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, 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 Linguistics
Multidisciplinary honors with great distinction

Honors and scholarships

2024 Graduate Research Mentorship
$20,000 awarded by UCLA to conduct research over the academic year
under Jesse Harris (UCLA)

2021 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship
$6,000 awarded by UCLA to conduct research over the summer
under Jesse Harris (UCLA)

2019 Honors Research Grant
$900 awarded by UMass to conduct undergraduate thesis
under Brian Dillon (UMass)

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 in Grammar, 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 meeeting 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 meeeting 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 language acquisition experiment using eyetracking
under Laurel Perkins (UCLA)

Fall 2023	Research Assistant *performed annotation and statistical analysis for The Semantics of Cancer research group* under Jessica Rett (UCLA)
Winter 2023	Research Assistant *organized the digitization of the UCLA Speech Error Corpus (UCLASEC)* under Carson Schutze (UCLA)
Fall 2022	Research Assistant *managed the Language Processing Lab and developed pupilometry project* under Jesse Harris (UCLA)
Fall 2019 – Summer 2021	Lab Manager for UMass Experimental Linguistics Labs *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, Bash/Zsh, R, HTML/CSS, Javascript
Software	LaTeX, Git, PC Ibex, Linger, PsychoPy, SR Research Experiment Builder, OpenSesame, Praat, spaCy, NLTK
Languages	English (Native), Spanish (Basic), Bilen (Fieldwork)
Methods	Eyetracking (while-reading, visual-world, and pupillometry)