

Holly A. Zaharchuk

GRADUATE STUDENT

University Park, Pennsylvania, United States

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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

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

The Pennsylvania State University

EIGHT-WEEK FELLOWSHIP TO CONDUCT FIELD RESEARCH IN COLOMBIA

May 2020 - Jun 2020

Bruce V. Moore Graduate Fellowship in Psychology

The Pennsylvania State University

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

Nov 2019

University Graduate Fellowship

The Pennsylvania State University

FIVE-YEAR FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Aug 2018 - present

University Scholar Award

The University of Chicago

FOUR-YEAR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

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, March). *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

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

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

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

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

University Park, Pennsylvania

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

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

Skills

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

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

Affiliations

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