

Holly A. Zaharchuk

GRADUATE STUDENT

University Park, Pennsylvania, United States

✉ hzaharchuk@psu.edu | 🌐 sites.psu.edu/bildlab | 📷 hollzzar

Research interests

My research interests lie at the intersection of cognitive psychology and sociolinguistics. I am particularly interested in the production and comprehension of dialectal variation, bilingual language use, and the neural and cognitive representations of contact languages.

Education

The Pennsylvania State University

University Park, Pennsylvania

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

2018 - present

- Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell

The University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY WITH A MINOR IN LINGUISTICS

2011 - 2015

- Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Daniel Casasanto
- Honors thesis: *Does linguistic experience change mental representations of pitch?*
- General honors and honors in the major
- Dean's List for four years with a GPA exceeding 3.25 each year

Honors and awards

University Graduate Fellowship

The Pennsylvania State University

FIVE-YEAR FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDENTS

2018 - 2023

University Scholar Award

The University of Chicago

FOUR-YEAR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

2011 - 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 Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Red Hook, NY: Curran Associates.

Presentations

Zaharchuk, H. (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. (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

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

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Chicago, Illinois

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

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

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

Outreach

Center for Language Science

University Park, Pennsylvania

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Aug 2019 - present

- Manage the Center's social media presence to engage the wider regional community in language science research
- Create and solicit content for the bi-annual Bilingualism Matters newsletter

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

Service

Next Step Public Charter School

Washington, District of Columbia

MATHEMATICS TUTOR

Jan 2017 - Jul 2018

- Volunteered as a mathematics tutor with 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

Programming: R, MATLAB, \LaTeX , SQL, Python, E-Prime, Praat

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

Affiliations

- Women in Cognitive Science
- Psychonomic Society
- Cognitive Neuroscience Society