# Forrest Davis

Curriculum Vitae

# Employment

- 2023- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Computer Science, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.
- 2022-2023 **Postdoctoral Associate**, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

### Education

2022 **PhD**, Department of Linguistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Advisor: Marten van Schijndel

Committee Members: Dorit Abusch, Miloje Despić, John Whitman

Dissertation - On the Limitations of Data: Mismatches between Neural Models of Language and

Humans

- 2020 MA, Linguistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
- 2017 BA, Computer Science and Mathematics, Columbia University, New York, NY.

### Awards

- 2022 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2021 ACL 2021 Outstanding Reviewer
- 2020 President's Travel Fund for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2019 Graduate School Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2019, 2018 Linguistics Department Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University
  - 2018 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2017, 2016 Work Exemption Program Grant, Columbia University

### Publications

#### Journal Articles

2021 Finding Event Structure in Time: What Recurrent Neural Networks can tell us about Event Structure in Mind

Forrest Davis and Gerry T.M. Altmann

In Cognition, 213. 2021.

### Peer-Reviewed Proceedings

2024 Training an NLP Scholar at a Small Liberal Arts College: A Backwards Designed Course Proposal

Grusha Prasad and Forrest Davis (equal contribution)

Proceedings of the Sixth Workshop on Teaching NLP (collocated with ACL 2024)

2023 Can Language Models Be Tricked by Language Illusions? Easier with Syntax, Harder with Semantics

Yuhan Zhang, Edward Gibson and Forrest Davis

Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL 2023)

2022 Incremental Processing of Principle B: Mismatches Between Neural Models and Humans Forrest Davis

Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL 2022; 26%)

2021 Uncovering Constraint-Based Behavior in Neural Models via Targeted Fine-Tuning Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2021; 21.3%)

2020 Discourse structure interacts with reference but not syntax in neural language models Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL; 23.3%)

2020 Interaction with Context During Recurrent Neural Network Sentence Processing Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2020)

2020 Recurrent Neural Network Language Models Always Learn English-Like Relative Clause Attachment

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2020; 22.7%)

2017 Linguistically Rich Vector Representations of Supertags for TAG Parsing Dan Friedman, Jungo Kasai, R Thomas McCoy, Robert Frank, Forrest Davis, Owen Rambow Proceedings of the 13th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms

# Presentations (reviewed by abstract)

2025 Humans vs. Machines: Comparing Adjective Learning Performance Megan Gotowski and **Forrest Davis** 

2025 Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2024 Rage Against the Machine: Comparing Human and Model Performance with Adjective Learning

Megan Gotowski and Forrest Davis

49 Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, Massachusetts

2024 What Language Models Can Tell Us About Learning Adjectives

Megan Gotowski and Forrest Davis

Talk at 2024 Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting, New York, New York

2020 Recurrent neural networks use discourse context in human-like garden path alleviation Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 2020), Amherst, Massachusetts

2020 Categorical and gradient dimensions of stress in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

2020 Workshop of the Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLSW 2020), Berkeley, California

2020 The relationship between lexical frequency, compositionality, and phonological reduction in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2020), New Orleans, Lousianna

2019 Effects of lexical frequency and compositionality on phonological reduction in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

The 25th Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing Conference (AMLaP 2019), Moscow, Russia

2019 The pragmatics of single wh-in situ questions in English

#### Forrest Davis

93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2019), New York, NY

### Invited Talks

- 2024 Neural Language Models are not Models of Human Linguistic Knowledge CSoL, University of Toronto
- 2023 Neural Language Models are not Modeling Human Linguistic Behavior FALCoN Lab, University of Georgia
- 2023 Principle B, Processing, and Neural Models of Language UMass Amherst
- 2023 Principle B, Processing, and Neural Models of Language Language and Cognition Group, Harvard University
- 2022 What do Neural Models of Language Actually Model? University of Sheffield
- 2021 Investigating Competing Training Signals in Language Stanford University
- 2019 Recurrent Neural Network Syntactic Representations in Linguistic Contexts University of Connecticut
- 2019 Language as a science Peddie School

## **Teaching**

Fall 2024	COSC 426 - Natural Language Processing	Colgate
Fall 2024	COSC 101 - Introduction to Computing I	Colgate
Spring 2024	COSC 482 - Independent Research	Colgate
Spring 2024	COSC 101 - Introduction to Computing I	Colgate
Spring 2024	COSC 410 - Applied Machine Learning	Colgate

Fall 2023	COSC 101 - Introduction to Computing I	Colgate	
Fall 2023	COSC 480 - Topics in Computer Science: Natural Language Processing	Colgate	
Spring 2023	Special Seminar: Topics in Computational Linguistics	MIT	
Fall 2022	Special Seminar: Methods in Computational Linguistics	MIT	
Spring 2022	Superlinguistics: Comics, Signs and Other Sequential Images	Cornell University	
Spring 2021	Introduction to Cognitive Science	Cornell University	
Spring 2021	Pragmatics	Cornell University	
Fall 2020	Language and Law	Cornell University	
Spring 2020	Computational Linguistics	Cornell University	
Fall 2019	Guest Lecture, Phonology I: Prosodic representation of English compounds	Cornell University	
Fall 2019	Introduction to Syntax and Semantics	Cornell University	
Spring 2019	Pragmatics	Cornell University	
Spring 2019	Computational Linguistics	Cornell University	
Fall 2018	Introduction to Linguistics	Cornell University	
	Service		
2024-2025	Mind, Brain and Behavior Initiative committee member		
2024			
2023-	·		
2023- Academic Liaison for Women and Men's Swimming and Diving, Colgate Univ			
2019			
2018-2019	Graduate Student Representative on New Faculty Hiring Committee		

### Reviewing

Area CogSci 2024

Chair/Metareviewer

Conferences ACL 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 CoNLL 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 EMNLP 2021, 2022, 2023 HSP 2023 Penn Linguistics Conference 2023, 2024 LSA 2023, COLM 2024, NAACL SRW 2024

2018 Annual Meeting for the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 49) Committee Member

Journals Cognition, Glossa Psycholinguistics

2017–2019 Cornell Linguistics Circle web admin

### Technical Skills

Programming Python, C, C++, Matlab, R, Java, AWK, HTML Languages

2018 Junior Editor of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 28)

Human English, French (Intermediate), Hindi/Urdu (Intermediate) Languages

# Updated

Last Updated July 24, 2024