

# Holly A. Zaharchuk

PHD CANDIDATE

University Park, Pennsylvania, United States

✉ hzaharchuk@psu.edu | 🌐 www.hzaharchuk.com | ☎ 0000-0002-7693-7807 | 📱 hollzzar

## Research interests

My research interests lie at the intersection of cognitive psychology and sociolinguistics. I investigate and challenge the boundaries between dialects and languages with EEG, behavioral methods, and field work. My particular areas of study include syntactic variation, code-switching, and network models of language.

## Education

### The Pennsylvania State University

PH.D., PSYCHOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SCIENCE, SPECIALIZATION IN COGNITIVE AND AFFECTIVE NEUROSCIENCE

University Park, Pennsylvania

2018 - present

- Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell

### The Pennsylvania State University

M.S., PSYCHOLOGY

University Park, Pennsylvania

2018 - 2020

- Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell
- Master's thesis: *We "might could" revisit syntactic processing: Studying dialectal variation with event-related potentials*

### The University of Chicago

B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, MINOR IN LINGUISTICS

Chicago, Illinois

2011 - 2015

- Advisor: Dr. Daniel Casasanto
- Honors thesis: *Does linguistic experience change mental representations of pitch?*

## Honors and awards

### NSF-funded Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) Fellowship

EIGHT-WEEK FELLOWSHIP TO CONDUCT FIELD RESEARCH IN COLOMBIA IN SUMMER 2020

The Pennsylvania State University

Postponed due to COVID-19

### Bruce V. Moore Graduate Fellowship in Psychology

TRAVEL AWARD FOR POSTER PRESENTATION AT PSYCHONOMIC SOCIETY 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Pennsylvania State University

Nov 2019

### University Graduate Fellowship

FIVE-YEAR FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The Pennsylvania State University

Aug 2018 - present

### University Scholar Award

FOUR-YEAR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Chicago

Sep 2011 - Jun 2015

## Publications

Lucero, C., **Zaharchuk, H.**, & Casasanto, D. (2014). Beat gestures facilitate speech production. In P. Bello, M. Guarini, M. McShane, & B. Scassellati (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Red Hook, NY: Curran Associates.

## Presentations

**Zaharchuk, H. A.**, Shevlin, A., & Van Hell, J. G. (2020, May). *We "might could" revisit syntactic processing: Studying dialectal variation with event-related potentials*. Poster session to be presented at the 27th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Zaharchuk, H. A.**, Shevlin, A., & Van Hell, J. G. (2019, November). *Auditory comprehension of double versus single modal constructions in Mainstream American English listeners*. Poster session presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

**Zaharchuk, H. A.** (2015, June). *Does linguistic experience change mental representations of pitch?* Poster session presented at the University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium, Chicago, Illinois.

## Research experience

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### Bilingualism and Language Development Lab

University Park, Pennsylvania

GRADUATE STUDENT

Aug 2018 - present

- Principal investigator: Dr. Janet G. van Hell
- Research areas: language processing and dialectal variation
- Responsibilities: design, implement, and run EEG and behavioral experiments with E-Prime; process and analyze experimental data with R and MATLAB; mentor undergraduate research assistants; maintain lab equipment and supplies

### Experience and Cognition Lab

Chicago, Illinois

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Sep 2013 - Jun 2015

- Principal investigator: Dr. Daniel Casasanto
- Research areas: embodied cognition and linguistic relativity
- Responsibilities: train, run, and debrief participants; code and analyze experimental data with ELAN and R; create new experiments with Python

## Professional experience

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### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Washington, District of Columbia

FINANCIAL ANALYST

Jul 2017 - Jul 2018

- Collaborated with the Consumer Education and Engagement Division to write a spotlight report on language access for limited English proficient consumers as a member of the Language Access Task Force
- Researched debt collection and debt relief, particularly in the credit card and student loan markets, for the Consumer Lending, Reporting, and Collections Markets team

### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Washington, District of Columbia

DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL ANALYST

Jul 2015 - Jul 2017

- Supported the policy and research teams in the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity
- Performed business analytics, tracking, and reporting in the Supervision, Enforcement, and Fair Lending Front Office

### Research Development Support (formerly Arete)

Chicago, Illinois

PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

Feb 2013 - Jun 2015

- Partnered with The University of Chicago research administration support faculty members pursuing complex research initiatives
- Provided program analysis, strategic planning, business metrics, and event support

## Teaching experience

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### Basic research methods in psychology

The Pennsylvania State University

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Aug 2020 - Dec 2020

- Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Pearson
- Introduction to experimental design, analysis, and presentation
- Led weekly laboratory section to reinforce lecture concepts

### What makes us human?

The Pennsylvania State University

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Jan 2020 - May 2020

- Instructor: Dr. Daniel Weiss
- Senior seminar in comparative psychology

### Neurological bases of human behavior

The Pennsylvania State University

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Aug 2019 - Dec 2019

- Instructor: Dr. Stephen Wilson
- Introduction to neuroscience theories and methods
- Presented guest lecture on auditory system and neuroanatomy of language production and comprehension

## Outreach

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### Bilingualism and Language Development Lab

University Park, Pennsylvania

THE BRAIN BUS COORDINATOR

Aug 2018 - present

- Maintain *The Brain Bus*, BiLD's mobile neuroscience lab for field research and language science public engagement
- Participate in community outreach events, including as a volunteer judge at the Young Scholars of Western PA science fair

## Center for Language Science

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

University Park, Pennsylvania

Aug 2019 - Dec 2019

- Managed the Center's social media presence to engage the wider regional community in language science research
- Created and solicited content for the Winter/Spring 2020 Bilingualism Matters newsletter

## Community service

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### Next Step Public Charter School

Washington, District of Columbia

MATHEMATICS TUTOR

Jan 2017 - Jul 2018

- Volunteered as a mathematics tutor with the bilingual GED and ESL program for immigrant and other at-risk youth
- Provided one-on-one assistance with practice problems and assignments once per week for 1-2 hours

### Community Tax Aid

Washington, District of Columbia

VOLUNTEER TAX PREPARER

Jan 2016 - Apr 2018

- Volunteered as an IRS-certified advanced volunteer tax preparer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax help to individuals who make \$54,000 or less, individuals with disabilities, and limited English speaking individuals who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns
- Provided tax preparation services once per week for 3-4 hours during tax season

## Skills

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Programming: R, MATLAB, Python,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , SQL, E-Prime, Praat, ELAN

Languages: English (native proficiency), Spanish (intermediate proficiency)

## Affiliations

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- Center for Language Science
- Cognitive Neuroscience Society
- Psychonomic Society
- Women in Cognitive Science