **Wellwood**, A. Conroy. (2010). Restrictions on the meanings of determiners: Typological generalisations and learnability. In E. Cormany, S. Ito, & D. Lutz (eds.) *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 19* (pp. 223-238). Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.

Gagnon,\* M., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (2010). The topology of distributivity and epistemic containment phenomena. In M. Heijl (ed.), *Proceedings of the Canadian Linguistics Association Annual Conference* (pp. 1-13). Montréal, Canada: Concordia University.

Gagnon,\* M., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (To appear). The syntax of *wh*- and polar questions in Marshallese. *Proceedings of the 15th meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association 2009*. Sydney, Australia: University of Sydney.

Gagnon,\* M., and A. **Wellwood**.\* (2008). Interrogative Structures in Marshallese. In S. Jones (ed.), *Proceedings of the Canadian Linguistics Association Annual Conference* (pp.1-12). Vancouver, Canada: University of British Columbia.

\* These authors contributed equally.

## In preparation

**Wellwood**, A., R. Pancheva, V. Hacquard, and C. Phillips. "The anatomy of a comparative illusion." Examines criterial properties of 'Escher sentence' illusions.

He, A.X., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. "Representing entities as event participants in infancy." Investigates the psychological status of a "third man" in different types of scenes.

**Wellwood,\* A., D. Odic,\* et al.** “*(the) most* at the interface.” Addresses how vision is recruited during the understanding of *most* versus *the most*.

**Wellwood, A., and P. Pietroski.** “The human lexicon.” Discusses the role of lexical capacity in explaining human cognitive uniqueness.

**Wellwood, A.** “Categorical comparisons in English.” Considers the syntax-semantics of comparatives in light of pragmatics-based scales comparison, and the relation to ‘metalinguistic’ comparisons.

## Presentations

### Invited

**Wellwood, A.** TBD. Michigan State University linguistics colloquium. Upcoming: March 2016.

**Wellwood, A.** TBD. Indiana University Linguistics Consortium Colloquium Series: Semantics. Upcoming: September 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Finding meaning in formal semantics.” University of Utah colloquium. April 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Measurement in grammar.” University of Chicago colloquium. April 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Sources of evidence in semantics.” Linguistics colloquium, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada. March 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Comparing across categories.” Semantics colloquium, McGill University. March 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Measurement, abstraction, and natural language ontology”. Philosophy & Linguistics Group (PhLing) seminar, Northwestern University. January 2015.

**Wellwood, A.** “Comparatives, neodavidsonian.” Brown Bag lunch, Stony Brook University. April 2014.

**Wellwood, A.** “With meaning in mind: tests at the interfaces.” Linguistics colloquium, Northwestern University. February 2014.

**Wellwood, A.** “With meaning in mind: tests at the interfaces.” Cognition & Language workshop, the Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University. February 2014.

**Wellwood, A.** “What ‘meaning’ can (and probably should) mean.” Semantics Circle, Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin, Germany. December 2013.

**Wellwood, A.** “What ‘meaning’ can (and probably should) mean.” Emerging Ideas seminar, Institut Jean Nicod, Paris, France. December 2013.

**Wellwood, A.** “A new semantics for measurement.” Linguistics Lunch at Queen Mary University of London. December 2013.

**Wellwood, A.** “A matter of degrees: Composing cross-categorical comparatives.” Much ado about *much*: The semantics and pragmatics of quantity expressions workshop, Universität Konstanz, Germany. October 2012.

**Wellwood, A.** “The comparative similarity of NP and VP.” Concordia University colloquium. February 2011.

### Conference - oral presentation

Larson, B. and A. **Wellwood**. “A long-distance morphosyntax and semantics for comparative clauses.” West Coast Conference for Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 33, Simon Fraser University. March 2015.

He, A.X., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. “When participant structure and argument structure do not match: participant structure construction in adults and prelinguistic infants.” The role of grammar and extralinguistic cognition in verb learning workshop, International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. July 2014.

**Wellwood, A.**, A.X. He, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. “Participant structure in event perception: Towards the acquisition of implicitly 3-place predicates.” The 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC), University of Pennsylvania. March 2014.

**Wellwood, A.**, C. Vogel, R. Dudley, and J. B. Ritchie. “Talking about causing events”. The 9th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication: Perception and Concepts, University of Riga, Latvia. May 2013.

Gagliardi, A., A. **Wellwood**, and J. Lidz. “With no help from syntax: Four models of meaning choice for novel adjectives.” North East Linguistic Society (NELS) 43, CUNY, New York. October 2012.

**Wellwood, A.** “Back to basics: *more* is always *much-er*.” Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 17, École Normale Supérieure, Paris. September 2012.

**Wellwood, A.**, D. Odic, J. Halberda and J. Lidz. “Choosing quantity over quality: syntax guides interpretive preferences for novel superlatives.” Cognitive Science Society (CSS) annual meeting, Sapporo, Japan. August 2012.

**Wellwood, A.**, and D. Odic, J. Halberda, T. Hunter, P. Pietroski, J. Lidz. “Meaning *more* or *most*: evidence from 3-and-a-half year-olds.” Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS) annual meeting, University of Chicago. April 2012.

Chacón, D., and A. **Wellwood**. “A superlative puzzle for Bošković’s NP/DP parameter.” Languages with and without articles (LWWA), Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris. March 2012.

**Wellwood, A.**, J. Halberda, P. Pietroski, J. Lidz. “When to quantify: syntactic cues in the acquisition of novel superlatives.” Linguistic Society of America (LSA) annual meeting, Portland. January 2012.

Gagnon, M., A. **Wellwood**. “The topology of distributivity and epistemic containment phenomena.” Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA) annual meeting, Concordia University. May 2010.

**Wellwood, A.**, V. Hacquard, and R. Pancheva. “The measure and comparison of events.” 33rd Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), University of Wrocław. April 2010.

**Wellwood, A.** “The uniformity of nominal and verbal comparatives.” The 1st Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Pennsylvania. April 2010.

**Wellwood**, A. "Telicity, aspect, and comparison." East Coast 5 (ECO5), Harvard University. March 2010.

Gagnon, M., and A. **Wellwood**. "Localizing the Marshallese question particle *ke*." 15th annual meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association (AFLA), University of Sydney. June 2008.

Gagnon, M., and A. **Wellwood**. "Interrogative Structures in Marshallese." Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA) annual conference, University of British Columbia. May 2008.

**Wellwood**, A. "To move or not to move: that is the Question." 6th Annual Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium, Harvard University. April 2008.

Gagnon, M., C. Reiss, L. Stockall, and A. **Wellwood**. "Categorical skepticism concerning gradience in Hungarian harmonic and disharmonic root vowels." 31st Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) Colloquium, Newcastle University. March 2008.

### Conference - poster presentation

He, A. X., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. "Verb learning and the perception of three-participant events in infants and adults." International Conference on Infant Studies, Berlin, Germany. July 2014.

**Wellwood**, A. "Decomposing gradable adjectives and introducing degrees." Linguistic Society of America (LSA) annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN. January 2014.

He, A. X., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. "Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping." Linguistic Society of America (LSA) annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN. January 2014.

He, A. X., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz, and A. Williams. "Assessing event perception in adults and prelinguistic children: A prelude to syntactic bootstrapping." 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University, Boston, MA. November 2013.

**Wellwood**, A. "Grading attitudes." UMD Philosophy and Linguistics Internal Colloquium (PHLINT) 1. April 2013.

**Wellwood**, A. "How much plurals count." The 3rd Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (MACSIM). April 2013.

Odic, D, A. **Wellwood**, P. Pietroski, J. Lidz, T. Hunter, J. Halberda. "How word meanings interface with cognition: a case-study of children's acquisition of 'most'." Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) biennial meeting, Seattle, WA. April 2013.

Gagliardi, A., A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz. "Modeling meaning choice for novel adjectives using Bayesian learning." Linguistic Society of America (LSA) annual meeting, Boston, MA. January 2013.

Halberda, J., P. Pietroski, T. Hunter, D. Odic, A. **Wellwood**, J. Lidz. "*More & most*: spatial vision affects word understanding on an iPad." Vision Science Society (VSS) annual meeting, Naples, Florida. May 2012.

**Wellwood**, A., C. Vogel, J. B. Ritchie, R. Dudley, and E. Bennett. "Events and their causes: a transparency issue." The 2nd Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Maryland. February 2012.

Gagnon, M., and A. **Wellwood**. “Distributivity and modality: where *each* may go, *every* can’t follow.” Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 21, Rutgers University. May 2011.

Gagnon, M., and A. **Wellwood**. “Epistemic containment and the distribution of quantifiers.” The 1st Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Pennsylvania. April 2010.

Hunter, T., J. Lidz, A. **Wellwood**, and A. Conroy. “Restrictions on the meanings of determiners: typological generalisations and learnability.” Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 19, Ohio State University. April 2009.

**Wellwood**, A., R. Pancheva, V. Hacquard, S. Fults, C. Phillips. “The role of event comparison in comparative illusions.” CUNY Human Sentence Processing 2009, University of California, Davis. March 2009.

## Fellowships, Awards & Scholarships

### Fellowships & Grants

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Award, \$20,000 each year	2010-2012
UMD Language Science fellowship, \$5,000 each year	2010-2011
Baggett fellowship, UMD Department of Linguistics, \$29,500	2009

### Awards

UMD College of Arts & Humanities Graduate Student Service Award	2013
Jacob K. Goldhaber travel grant	2013
NASSLLI scholarship	2012
Jacob K. Goldhaber travel grant	2012
UMD Graduate School international travel award	2012
UMD Arts and Humanities Faculty travel award	2012

### Scholarships & Bursaries

Concordia Arts & Science Faculty Scholar - top 1% of Arts & Science	2008
Concordia Student Union Bursary Award	2008
Canada Millenium Bursary	2006-2008
Canada Millenium Fund Excellency Scholarship	2007
Concordia University Alumni Bursary	2006

## Other professional experience

Research fellow, directed by V. Hacquard, J. Lidz, C. Phillips, UMD	2008-2009
Research assistant, directed by C. Reiss, Concordia	2008
Research assistant, directed by D. Isac, Concordia	2007-2008
Research assistant, R. de Almeida’s Cognition and Psycholinguistics lab, Concordia	2007-2008

## Teaching

### Instructor of record

LING 270: Meaning, NU	upcoming: Spring 2016
LING 370: Fundamentals of Meaning, NU	upcoming: Fall 2015
LING 311: Child Language, NU	upcoming: Fall 2015
LING 472: Semantics seminar (Events), NU	Spring 2015
LING 399: Independent study (Negation), NU	Winter 2015
LING 370: Fundamentals of Meaning, NU	Fall 2014
LING 419: Advanced undergraduate seminar (Degree semantics), UMD	Spring 2013

### Guest lecturer

LING 5190/6190/7190: Psycholinguistics, Prof. S. Barrios, University of Utah	Spring 2015
CogSci 366: Proseminar, Prof. B. Pajak, NU	Spring 2015
LING 316: Experimental Syntax, Prof. M. Yoshida, NU	Fall 2014
PHIL 808: Logical Form, Prof. P. Pietroski, UMD	Spring 2014

### TA

LING 200: Introduction to Linguistics, Prof. M. Antonisse, UMD	Fall 2012
LING 410: Semantics, Prof. A. Williams, UMD	Fall 2010
LING 315: Syntactic Theory, Prof. D. Isac, Concordia	Fall 2007

## Advising

### Dissertation committee member

Daniel Skibra, NU Philosophy	2015-Present
David Potter, NU Linguistics	2014-Present
Robert Alex Schumacher, NU Linguistics	2014-Present
Samantha Heidenreich, NU Linguistics	2014-Present

### Qualifying paper reader

Kathleen Hall, NU Linguistics	2015
Nayoun Kim, NU Linguistics	2014-2015

### Undergraduate research grant supervision

Rebecca Way, WCAS Summer Research Grant, NU	Summer 2015
Naomi Stevenson, WCAS Summer Research Grant, NU	Summer 2015

### Undergraduate research mentoring

Summer undergraduate research proposal writing × 2, NU	Spring 2015
RA for comparatives and ERPs, PI: C. Phillips, UMD	Spring 2012
RA for acquisition of quantification, PI: J. Lidz, UMD	Fall 2011

RA for comparatives and ERPs, PI: C. Phillips, UMD	Summer 2011
RA for acquisition of quantification × 2, PI: J. Lidz, UMD	Spring/Summer 2011
RA for acquisition of quantification, PI: J. Lidz, UMD	Fall 2010
RA for comparatives and ERPs, PI: C. Phillips, UMD	Spring 2010
RA for corpus study of modality, PI: V. Hacquard, UMD	Summer 2009

## Peer review and related activity

### Program committee

Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG), member, UChicago & NU	2015
Philosophy and Linguistics Colloquium (PHLINC) 1, “Events”, chair, UMD	2012
Mayfest, “Bridging typology and acquisition,” member, UMD	2010
Mayfest, “Moving beyond truth conditions,” member, UMD	2009
NAPhC 5 conference, “Phonology as symbolic computation,” member, Concordia	2008

### Reviewer

North Eastern Linguistic Society annual meeting (NELS)	2015
Cognitive Science Society annual meeting (CSS)	2015
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)	2015
EuroAsianPacific Conference on Cognitive Science (EAPCogSci)	2015
<i>Natural Language and Linguistic Theory</i>	2015
Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)	2015
<i>Journal of Logic, Language and Information</i>	2014
<i>Language Acquisition</i>	2014, 2015
<i>Linguistics &amp; Philosophy</i>	2013, 2014
European Summer School for Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI)	2013
<i>Lingua</i>	2013, 2015
<i>Language Learning and Development</i>	2012
Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL)	2011
<i>Language and Cognitive Processes</i>	2011

## Professional affiliation and service

### Memberships

Cognitive Science Society (CSS)	2012-Present
Linguistic Society of America (LSA)	2009-Present
Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA)	2008-Present

### External committees

Committee on Scholarly Communication in Linguistics (COSCIL), member, LSA	2015-2017
---	-----------



**Internal committees**

Cognitive Science Program Committee, member, NU	2015-Present
Linguistics Colloquium Committee, chair, NU	2015-Present
College of Arts & Humanities Service Award Committee, member, UMD	2014
Linguistics department colloquium committee, member, UMD	2011-2012
Mid-Atlantic Colloquium for Studies in Meaning (MACSIM) 2, member, UMD	2012
Outreach committee, member, UMD	2011-2012
Inaugural Language Science Day committee, member, UMD	2010

**Lead organizer**

Founder, Philosophy and Linguistics Group (PHLING), UMD	2010-2012
Inaugural Neuro-, Cognitive, and Language Sciences presence at Maryland Day, UMD	2012

**Internal associations**

President, Philosophy and Linguistics Student Association, UMD	2010-2012
Founder, Philosophy and Linguistics Student Association, UMD	2010-2011
Academics Representative, Linguistics Student Association, Concordia	2007-2008

*Updated: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015*