Brian Buccola

Department of Linguistics and Languages
Michigan State University
B404 Wells Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

✎ buccola@msu.edu
🚀 brianbuccola.com
📞 +1 517-355-5171 (office)
📱 +1 312-945-6857 (cell)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–	Assistant Professor (tenure system), Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages, Michigan State University.
2017–2019	Postdoctoral researcher, Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique, École Normale Supérieure. PI: Emmanuel Chemla
2016 (Jun. 25 – Jul. 27)	Invited scholar, Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure. Sponsor: Benjamin Spector
2015–2017	Postdoctoral fellow, Language, Logic and Cognition Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. PIs: Luka Crnič and Yosef Grodzinsky

EDUCATION

2010–2015	Ph.D., Linguistics, McGill University. Dissertation: *Maximality in the Semantics of Modified Numerals* Supervisory committee: Luis Alonso-Ovalle (co-supervisor), Bernhard Schwarz (co-supervisor), Michael Wagner (member)
2014	Visiting student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sponsor: Kai von Fintel
2009–2010	Qualifying Year Program, McGill University. (Permits strong candidates to make up gaps in their linguistics background by taking appropriate undergraduate courses.)

2004–2008	B.S., Mathematics, Honors College, Loyola University Chicago.
	B.A., Classics, Honors College, Loyola University Chicago.
1999–2004	Jesuit High School New Orleans.

RESEARCH

Journal articles

accepted	Brian Buccola and Luka Crnič. Negative Polarity Items, Intervention, and Collectivity. Accepted (with minor revisions) in *Semantics and Pragmatics*. 2021. URL: `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/004553`.
accepted	Brian Buccola, Manuel Križ, and Emmanuel Chemla. Conceptual Alternatives: Competition in Language and Beyond. Accepted (with minor revisions) in *Linguistics and Philosophy*. 2021. URL: `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003208`.
2019	Brian Buccola and Emmanuel Chemla. Alternatives of Disjunctions: When a Disjunct Contains the Antecedent of a Pronoun. In: *Snippets* 37 (2019), pp. 16–18. DOI: `10.7358/snip-2019-037-buch`.
2019	Luka Crnič and Brian Buccola. Scoping NPIs out of DPs. In: *Snippets* 37 (2019), pp. 19–21. DOI: `10.7358/snip-2019-037-crbu`.
2019	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Obligatory Irrelevance and the Computation of Ignorance Inferences. In: *Journal of Semantics* 36.4 (2019), pp. 583–616. DOI: `10.1093/jos/ffz013`.
2019	Emmanuel Chemla, Isabelle Dautriche, Brian Buccola, and Joël Fagot. Constraints on the lexicons of human languages have cognitive roots present in baboons (*Papio papio*). In: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116 (30 2019), pp. 14926–14930. DOI: `10.1073/pnas.1907023116`.
2019	Emmanuel Chemla, Brian Buccola, and Isabelle Dautriche. Connecting Content and Logical Words. In: *Journal of Semantics* 36.3 (2019), pp. 531–547. DOI: `10.1093/jos/ffz001`.

2018	Brian Buccola, Isabelle Dautriche, and Emmanuel Chemla. Competition and Symmetry in an Artificial Word Learning Task. In: *Frontiers in Psychology* 9.2176 (2018). DOI: `10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02176`.
2018	Brian Buccola. A Restriction on the Distribution of Exclusive *Only*. In: *Snippets* 33 (2018), pp. 3–4. DOI: `10.7358/snip-2018-033-bucc`. URL: `http://www.ledonline.it/snippets/allegati/snippets33002.pdf`.
2016	Brian Buccola and Benjamin Spector. Modified Numerals and Maximality. In: *Linguistics and Philosophy* 39.3 (2016), pp. 151–199. DOI: `10.1007/s10988-016-9187-2`.
2012	Bernhard Schwarz, Brian Buccola, and Michael Hamilton. Two Types of Class B Numeral Modifiers: A Reply to Nouwen 2010. In: *Semantics and Pragmatics* 5.1 (2012), pp. 1–25. DOI: `10.3765/sp.5.1`.

Manuscripts

Under review or in revision

2020	Ye Ma and Brian Buccola. Mandarin Chinese Collocations Support a Structural Theory of Alternatives. Manuscript in revision. 2020.
2020	Brian Buccola, Jeremy Kuhn, and David Nicolas. Groups vs. covers revisited: Evidence from symmetric readings of sentences with plurals. 2020. URL: `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/004969`.
2017	Brian Buccola. Bare Numerals, Collectivity, and Genericity: A New Puzzle. 2017. URL: `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003400`.

In preparation

2019	Amir Anvari, Brian Buccola, and Andreas Haida. Alternative Questions in Farsi. 2019.

Proceedings papers

2020	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. How Obligatory Irrelevance, Symmetric Alternatives, and Dense Scales Conspire: The Case of Modified Numerals and Ignorance. In: *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)*. vol. 30. Ithaca, NY, 2020, pp. 464–484. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005563.
2017	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Expressing Indifference in German. In: *Amsterdam Colloquium*. Vol. 21. 2017, pp. 165–174. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003763.
2017	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. A Surface-Scope Analysis of Authoritative Readings of Modified Numerals. In: *Sinn und Bedeutung*. Vol. 21. 2017, pp. 233–248. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003173.
2016	Brian Buccola. Severing Maximality from *fewer than*: Evidence from Genericity. In: *Sinn und Bedeutung*. Vol. 20. 2016, pp. 127–144. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002847.
2015	Brian Buccola. Variable Monotonicity and *less than*: When Van Benthem's Problem is Not a Problem. In: *North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*. vol. 45. 2015, pp. 125–134. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002512.
2013	Brian Buccola. On the Expressivity of Optimality Theory versus Ordered Rewrite Rules. In: *Formal Grammar*. Ed. by Glyn V. Morrill and Mark-Jan Nederhof. Vol. 8036. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer, 2013, pp. 142–158. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-39998-5_9. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002513.

Presentations

Peer-reviewed conferences

upcoming	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Numeral Modifiers Revisited: Ignorance as a Consequence of Obligatory (Ir)relevance. Talk to be presented at the workshop Modal Inferences, postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Siracusa, Sicily, Italy, 2020.

2020	Ye Ma, Brian Buccola, Zinan Wang, Aline Godfroid, Shannon Cousins, and Alan Beretta. An Eye-Tracking Study on Complement Coercion in Mandarin Chinese. Talk presented at the Words in the World (WoW) 2020 International Conference. Oct. 18, 2020.
2020	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Numeral Modifiers Revisited: Ignorance as a Consequence of Obligatory (Ir)relevance. Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 30. Ithaca, NY, 2020.
2019	Brian Buccola, Jeremy Kuhn, and David Nicolas. The Unexplained Symmetric Reading of Reciprocal Sentences. Poster presented at the Workshop on Cross-Linguistic Semantics of Reciprocal Sentences. Utrecht, Netherlands, Oct. 8, 2019.
2019	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. *At most* vs. *More than*: Explaining Ignorance in Terms of Relevance of Speaker Belief. Talk presented at the workshop The meaning of numerals: cognitive, experimental, and semantic perspectives, Leibniz-Centre for General Linguistics (ZAS). Berlin, Germany, Mar. 27, 2019.
2018	Amir Anvari, Brian Buccola, and Andreas Haida. Alternative Questions in Farsi. Poster presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 23. Barcelona, Spain, Sept. 7, 2018.
2018	Amir Anvari, Brian Buccola, and Andreas Haida. Alternative Questions in Farsi. Talk presented at the workshop Meaning in non-canonical Questions. Konstanz, Germany, June 8, 2018.
2017	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Expressing Indifference in German. Talk presented at the 21st Amsterdam Colloquium. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Dec. 21, 2017.
2016	Brian Buccola. Bare Numerals and Scalar Implicatures in Generic Sentences. Talk presented at the Logic in Language and Conversation (LogiCon) workshop. Utrecht, Netherlands, Sept. 19, 2016.
2016	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. A Surface-Scope Analysis of Authoritative Readings of Modified Numerals. Talk presented at the Logic in Language and Conversation (LogiCon) workshop. Utrecht, Netherlands, Sept. 20, 2016.

2016	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. A Surface-Scope Analysis of Authoritative Readings of Modified Numerals. Talk presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 21. Edinburgh, Scotland, Sept. 5, 2016. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003173.
2016	Brian Buccola. Modified and Unmodified Numerals: Lessons from Genericity. Talk presented at the workshop on the semantic contribution of Det and Num. (In)definiteness, genericity, and referentiality. Barcelona, Spain, May 28, 2016.
2015	Brian Buccola. Severing Maximality from *fewer than*: Evidence from Genericity. Talk presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 20. Tübingen, Germany, Sept. 11, 2015.
2015	Brian Buccola. Modified Numerals, Plurality, and Boundedness. Talk presented at the Syntax and Semantics of Numerals workshop, at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea. Leiden, Netherlands, Sept. 3, 2015.
2014	Brian Buccola. Global Economic Constraints: The Case of Van Benthem's Problem. Poster presented at the 45th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS). Cambridge, MA, Oct. 31, 2014.
2014	Brian Buccola and Morgan Sonderegger. On the Expressivity of Optimality Theory versus Rules: An Application to Opacity. Talk presented at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America. Minneapolis, MN, Jan. 3, 2014.
2013	Brian Buccola and Morgan Sonderegger. On the Expressivity of Optimality Theory versus Rules: An Application to Opaque Patterns. Poster presented at Phonology 2013. Amherst, MA, Nov. 9, 2013.
2013	Brian Buccola. On the Expressivity of Optimality Theory versus Ordered Rewrite Rules. Talk presented at the 18th conference on Formal Grammar. Düsseldorf, Germany, Aug. 11, 2013.

Local workshops

2016	Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. Authoritative Readings of Superlative Modified Numerals. Poster presented at the annual Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC) retreat. Ein Gedi, Israel, Jan. 24, 2016.
2014	Brian Buccola. *Less than*, Lower Bounds, and Distributivity/Collectivity. Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal semantics workshop (TOM 7). Toronto, Canada, Apr. 12, 2014.
2013	Brian Buccola. A Mathematical Demonstration that Classic Optimality Theory is Expressively Weaker than Ordered Rewrite Rules. Talk presented at the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto phonology workshop (MOT). Ottawa, Canada, Mar. 16, 2013.
2012	Brian Buccola. The Nature of Ignorance Implications Arising from Superlative Quantifiers. Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal semantics workshop (TOM 5). Ottawa, Canada, Mar. 10, 2012.
2011	Brian Buccola. Phrasal and Clausal Comparatives: The *di* vs. *che* Puzzle in Italian. Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal semantics workshop (TOM 4). Toronto, Canada, Apr. 9, 2011.

Invited talks

2021	Brian Buccola. Conceptual alternatives. Invited talk presented at the Centre for Language Evolution, University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, Scotland, 2021.
2019	Brian Buccola. Two's Company but What About Three?: Informativity in the Interpretation of Numerals. Job talk presented at Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI, 2019.
2019	Brian Buccola. Two's Company but What About Three?: Informativity in the Interpretation of Numerals. Invited talk presented at the Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7). Paris, France, 2019.
2018	Brian Buccola. Some Robust Properties of Natural Language Have Roots in Animal Cognition. Invited talk presented at the LSCP Plenary Meeting. Paris, France, Dec. 4, 2018. Based on joint work with Emmanuel Chemla, Isabelle Dautriche, and Joël Fagot.

2017	Brian Buccola. Obligatory Irrelevance and the Computation of Ignorance Inferences. Invited talk presented at the Département d'Études Cognitives, École Normale Supérieure. Paris, France, Sept. 27, 2017. Based on joint work with Andreas Haida.
2017	Brian Buccola. Conceptual Alternatives: Competition in Language and Beyond. Invited colloquium talk presented at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Israel, Apr. 25, 2017. Based on joint work with Emmanuel Chemla and Manuel Križ.
2016	Brian Buccola. A Surface-Scope Analysis of Authoritative Readings of Modified Numerals. Invited talk presented at the Département d'Études Cognitives, École Normale Supérieure. Paris, France, July 6, 2016. Based on joint work with Andreas Haida.
2016	Brian Buccola. Bare Numerals and Scalar Implicatures in Generic Sentences. Invited talk presented at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Israel, Mar. 23, 2016.
2015	Brian Buccola. Modified and Unmodified Numerals: Lessons from Genericity. Invited colloquium talk presented at Tel Aviv University. Tel Aviv, Israel, Nov. 19, 2015.
2015	Brian Buccola. Maximal Informativity and Numeral Modifiers: The Case of *between*. Invited talk presented at the Leiden-Utrecht Semantics Happenings (LUSH) research group. Utrecht, Netherlands, Sept. 7, 2015.

Invited commentaries

2019	Commentator on "True clauses and false connectives" by Karolina Krzyżanowska (University of Amsterdam), Paris-Amsterdam-London Logic Meetings of Young Researchers (PALLMYR) 12, École Normale Supérieure.

Edited volumes

2014	Brian Buccola, Michael Hamilton, Alanah McKillen, and James Tanner, eds. *Proceedings from the Sixth Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal (TOM) Workshop in Semantics*. Vol. 24. McGill Working Papers in Linguistics 1. McGill University. Feb. 2014. URL: `https://www.mcgill.ca/mcgwpl/archives/volume-241-2014`.
2013	Alanah McKillen and Brian Buccola, eds. *Proceedings from the First Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton (MOTH) Workshop in Syntax*. Vol. 23. McGill Working Papers in Linguistics 1. McGill University. June 2013. URL: `https://www.mcgill.ca/mcgwpl/archives/volume-231-2013`.

Dissertation

2015	Brian Buccola. *Maximality in the Semantics of Modified Numerals*. PhD thesis. Montreal, Canada: McGill University, July 2015. URL: `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003039`.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Teaching

Michigan State University (2019–)

Undergraduate	LIN 401: Introduction to Linguistics.
	LIN 437: Semantics and Pragmatics.
Graduate	LIN 837: Adv. Studies in Semantics and Pragmatics.

McGill University (Summer 2014)

Undegraduate	LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics.

Advising

Committee chair or co-chair

Ph.D.	Cong, Yan. *Degree constructions in Mandarin Chinese* (working title). In progress.
Ph.D.	Abudushalamu, Xiayimaierdan. *Uyghur and Mandarin Chinese code-switching: A game-theoretic analysis* (working title). In progress. (Co-chair with Suzanne Wagner)

Committee member

Ph.D.	5 students in progress (syntax/semantics, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition).
M.A.	1 student in progress (phonetics, computational modeling).

SERVICE

To the profession

Editorial boards

2016–	Member of the Editorial Board of *Semantics and Pragmatics*.

Ad-hoc reviewing

Books	The MIT Press (1 book manuscript), University of Toronto Press (1 book proposal).
Journals	*Acta Linguistica Academica*, *Glossa* (5x), *Journal of Semantics* (3x), *Language and Linguistics Compass*, *Linguistics and Philosophy* (2x), *Natural Language Semantics* (2x), *Semantics and Pragmatics* (5x).
Conferences	*GLOW in Asia*, *Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics*, *North East Linguistic Society*, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*, *Sinn und Bedeutung*.

To Michigan State University

Linguistics program

2019–	Director, MSU Semantics and Pragmatics Group.
2019–	Handbook review sub-committee.
2019	Search committee for fixed-term position in Linguistics (general linguistics, cognitive science).
2019	Graduate admissions committee (for Spring 2020).

To previous institutions

2018–2019	Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) administrator, École Normale Supérieure (LSCP and IJN).
2015–2017	Organizer (with Andreas Haida), LLCC Semantics-Pragmatics Research Group, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
2015	Department publications manager, McGill University. Compiled and managed a database of department publications for 2014, in BibTEX format, for the department's Annual Report.
2013–2015	Organizing committee, Syntax-Semantics Research Group, McGill University.
2012–2014	Co-editor, McGill Working Papers in Linguistics (McGWPL).
2013	Organizing committee, Exploring the Interfaces 2: Implicatures, Alternatives, and the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface (ETI 2), McGill University.
2012	Graduate student representative for syntax job hire, McGill University.
2011–2012	Co-editor, McGill Linguistics Blog (McLing).

Awards

2014	Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award ($500). Nomination-only award, which "recognizes outstanding teaching in the Faculty by graduate students."
2014	Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) Graduate Travel Award ($700). Application-based award given to CRBLM student members to present their scientific results at an international conference.

2013	Graduate Student Travel Award, McGill University ($1,500).
	A "competitive award designed to support graduate student travel by both MA and PhD students for the purposes of research and the dissemination of research."
2013	Lara Riente Memorial Prize in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, McGill University ($500).
	"Awarded by the Faculty of Arts Scholarships committee on the recommendation of the Department of Linguistics on the basis of high academic standing to a graduate or an undergraduate student enrolled in a full-time degree program in Linguistics."
2012–2013	Cremona Memorial Fellowship in Linguistics, Department of Linguistics, McGill University ($8,479).
	"Awarded by the Department of Linguistics to an outstanding graduate student registered in the Ph.D. or M.A. program in Linguistics."
2012	NASSLLI full scholarship ($410).
	Application-based stipend covering tuition, fees, accommodation, and travel.
2004–2008	National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Loyola University Chicago (~$100,000).
	Full-tuition scholarship awarded to students who have been named National Merit finalists by the National Merit Corporation.

Honors and Associations

2016 (joined)	Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL).
2015 (joined)	Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE).
2012 (joined)	Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM), Montréal, Canada.
2012 (joined)	Linguistic Society of America (LSA).
2008 (inducted)	Phi Beta Kappa.
2004	National Merit Scholar.
1999 (accepted)	Mensa.