Brian Buccola

Department of Linguistics, Languages, & Cultures Michigan State University B404 Wells Hall East Lansing, MI 48824 buccola@msu.edu
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 +1 517-355-5171 (office)

Professional experience

2019– Assistant Professor (tenure system), Department of Linguistics, Lan-

guages, & Cultures, Michigan State University.

2017–2019 Postdoctoral researcher, Laboratoire de sciences cognitives et psycholin-

guistique (LSCP), Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS),

École normale supérieure, Paris, France.

PI: Emmanuel Chemla

2016 Invited scholar, Institut Jean Nicod (IJN), Centre national de la

(Jun. 25 – Jul. 27) recherche scientifique (CNRS), École normale supérieure, Paris, France.

Sponsor: Benjamin Spector

2015–2017 Postdoctoral fellow, Language, Logic and Cognition Center, The He-

brew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

PIs: Luka Crnič and Yosef Grodzinsky

EDUCATION

2010–2015 Ph.D., Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Dissertation: "Maximality in the Semantics of Modified Numerals"

Supervisory committee: Luis Alonso-Ovalle (co-chair), Bernhard Schwarz (co-chair),

Michael Wagner

Visiting student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sponsor: Kai von Fintel

2009–2010 Qualifying Year Program, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

(Permits strong candidates to make up gaps in their linguistics background by taking

appropriate undergraduate courses.)

2004–2008 B.A., Classics, Honors College, Loyola University Chicago.

B.S., Mathematics, Honors College, Loyola University Chicago.

1999–2004 Jesuit High School New Orleans.

Research

Journal articles

2022	Ye Ma, Brian Buccola, Zinan Wang, Aline Godfroid, Shannon Cousins, and Alan Beretta. "Expressions with Aspectual Verbs Elicit Slower Reading Times than those with Psychological Verbs: An Eye-Tracking Study in Mandarin Chinese". In: <i>Journal of Psycholinguistic Research</i> (2022). DOI: 10.1007/s10936-022-09846-y.
2021	Brian Buccola, Manuel Križ, and Emmanuel Chemla. "Conceptual Alternatives: Competition in Language and Beyond". In: <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i> (2021). DOI: 10.1007/S10988-021-09327-w.
2021	Brian Buccola, Jeremy Kuhn, and David Nicolas. "Groups vs. Covers Revisited: Structured Pluralities and Symmetric Readings". In: <i>Natural Language Semantics</i> 29 (2021), pp. 509–525. DOI: 10.1007/S11050-021-09179-x.
2021	Brian Buccola and Luka Crnič. "NPIs, Intervention, and Collectivity". In: <i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i> 14 (2021). DOI: 10.3765/sp.14.2.
2019	Brian Buccola and Emmanuel Chemla. "Alternatives of Disjunctions: When a Disjunct Contains the Antecedent of a Pronoun". In: <i>Snippets</i> 37 (2019), pp. 16–18. DOI: 10.7358/snip-2019-037-buch.
2019	Luka Crnič and Brian Buccola. "Scoping NPIs out of DPs". In: <i>Snippets</i> 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: <i>Journal of Semantics</i> 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 (<i>Papio papio</i>)". In: <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 116 (30 2019), pp. 14926–14930. DOI: 10.1073/pnas. 1907023116.

Emmanuel Chemla, Brian Buccola, and Isabelle Dautriche. "Connecting Content and Logical Words". In: <i>Journal of Semantics</i> 36.3 (2019), pp. 531–547. DOI: 10.1093/jos/ffz001.
Brian Buccola, Isabelle Dautriche, and Emmanuel Chemla. "Competition and Symmetry in an Artificial Word Learning Task". In: <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> 9.2176 (2018). DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02176.
Brian Buccola. "A Restriction on the Distribution of Exclusive <i>Only</i> ". In: <i>Snippets</i> 33 (2018), pp. 3-4. DOI: 10.7358/snip-2018-033-bucc. URL: http://www.ledonline.it/snippets/allegati/snippets33002.pdf.
Brian Buccola and Benjamin Spector. "Modified Numerals and Maximality". In: <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i> 39.3 (2016), pp. 151–199. DOI: 10.1007/s10988-016-9187-2.
Bernhard Schwarz, Brian Buccola, and Michael Hamilton. "Two Types of Class B Numeral Modifiers: A Reply to Nouwen 2010". In: <i>Semantics and Pragmatics</i> 5.1 (2012), pp. 1–25. DOI: 10.3765/sp.5.1.

Manuscripts

2022	Isabelle Dautriche, Brian Buccola, Mélissa Berthet, Joël Fagot, and Emmanuel Chemla. "Compositional Understanding in Baboons (<i>Papio papio</i>): The Case of Negation". 2022.
2020	Ye Ma and Brian Buccola. "Mandarin Chinese Collocations Support a Structural Theory of Alternatives". 2020.
2017	Brian Buccola. "Bare Numerals, Collectivity, and Genericity: A New Puzzle". 2017. URL: https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/003400.

Proceedings papers

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. DOI: 10.3765/salt.v30i0. 4853.

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.

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.

Brian Buccola. "Severing Maximality from fewer than: Evidence from Genericity". In: Sinn und Bedeutung. Vol. 20. 2016, pp. 127–144. URL:

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.

https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/002847.

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.

Invited talks

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2017

Brian Buccola. "Higher-Order Plurality Without Conjunction". Invited colloquium talk presented at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, MA, Nov. 19, 2021.

Brian Buccola. "Informativity and Numeral Semantics". Invited workshop presented at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, MA, Nov. 19, 2021.

Brian Buccola. "Conceptual Alternatives: Motivations, Prospects, and Caveats". Invited talk presented at the workshop "Scales, degrees and implicature: Novel synergies between Semantics and Pragmatics", University of Potsdam. Potsdam, Germany, May 26, 2021.

Brian Buccola. "Conceptual Alternatives". Invited talk presented at the Centre for Language Evolution, University of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, Scotland, Feb. 2, 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, Mar. 11, 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, Mar. 7, 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 <i>between</i> ". 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.

Presentations

Peer-reviewed conferences

Brian Buccola. "Higher-Order Plurality as a Solution to Xiang's (2021)

Puzzle". Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)

32. June 10, 2022.

canceled Brian Buccola and Andreas Haida. "Numeral Modifiers Revisited: Ig-

norance as a Consequence of Obligatory (Ir)relevance". Talk that was to be presented at the workshop Modal Inferences, canceled due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. Siracusa, Sicily, Italy, 2021.

Yan Cong and Brian Buccola. "Alternatives in Non-Scalar Implicature:

The Case of Mandarin Adjective Constructions". Poster presented at the 45th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC). Philadelphia, PA,

Mar. 20, 2021.

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: Igno-

rance as a Consequence of Obligatory (Ir)relevance". Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 30. Ithaca, NY, Aug. 19,

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.

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 noncanonical 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 <i>fewer than</i> : 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 <i>di</i> vs. <i>che</i> Puzzle in Italian". Talk presented at the Toronto-Ottawa-Montreal semantics workshop (TOM 4). Toronto, Canada, Apr. 9, 2011.

Edited volumes

Brian Buccola, Michael Hamilton, Alanah McKillen, and James Tan-

ner, 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.

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 I. 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

Undergrad LIN 401: Introduction to Linguistics, MSU (2019–).

LIN 437: Semantics and Pragmatics, MSU (2019–).

LING 201: Introduction to Linguistics, McGill University (2014).

Graduate LIN 837: Adv. Studies in Semantics and Pragmatics, MSU (2020, 2021).

LIN 837: Semantics and Pragmatics I, MSU (2022–).

LIN 838: Semantics and Pragmatics II, MSU (2022–).

Advising

Ph.D. committee chair or co-chair

in progress Philip Pellino (chair).

in progress Yaxuan Wang (chair).

in progress Shannon Cousins (co-chair with Alan Beretta).

in progress Mitch Klein (co-chair with Karthik Durvasula).

in progress Ye Ma (co-chair with Alan Beretta).

Yan Cong (chair). "Competition in Natural Language Meaning: The

Case of Chinese Adjective Constructions and Beyond".

Ph.D. committee member

in progress Komeil Kolahi Ahari, Adam Barnhardt, Yunting Gu, Josh Herrin, Jason

Smith, Jingying Xu.

Ni-La Lê. "Vietnamese Pluralizers' Properties and their Effects on the

Structure and the Acquisition of Vietnamese Noun Phrases".

Ph.D. comprehensive paper advisor

2020 Yan Cong. "Degree Interpretations and their Competitions".

M.A. committee member

in progress Rachel Stacey.

Daniel Greeson. "Revisiting Variation Between Null Subject Languages:

The View from Overt Subject Pronouns".

2020 Isaac Sarver. "A Systematic Evaluation of Computational Models of

Phonotactics".

B.A. thesis advisor

Zachary Sneed. "Investigating Learnability in Semantic Universals

Through Artificial Means".

External committee member

2020 Émile Enguehard. Member, *Comité de suivre* (progress report commit-

tee), Ecole normale supérieure, Paris, France.

SERVICE

To the profession

Editorial boards

2021– Member of the Editorial Board of *Natural Language Semantics*.

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

Reviewing

(ad hoc)

Books MIT Press, University of Toronto Press.

Journals Acta Linguistica Academica; Glossa; Glossa Psycholinguistics; Journal of

Logic, Language and Information; Journal of Semantics; Language and Linguistics Compass; Linguistics and Philosophy; Mind & Language;

Natural Language Semantics; Semantics and Pragmatics.

Conferences Amsterdam Colloquium, North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Se-

(regular) mantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB),

West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL).

Conferences Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA), Experimental approaches to

language universals in structure and meaning (ExUni), GLOW in Asia,

Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL), Seoul Interna-

tional Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG).

To Michigan State University

College of Arts and Letters

2020 – Member, CAL Awards Committee.

2020–2021 Member, College Undergraduate Committee (CUC).

Linguistics program

2019 – Director, MSU Semantics and Pragmatics Lab.

2021 Member, Graduate admissions subcommittee (for Fall 2021).

2020 Member, Curriculum review subcommittee.

Member, Summer fellowship review subcommittee.

Member, Graduate admissions subcommittee (for Spring 2021).

Member, Handbook review sub-committee.

Member, Search committee for fixed-term position in Linguistics (general linguistics, cognitive science).

2019 Member, Graduate admissions subcommittee (for Spring 2020).

To previous institutions

2018-2019 Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) administrator, École normale supérieure (LSCP and IJN). Organizer (with Andreas Haida), LLCC Semantics-Pragmatics Re-2015-2017 search Group, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Department publications manager, McGill University. 2015 Organizing committee, Syntax-Semantics Research Group, McGill Uni-2013-2015 versity. Co-editor, McGill Working Papers in Linguistics (McGWPL). 2012-2014 Organizing committee, Exploring the Interfaces 2: Implicatures, Alter-2013 natives, and the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface (ETI 2), McGill University. 2012 Graduate student representative for syntax job hire, McGill University. Co-editor, McGill Linguistics Blog (McLing). 2011-2012

AWARDS

Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award (\$500).

Nomination-only award, which "recognizes outstanding teaching in the Faculty by graduate students."

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."

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 Linguis-

tics, McGill University (\$8,479).

"Awarded by the Department of Linguistics to an outstanding graduate student regis-

tered 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), Mon-

tréal, Canada.

2012 (joined) Linguistic Society of America (LSA).

2008 (inducted) Phi Beta Kappa.

National Merit Scholar.

I3 June 27, 2022