

# Christian Muxica

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

## Research interests

*Primary*     Semantics, Pragmatics, and Psycholinguistics

*Secondary*     Acquisition, 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.

## 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  
*developed acquisition experiment using eyetracking*  
under Laurel Perkins
- Fall 2023 Research Assistant  
*performed statistical analysis for The Semantics of Cancer*  
under Jessica Rett
- Winter 2023 Research Assistant  
*digitized the UCLA Speech Error Corpus (UCLASEC)*  
under Carson Schutze
- Fall 2022 Research Assistant  
*developed phoneme restoration experiment using pupillometry*  
under Jesse Harris

Fall 2019 – Lab Manager for XLing Labs  
Summer 2021 *scheduled lab activities, 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Git, PC Ibex, Linger, PsychoPy, Experiment Builder, Praat

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

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