





# Brian Buccola

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019– Assistant Professor (tenure system), Department of Linguistics, Languages, & Cultures, Michigan State University.
- 2017–2019 Postdoctoral researcher, Laboratoire de sciences cognitives et psycholinguistique (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 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.  
PIs: Luka Crnić 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
- 2014 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

- 2021              Brian Buccola, Manuel Križ, and Emmanuel Chemla. “Conceptual Alternatives: Competition in Language and Beyond”. In: *Linguistics and Philosophy* (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: *Natural Language Semantics* (2021). DOI: 10.1007/s11050-021-09179-x.
- 2021              Brian Buccola and Luka Crnić. “NPIs, Intervention, and Collectivity”. In: *Semantics and Pragmatics* 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: *Snippets* 37 (2019), pp. 16–18. DOI: 10.7358/snip-2019-037-buch.
- 2019              Luka Crnić 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

- 2020 Isabelle Dautriche, Brian Buccola, Mélissa Berthet, Joël Fagot, and Emmanuel Chemla. “Teaching *No* to Baboons (*Papio papio*)”. 2020.
- 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

- 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. DOI: 10.3765/salt.v30i0.4853.
- 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>.

## Invited talks

- 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.
- 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 *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.

### 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, 2021.
- 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: Ignorance 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.
- 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.

**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

- 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–).

### Advising

#### *Ph.D. committee chair or co-chair*

- in progress      Yan Cong (chair).  
in progress      Philip Pellino (chair).  
in progress      Shannon Cousins (co-chair with Alan Beretta).  
in progress      Ye Ma (co-chair with Alan Beretta).

#### *Ph.D. committee member*

- in progress      Komeil Kolahi Ahari, Yunting Gu, Josh Herrin, Mitch Klein, Jason  
Smith, Yaxuan Wang, Jingying Xu.  
2019            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*

2020 Isaac Sarver. “A Systematic Evaluation of Computational Models of Phonotactics”.

*B.A. thesis advisor*

2021 Zachary Sneed. “Investigating Learnability in Semantic Universals Through Artificial Means”.

*External committee member*

2020 Émile Enguehard. Member, *Comité de suivre* (progress report committee), École normale supérieure, Paris, France.

## SERVICE

### To the profession

*Editorial boards*

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

*Reviewing*

Books MIT Press, University of Toronto Press.

Journals *Acta Linguistica Academica*; *Glossa*; *Journal of Logic, Language and Information*; *Journal of Semantics*; *Language and Linguistics Compass*; *Linguistics and Philosophy*; *Natural Language Semantics*; *Semantics and Pragmatics*.

Conferences (regular) Amsterdam Colloquium, North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL).

Conferences (ad hoc) Experimental approaches to language universals in structure and meaning (ExUni), GLOW in Asia, Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL), Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG).

## To Michigan State University

### *College of Arts and Letters*

- 2020– Member, College Undergraduate Committee (CUC).
- 2020– Member, CAL Awards Committee.

### *Linguistics program*

- 2019– Director, MSU Semantics and Pragmatics Lab.
- 2021 Member, Graduate admissions subcommittee (for Fall 2021).
- 2020 Member, Curriculum review subcommittee.
- 2020 Member, Summer fellowship review subcommittee.
- 2020 Member, Graduate admissions subcommittee (for Spring 2021).
- 2019–2020 Member, Handbook review sub-committee.
- 2019 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).
- 2015–2017 Organizer (with Andreas Haida), LLCC Semantics-Pragmatics Research Group, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2015 Department publications manager, McGill University.
- 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.