

JON BURNISKY

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EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Doctor of Philosophy (2022)

Psychological and Brain Sciences

Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience

Advisor: Dr. Adrian Staub

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Master of Science (2021)

Psychological and Brain Sciences

University of Maryland, College Park

Bachelor of Arts (2016)

Government and Politics; Minor: Linguistics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sentence Processing, Thematic Role Processing, Lexical Processing, Prediction, Coreference and Pronoun Processing, Natural Language Processing, Data Science

PUBLICATIONS

1. Burnsky, J., Kretzschmar, F., Mayer, E., & Staub, A. (2022). The influence of predictability, visual contrast, and preview validity on eye movements and N400 amplitude: co-registration evidence that the N400 reflects late processes. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 1-22.
2. Burnsky, J. & Staub, A. Sentence Completion Tasks Reveal Thematic Uncertainty. (*in prep*)

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Short Talk:** Burnsky, J. & Staub, A. (2022, March) Clozing in on Predictions: Cloze Responses Reflect Various Underlying Processes. *The 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 35)*. Santa Cruz, CA.
2. **Short Talk:** Burnsky, J., Keshev, M., Asatryan, M., Hlachova, B., Johnson, K. & Dillon, B. (2022, March) Look Away! An Object is Coming. *The 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP 35)*. Santa Cruz, CA.
3. **Invited Talk:** Burnsky, J. & Dillon, B. (2022, February) Grammatical Constraints on Reference. *Workshop on Jabberwocky Words in Linguistics*. Bucharest, Romania.
4. **Short Talk:** Burnsky, J., Kretzschmar, F., Mayer, E., Sanders, L. & Staub, A. (2021, March) Dissociating Effects of Predictability, Preview and Visual Contrast on Eye Movements and ERPs. *The 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 34)*. Philadelphia, PA.

5. **Poster:** Burnsky, J. & Staub, A. (2020, March) Thematic Role Assignment Difficulty Revealed by a Forced Choice Task. *The 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 33)*. Amherst, MA.
6. **Talk:** Burnsky, J. & Staub, A. (2019, June). Completion Tasks Reveal Misinterpretation of Noncanonical Sentences. *Psycholinguistics in Iceland - Parsing and Prediction*, Reykjavík.
7. **Poster:** Burnsky, J. & Staub, A. (2019, March) Cloze Completions Reveal Misinterpretation of Noncanonical Sentences. *The 32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 32)*. Boulder, CO.
8. **Talk:** Burnsky, J., Darley, E., Muller, H., Buffinton, J., & Phillips, C. (2017, March) Interpreting Negation in Incomplete Propositions. *The 30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 30)*. Cambridge, MA.

AWARDS

- UMass Amherst Graduate School Predissertation Research Grant (May 2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2020: Creator of and instructor for CNS191, an original introductory undergraduate computational psycholinguistics seminar for first year students.
- Spring 2021: TA for PSYCH315, Cognitive Psychology & PSYCH494, Professional Development (both classes virtual)
- Spring 2020: TA for PSYCH641, Statistical Inferences in Psychology II & PSYCH318, Undergraduate Psycholinguistics (both classes virtual from March onward)
- Spring 2019: TA for PSYCH241, Research Methods
- Fall 2018: TA for PSYCH241, Research Methods
- Fall 2015: TA for GVPT390, Game Theory

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Language Engineer II for Amazon Web Services (AWS) Transcribe, August 2022-present
 - Creating workflows for annotation tasks that create training and evaluation datasets for conversational AI models (fine tuned LLMs)
 - Overseeing quality assurance, and delivery of language annotation data
 - Researching efficient data sampling and model training techniques
 - Evaluating model output for ethical AI considerations
- Research Assistant funded by NSF grant ("Disjoint reference in real-time comprehension: Computational and cross-linguistic perspectives") to Dr. Brian Dillon, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Amherst, MA

- Research Assistant funded by NSF grant ("Effects of lexical predictability on parafoveal and foveal processing in reading") to Dr. Adrian Staub, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2020, Amherst, MA
- Linguist Intern for Google, June 2020-August 2020, Mountain View, CA
- Data Engineer Intern for Amazon Web Services (AWS), June 2019-August 2019, Boston, MA
- Research Assistance for UMD Department of Linguistics, August 2016-August 2017, College Park, MD
- Lab Manager for Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Lab, June 2016-August 2016, College Park, MD

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Lead student organizer for 33rd CUNY Sentence Processing Conference 2020 at UMass, Amherst (turned virtual conference due to COVID-19), September 2019-March 2020
- Student consultant for Psychonomics Society Carbon Neutrality Task Force (March 2020 - September 2020)
- Reviewer for *Applied Psycholinguistics*

TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Proficient in collecting behavioral data on Amazon Mechanical Turk, designing web-based experiments using IBEX, eye tracking while reading, visual world and EEG data in the lab.
- Proficient in R and python
- Experience with large language models using transformers and pytorch
- \LaTeX , Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite
- Native fluency in American English
- Beginner proficiency in Italian