

Christian Muxica

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UCLA, Department of Linguistics, Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Research interests

Primary Sentence processing, language acquisition, semantics/pragmatics

Secondary Intonation and computational linguistics

Education

2023 – University of California, Los Angeles
PhD in Linguistics

2021 – 2023 University of California, Los Angeles
MA in Linguistics

2016 – 2020 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
BA in Computational Linguistics

Honors and scholarships

2024 Graduate Research Mentorship (UCLA)
\$20,000 awarded to conduct research during the academic year

2021 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (UCLA)
\$6,000 awarded to conduct summer research

2019 Honors Research Grant (UMASS)
\$900 awarded to conduct undergraduate thesis

Publications

2024 Kuan-Jung Huang, Suhas Arehalli, Mari Kugemoto, Christian Muxica, Grusha Prasad, Brian Dillon, and Tal Linzen. Large-scale benchmark yields no evidence that language model surprisal explains syntactic disambiguation difficulty. *Journal of Memory and Language*, Volume 137.

2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse Harris. Selecting alternatives: Evidence for the early availability of contextually relevant focus alternatives. In *Alternatives - Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives*, Palgrave.

Posters and presentations

- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse Harris. Context rather than semantic priming drives the early availability of focus alternatives. *Poster presented at the 3rd meeting of Experiments in Linguistic Meaning at the University of Pennsylvania.*
- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse Harris. Focus alternatives are available early: no influence from semantic priming or particle choice. *Poster presented at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.*
- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse Harris. Evaluating the role of semantic priming and particle choice in the early availability of focus alternatives. *Poster presented at the 6th Annual California Meeting on Psycholinguistics at Stanford University.*
- 2023 Christian Muxica and Jesse Harris. Selecting contextually relevant focus alternatives during comprehension. *Poster presented at the 10th biennial meeting of Experimental Pragmatics at Paris Cité University.*
- 2022 Kuan-Jung Huang, Suhas Arehalli, Maria Kugemoto, Christain Muxica, Grusha Prasad, Brian Dillon, and Tal Linzen. SPR mega-benchmark shows surprisal tracks construction but not item-level difficulty. *Talk presented at the 35th annual Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of California, Santa Cruz (virtual).*

Research experience

- Summer 2024 Research Assistant
development of eyetracking acquisition experiment
under Laurel Perkins
- Fall 2023 Research Assistant
performed statistical analysis for The Semantics of Cancer research group
under Jessica Rett
- Winter 2023 Research Assistant
organized the digitization of the UCLA Speech Error Corpus (UCLASEC)
under Carson Schutze
- Fall 2022 Research Assistant
managed the Language Processing Lab and developed pupilometry project
under Jesse Harris

Fall 2019 – Lab Manager for UMass Experimental Linguistics Labs
Summer 2021 *created lab schedule, trained research assistants, wrote experimental software*
under Brian Dillon, John Kingston, and Shota Moma (UMass)

Teaching experience

Spring 2024 LING 165C: Semantics II
Teaching Assistant under Dylan Bumford

Winter 2024 LING 132: Processing
Teaching Assistant under Jesse Harris

Summer 2023 LING 132: Processing
Primary Instructor

Spring 2023 LING 132: Processing
Teaching Assistant under Jesse Harris

Skills

Programming Python, Haskell, R, Julia, Bash/Zsh, HTML/CSS/Javascript

Software L^AT_EX, Git, PC Ibex, Linger, PsychoPy, Experiment Builder, Praat

Languages English (Native), Spanish (Basic), Bilen (Fieldwork)

Methods Eyetracking (while-reading, visual-world, and pupillometry)