

# Aniello De Santo

## Curriculum vitae et studiorum

Department of Linguistics  
University Of Utah  
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📄 [aniellodesanto.github.io](https://aniellodesanto.github.io)

### Academic Affiliation

July 2020 - Present **Assistant Professor** Department of Linguistics, University of Utah

### Education

- 2015 - 2020 **Ph.D.** Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook University.  
Dissertation "*Structure and Memory: A Computational Model of Storage, Gradiance, and Priming*"
- 2017 - 2020 **Affiliated Student** Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS), Stony Brook University
- 2011-2013 **Master's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering** Università degli Studi di Pavia, Curriculum in Theory and Control of Dynamic Systems  
Thesis "*Unexplained User Behaviours in Online Social Networks*"
- 2007-2011 **Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering** Università degli Studi di Pavia  
Thesis "*Individualization of models for the automatic control of glycemia in Type I Diabetes*"

### Journal Articles

- 2020 **A. De Santo** and J. Rawski. (2020) *What can formal language theory do for animal cognition studies?* Royal Society Open Science. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.191772>
- 2018 **A. De Santo**. (2018) *Commentary: Developmental Constraints on Learning Artificial Grammars with Fixed, Flexible, and Free Word Order*. Front. Psychol. 9:276. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00276.
- F. Amato, A. Castiglione, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, A. Picariello, F. Persia, G. Sperli. (2018) *Recognizing human behaviours in online social networks*, Computers & Security, ISSN 0167-4048, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cose.2017.06.002>.

### Book Chapters

- 2015 S.K. Chang, L. Greco, **A. De Santo**. *Sentiment detection in social networks using semantic analysis: a tool for sentiment analysis and its application in the cultural heritage realm*. In *Data Management in Pervasive Systems*, Chapter 9. Colace *et al.* Editors, Springer Verlag, Berlin (2015)

F. Amato, L. Greco, F. Persia, S.R. Poccia, **A. De Santo**. *Content-based multimedia retrieval*. In *Data Management in Pervasive Systems*, Chapter 14. Colace *et al.* Editors, Springer Verlag, Berlin (2015)

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## Peer-Reviewed Proceedings Articles

- 2020 **A. De Santo**. *MG Parsing as a Model of Gradient Acceptability in Syntactic Islands*. Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2020.
- 2019 T. Graf and **A. De Santo**. *Sensing Tree Automata as a Model of Syntactic Dependencies*. Proceedings of the 16th Meeting on the Mathematics of Language (MOL) 2019.
- A. De Santo** and T. Graf. *Structure Sensitive Tier Projection: Applications and Formal Properties*. Proceedings of the 24st Conference on Formal Grammar (FG) 2019.
- A. De Santo**. *Testing a Minimalist Grammars Parser on Italian Relative Clause Asymmetries*. Proceedings of Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics Workshop (CMCL) 2019.
- 2016 **A. De Santo**, A. Aksënova and T. Graf. *An Alternate View on Strong Lexicalization in TAG*. Proceedings of the Twelfth International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+) 2016
- T. Graf, A. Aksënova and **A. De Santo**. *A Single Movement Normal Form for Minimalist Grammars*. Proceedings of the 21st Conference on Formal Grammar (FG-2016)
- 2015 F. Colace, M. De Santo, **A. De Santo**, A. Picariello. *Connecting Times: Using Smart Technologies For Enhancing Ancient Downtowns Experience*. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference of Information and Communication Technology (ICoICT 2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, A. Picariello, D. Serpico and G. Sperlí. *A lexicon-grammar based methodology for Ontology population in e-health applications*. Proceedings of the 9-th International Conference on Complex, Intelligent, and Software Intensive Systems (CISIS 2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, F. Gargiulo, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello and S. R. Poccia. *SemTree: an index for supporting semantic retrieval of documents*. Proceedings of the IEEE DESWeb ICDE 2015
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, F. Gargiulo, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello and G. Sperlí. *A novel approach to query expansion based on semantic similarity measures*. Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Data Management Technologies and Applications (DATA 2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, F. Persia, S. R. Poccia and A. Picariello. *Partitioning of ontologies driven by a structure-based approach*. Proceedings of the IEEE 9th International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello, S. R. Poccia, G. Sperlí. *A structure-based approach for ontology partitioning*. Proceedings of SEBD 2015: 184-191

- 2014 F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, F. Persia and A. Picariello. *Detecting unexplained human behaviors in Social Networks*, Proceedings of the IEEE Eight International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC2014)

F. Persia, F. Amato, F. Gargiulo, S. R. Poccia, and **A. De Santo**. *Finding unexplained human behaviors in Social Networks*. Proceedings of the 22nd Italian Symposium on Advanced Database Systems (SEBD2014), Discussion Paper

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## Abstract Reviewed Articles

- 2019 **A. De Santo** and J. E. Drury. *Encoding and Verification Effects of Generalized Quantifiers on Working Memory*. Proceedings of the 55th meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS 55). Chicago, IL. (to appear).
- 2018 **A. De Santo**, J. Rawski, A. Yazdani, and J. E. Drury. *Quantified Sentences as a Window into Prediction and Priming: An ERP Study*. Proceedings of the 54th meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS 54). Chicago, IL. 2018.
- 2017 A. Aksënova and **A. De Santo**. *Strict Locality in Morphological Derivations*. Proceedings of the 53rd Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 53). Chicago, IL. 2017.

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## Manuscripts

- Submitted **A. De Santo**, A. Galli, M. Gravina, V. Moscato, and G. Sperli. *Deep Learning for HDD health assessment: An application based on LSTMs*.
- In prep. **A. De Santo**. *Feature Reactivation in Minimalist Parsing*.
- In prep. **A. De Santo** & J. Rawski. *Mathematical Linguistics and Cognitive Complexity*.

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## Talks and Posters

(for co-authored talks: \* personally presented)

- 2020 **A. De Santo** *A Minimalist Parsing Account of Gradience in Acceptability Judgments*. Poster at the 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 19-21 2020, UMass Amherst (held online).
- Andrei Antonenko, Mark Aronoff, Paola Cepeda, **A. De Santo**, and Lori Repetti. *The world turned upside-down: flipping the classroom in a large linguistics lecture course*. Talk at the LSA symposium on *Teaching Large General Linguistics Classes*, Jan. 1-5 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- A. De Santo**. *MG Parsing as a Model of Gradient Acceptability in Syntactic Islands*. Poster at the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2020, Jan. 1-5 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2019 T. Graf and **A. De Santo\***. *Sensing Tree Automata as a Model of Syntactic Dependencies*. Talk at the 16th Meeting on the Mathematics of Language (MOL), July 18-19 2019, Toronto, Canada.
- A. De Santo\*** and T. Graf. *Structure Sensitive Tier Projection: Applications and Formal Properties*. Talk at the 24th Conference on Formal Grammar (FG). August 11th 2019, Riga, Latvia.

**A. De Santo.** *Testing a Minimalist Grammars Parser on Italian Relative Clause Asymmetries.* Talk at the Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics Workshop (CMCL), June 7, 2019, Minneapolis, Minnesota

J. Rawski, **A. De Santo**, T. Graf, and J. Heinz. *Geometric Representations of Linguistic Structures and Computations.* Talk at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Mathematical Psychology, July 19-22, Montreal, Canada.

**A. De Santo.** *The Processing of Italian Relative Clauses within a Computational Parsing Model.* Poster at the 49th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL49), May 1-4 2019, Athens, Georgia.

**A. De Santo** and Nazila Shafiei. *On the Structure of Relative Clauses in Persian: Evidence from Computational Modeling and Processing Effects.* Talk at the 2nd North American Conference in Iranian Linguistics (NACIL2), April 19-21 2019, University of Arizona.

**A. De Santo\*** and John E. Drury. *Generalized Quantifiers and Working Memory: Disentangling Encoding from Verification.* Poster at the 32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 28-31 2019, Boulder, Colorado.

**A. De Santo.** *Evaluating a Minimalist Grammar Parser on Italian Relative Clause Asymmetries.* Poster at the 32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 28-31 2019, Boulder, Colorado.

Nazila Shafiei and **A. De Santo\***. *What Processing and Computational Modeling Can Tell Us about Syntax: The Case of Persian Relative Clauses.* Poster at the 32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 28-31 2019, Boulder, Colorado.

Andrei Antonenko, Mark Aronoff, Paola Cepeda, **Aniello De Santo\***, and Lori Repetti. *Classroom? We don't need no classroom to do linguistics!* Talk at CELT Annual Teaching and Learning Colloquium, March 8 2019, Stony Brook University.

K. McMullin, A. Aksënova, and **A. De Santo.** *Learning phonotactic restrictions on multiple tiers.* Talk at the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2019, New York City, NY.

2018 T. Graf, A. Aksënova, H. Baek, **A. De Santo \***, H. Dolatian, S. Moradi, J. Rawski, S. Yang, and J. Heinz. *Tiers and Relativized Locality Across Language Modules.* Parallels Between Phonology and Syntax Workshop. Amsterdam, Meertens Instituut, July 9, 2018

**Aniello De Santo\***, J. Rawski, A. Yazdani, and J. E. Drury. *Quantified Sentences as a Window into Prediction and Priming: An ERP Study.* Talk at CLS 54, April 26-28 2018, Chicago, IL.

**A. De Santo.** *Extending TSL to Account for Interactions of Local and Non-Local Constraints.* Poster at the Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2018, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 4-7, 2018.

- 2017 **A. De Santo\***, J. Rawski, and J. E. Drury. *ERP effects for quantifier complexity, priming, and truth-value in an auditory/visual verification task*. Poster at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL) 2017, Baltimore, Maryland.
- J. Rawski, **A. De Santo\***, and J. Heinz. *Reconciling Minimum Description Length with Grammar-Independent Complexity Measures*. Poster at MIT Workshop on Simplicity in Grammar Learning, September 23, 2017.
- A. De Santo\***, T. Graf, and J. E. Drury. *Evaluating Subregular Distinctions in the Complexity of Generalized Quantifiers*. Talk at ESSLLI 29th's Workshop on Quantifiers and Determiners (QUAD 2017), July 17 – 21, Toulouse, France.
- A. De Santo**. *One class to rule them all? A study of TSL languages motivated by typological outliers*. Poster presented at PLC 41, March 24-25 2017, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 **A. De Santo**. *A game of tiers: Exploring the formal properties of TSL languages*. Computational Phonology Workshop at Stony Brook University, December 16, 2016, Stony Brook, NY
- A. De Santo\***, A. Aksënova, and T. Graf. *An Alternate View on Strong Lexicalization in TAG*. 12th International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+) 2016, June 29 - July 1, 2016, Düsseldorf
- T. Graf, A. Aksënova, and **A. De Santo**. *A Single Movement Normal Form for Minimalist Grammars*. (with T. Graf, A. Aksënova). 21st Conference on Formal Grammar (FG-2016)
- 2015 F. Colace, M. De Santo, **A. De Santo\***, A. Picariello. *Connecting Times: Using Smart Technologies For Enhancing Ancient Towns Experience*. 3rd International Conference of Information and Communication Technology (ICoICT 2015), May 27-29, 2015, Bali, Indonesia
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, A. Picariello, D. Serpico and G. Sperlí. *A lexicon-grammar based methodology for Ontology population in e-health applications*. 9th International Conference on Complex, Intelligent, and Software Intensive Systems (CISIS 2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, F. Gargiulo, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello and S. R. Poccia. *SemTree: an index for supporting semantic retrieval of documents*. IEEE DESWeb ICDE 2015
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, F. Gargiulo, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello and G. Sperlí. *A novel approach to query expansion based on semantic similarity measures*. 4th International Conference on Data Management Technologies and Applications (DATA 2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, F. Persia, S. R. Poccia and A. Picariello. *Partitioning of ontologies driven by a structure-based approach*. IEEE 9th International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC2015)
- F. Amato, **A. De Santo\***, V. Moscato, F. Persia, A. Picariello, S. R. Poccia, G. Sperlí. *A structure-based approach for ontology partitioning*. SEBD 2015: 184-191

- 2014 F. Amato, **A. De Santo**, V. Moscato, F. Persia and A. Picariello. *Detecting unexplained human behaviors in Social Networks*. IEEE Eight International Conference on Semantic Computing (ICSC2014)
- F. Persia, F. Amato, F. Gargiulo, S. R. Poccia, and **A. De Santo**<sup>\*</sup>. *Finding unexplained human behaviors in Social Networks*. 22nd Italian Symposium on Advanced Database Systems

## Invited Talks

- 2020 **A. De Santo**. *MG parsing as a window into human sentence processing*. Department of Linguistics, UCLA. February, 2020.
- A. De Santo**. *Parsing as a window into human sentence processing*. Department of Linguistics, San Jose State University. January, 2020.
- A. De Santo**. *Of Parsers and Trees: Memory usage as a measure of complexity in human sentence processing*. Department of English, Miami University (OH). January, 2020.
- A. De Santo**. *Memory usage as a measure of structural complexity in Minimalist parsing*. Department of Linguistics, University of Utah. January, 2020.
- 2019 **A. De Santo**. *Memory usage as a measure of structural complexity in Minimalist parsing*. Computation and Psycholinguistics Lab, Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University. October 30, 2019.
- 2017 A. Aksënova and **A. De Santo**. *n-Gram Models of Morphological Derivations*. Invited Poster. Institute for Advanced Computational Sciences (IACS)'s Five-Year Review, September 7, 2017, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY.
- 2016 **A. De Santo**. *What the Dialects can teach us about Italian: the case of Irpino*, Richard Nasti Lecture Series, Stony Brook University Center for Italian Studies, October 4, 2016. (Repeated on February 2017)

## Scholarships and awards

- Stony Brook University 2019/2020 Graduate Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Lettered Social Sciences.
- CMCL Student Travel Award. Sponsored by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), April 2019.
- CUNY Student Travel Award. 32nd CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of Colorado Boulder, March 2019.
- Department of Linguistics Travel Award. Stony Brook University, December 2018.
- Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS) Travel Award. Stony Brook University, July 2018.
- Department of Linguistics Travel Award. Stony Brook University, December 2017.
- Sigma Xi Travel Award for Excellence in Research. Stony Brook University, May 2017.

- Department of Linguistics Travel Award. Stony Brook University, December 2016.
- Travel Grant to conduct field work in Irpinia (Italy), on a project about Raddoppiamento fonosintattico in the Irpino Dialect. Awarded by the *Center for Italian Studies*, Stony Brook University, June 2016.
- Research Scholarship on the project *Networks of Excellence - EMBEDDED SYSTEMS in Critical Domains*, Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli, Rif. Borsa DIETI 30/2014
- Research Scholarship on the project *SmartHealth - Methodologies for natural language processing in clinical applications*, Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli, RIF. DIETI 47/2014

## Teaching

### As an Instructor

- Fall 2020 **Fundamentals of Python (LING 5981/6080)** U. of Utah.
- Spring 2020 **Computational Linguistics (LIN220)** Stony Brook University.
- Fall 2019 **Language and Technology (LIN120)** Stony Brook University.
- Sum. 2019 **Bilingualism (LIN541/426)** Stony Brook University.
- Spring 2019 **Language and Technology (LIN120)** Stony Brook University. co-Instructor (two sections, co-taught with Alëna Aksënova)
- Sum. 2018 **Language in the USA (LIN200)** Stony Brook University.
- Winter 2017 **Language and Life in Italy (LIN356)** Stony Brook University.
- Sum. 2016 **Language and Technology (LIN120)** Stony Brook University.

### As a Teaching assistant (TA)

- Fall 2017 **Language and Technology (LIN120)** Stony Brook University. Instructor: Thomas Graf
- Spring 2017 **Language and Mind (LIN426)** Stony Brook University. Instructor: John E. Drury
- Fall 2016 **Language and Technology (LIN120)** Stony Brook University. Instructor: Thomas Graf
- Spring 2016 **Language and Speech Disorders (LIN380)** Stony Brook University. Instructor: Joseph Hoffman
- Fall 2015 **Language and Technology (LIN425)** Stony Brook University. Instructor: Thomas Graf
- Spring 2015 **Multimedia Systems and Applications** Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli. Instructor: Antonio Picariello
- Fall 2014 **Foundations of Computer Science** Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli. Instructor: Antonio Picariello
- Fall 2014 **Introduction to Data Base Systems** Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli. Instructor: Vincenzo Moscato

## Research Positions

- 05/2014– **Research Assistant** DIETI, Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli  
 08/2015 I worked on statistical models, formal languages, NLP techniques, game theory and graph theory applied to social networks analysis, big data analytics, semantic analysis.
- 09/2013– **Research Internship** LABADAM, Università degli Studi *Federico II* di Napoli  
 02/2014 Supervisor: Prof. Antonio Picariello. Main Advisor: Prof. Virginio Cantoni  
 I developed statistical models for the detection of unexplained user behaviors in online social networks.
- 02/2012– **Research Internship** Identification and Control of Dynamic Systems (ICDS)  
 09/2012 Laboratory, Università degli Studi di Pavia Main supervisor: Prof. Lalo Magni  
 I worked on models for the automatic control of glycaemia in Type I Diabetes, within the AP@Home Project sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

## Other Positions

- 01/2018– **Graduate Assistant.** Stony Brook University. PIs: Andrei Antonenko, Mark  
 01/2019 Aronoff, Lori Repetti  
 S-BOLD (Stony Brook Online Learning Development) Project: convert SBU linguistics' largest general education course (LIN 200 – Language in the USA) to an online format.

## Additional Education

- 07/2017 **29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI)** University of Toulouse (France) 7–28 July, 2017
- 10/2016 **Online Education Symposium** Stony Brook University October 21, 2016, Stony Brook, NY

## Service

- Reviewing CoNNL (2020); COLING (2020); CMCL (secondary, 2019; 2020); SCiL (secondary, 2019); Biolinguistics (2017; 2018); SYNC (2016; 2017; 2018); International Journal of Big Data Intelligence (2014); International Workshop on Cloud and Distributed System Applications (2014)
- To U. of Utah Undergraduate Student Committee
- To SBU Student representative (2018-2019); IACS student association executive committee (2018-2019); Department website administrator (2017); Linguistics Colloquia organizer (2017); Latin & Linguistics Colloquium organizing committee (2017); NACLO volunteer (training sessions and exam supervision; 2015-2019)

## Computer Skills

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|---|--|
| <p><b>OS</b> MacOS, Unix/Linux, Windows</p>                               | <p><b>Coding</b> (<i>In decreasing order of Proficiency</i>) Python and NLTK; R; Matlab/Simulink; Java; C; Assembly languages (ARM, x86); SQL; Prolog; Jess; Labview</p> |
| <p><b>Editing</b> L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Markdown, Office Suite</p> |  |



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## Languages

Italian	Native	
English	Fluent	
German	Beginner	<i>FIT, Level A2</i>
French	Beginner	<i>Level A1</i>

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## Non Academic Work Experience

- 2012 **Translator and proof-reader.** Fanucci Editore.  
As member of the SMTeam I worked as proof-reader on the new Italian edition of the Wheel of Time cycle by Robert Jordan.
- 2009–2012 **Didactics integration activities and remedial lessons for students in need.** Private employer. Pavia, Italy
- 2009–2012 **Waiter.** Restaurant *Alla Corte*. Trivulzio .(PV), Italy