

# Curriculum Vitae: Akira Omaki

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## **Employment**

- 2011- Assistant Professor, Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University  
2010-2011 Post-doctoral researcher, Laboratoire de psycholinguistique experimentale, University of Geneva

## **Education**

- 2005–2010 PhD in Linguistics, University of Maryland (Advisor: Colin Phillips)  
Certificate in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science  
2002–2005 MA in Second Language Acquisition, University of Hawai‘i (Advisor: Bonnie D. Schwartz)  
1999–2000 Undergraduate Exchange Program, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
1998–2002 B.A. in English/Linguistics, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan

## **Research Interests**

*Psycholinguistics*: predictive processing, filler-gap dependencies, sentence revision, syntactic priming

*First Language Acquisition*: syntactic development, child sentence processing, statistical learning

*Syntax*: wh-dependencies, island constraints, locality, resumptive pronoun

## **Research Grants and Fellowships**

- 2014-2018 National Science Foundation #BCS-1423117, “Development and adaptation of active dependency completion mechanisms”. PI. \$391,214.  
2014-2016 JHU Science of Learning Institute, “Insights into human learning and development from visual cortex plasticity in blindness”. Co-PI, with Marina Bedny (PI), and Pablo Celnik. \$150,000.  
2013-2018 National Science Foundation #BCS-1344269 INSPIRE Track1, “Gradient Symbolic Computation”. Co-PI, with Paul Smolensky (PI), Matt Goldrick, Kyle Rawlins, Benjamin Van Durme, and Geraldine Legendre. \$833,997.  
2012-2014 Language Learning Research Grant, “Structure and memory in second language sentence processing”. PI. \$9,988.  
2009-2011 National Science Foundation #BCS-0954651, “Commitment and flexibility in the developing parser” (Co-PI, with Colin Phillips (PI) and Jeff Lidz). \$11,966.  
2009 Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, \$10,000, University of Maryland  
2008 Summer Research Fellowship, \$5,000, University of Maryland

## **Publications**

### ***Journal articles***

- 2016 Atkinson, E., Apple, A., Rawlins, K., & Omaki, A. Similarity of wh-phrases and acceptability variation in wh-islands. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6:2048. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.02048  
2015 Lane, C., Kanjlia, S., Omaki, A., & Bedny, M. Visual cortex of congenitally blind adults responds to syntactic movement. *The Journal of Neuroscience*, 35, 12859-12867.  
2015 Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., & Franck, J. Developmental changes in the misinterpretation of garden-path wh-questions in French. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. doi: 10.1080/17470218.2015.1054845  
2015 Omaki, A., Lau, E. F., Davidson White, I., Dakan, M., Apple, A., & Phillips, C. Hyper-active gap filling. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6:384. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00384  
2015 Omaki, A., & Lidz, J. Linking parser development to acquisition of syntactic knowledge. *Language Acquisition*, 22,

158-192.

- 2014 Omaki, A., Davidson White, I., Goro, T., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. No fear of commitment: Children's incremental interpretation in English and Japanese wh-questions. *Language Learning and Development*, 10, 206-233.
- 2013 Omaki, A. Grammatical constraints and reductionism in sentence processing. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*, 3, 330-334.
- 2011 Omaki, A., & Schulz, B. Filler-gap dependencies and island constraints in second language sentence processing. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 33, 563-588.
- 2010 Omaki, A., & Nakao, C. Does English resumption really help to repair island violations? *Snippets*, 21, 11-12.

### **Book chapters**

- 2013 Omaki, A., & Yoshida, M. Movement. In M. Aronoff (Ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 Kush, D., Omaki, A., & Hornstein, N. Microvariation in islands? In J. Sprouse & N. Hornstein (Eds.), *Experimental syntax and island effects* (pp. 239-264). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2008 Poeppel, D., & Omaki, A. Language acquisition and ERP approaches: Prospects and challenges. In A. Friederici & G. Thierry (Eds.), *Early language acquisition: Bridging brain and behavior* (pp. 233-255). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

### **Conference proceedings**

- in press Fukuda, S., Nakao, C., Omaki, A., & Polinsky, M. Revisiting subject-object asymmetry: subextraction in Japanese. To appear in WAFL 10 Proceedings.
- 2013 Hsin, L., Legendre, G., & Omaki, A. Priming cross-linguistic interference in Spanish-English bilingual children. In S. Baiz, N. Goldman & R. Hawkes (Eds.), *BUCLD 37 Proceedings* (pp. 165-177). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.
- 2011 Jurka, J., Nakao, C., & Omaki, A. It's not the end of the CED as we know it: Revisiting German and Japanese subject islands. In M. B. Washburn, K. McKinney-Bock, E. Varis, A. Sawyer & B. Tomaszewics (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 28th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* (pp. 124-132). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.
- 2009 Omaki, A. Verbal morphology: Return of the affix hopping approach. In *Proceedings of NELS 38, vol. 2* (pp. 193-204). Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- 2007 Omaki, A. Revisiting revived *Syntactic Structures*: The extended hybrid approach to verbal morphology. In *University of Maryland Working Papers in Linguistics 16*.
- 2006 Bullock, G., Omaki, A., Schulz, B., Schwartz, B. D., & Tremblay, A. Where do L2ers attach interclausal adverbials? In A. Belletti, E. Bennati, C. Chesi, E. Di Domenico, & I. Ferrari (Eds.), *Language acquisition and development: Proceedings of GALA 2005* (pp. 82-95). Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press.
- 2006 Miyao, M., & Omaki, A. No ambiguity about it: Korean learners of Japanese have a clear attachment preference. *Proceedings of the 30th Boston University Conference on Language Development Supplement*.
- 2005 Omaki, A., & Arijji, K. Testing and attesting the use of structural information in L2 sentence processing. In L. Dekydtspotter, R. A. Sprouse, A. Liljestr nd (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 7th Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition Conference* (pp. 205-218). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings.
- 2004 Arijji, K., Omaki, A., & Tatsuta, N. Psycholinguistic evidence on RTO constructions in Japanese. In K. Moulton & M. Wolf (Eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 34* (pp. 105-116). Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- 2003 Arijji, K., Omaki, A., & Tatsuta, N. Working memory restricts the use of semantic information in ambiguity resolution. In P. Slezak (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Cognitive Science* (pp. 19-25). Sydney, Australia: University of New South Wales.

### **Invited Conference Presentations**

- 2015 Linking parser development and language acquisition. BLIT/CELESE Intertional Workshop on Neurocognitive Basis for Language, Waseda University, August 7.
- 2013 Growing expectations. Mayfest 2013: Linguistically Predictable: When, How, and Why Do We Predict in Language? University of Maryland, 4 May.
- 2012 From input to intake: Cross-linguistic investigations of parser and grammar development. The 7<sup>th</sup> International

**Invited Colloquium Talks**

- 2015 Memory and representational constraints on filler-gap dependency processing. Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, October 23.
- 2015 Parser development and the role of experience. Department of Linguistics, University of Delaware, May 8.
- 2015 Linking parser development and acquisition of syntax. Department of Linguistics, University of Utah, March 23.
- 2015 Immature incremental parsing in the developing parser. Language Processing Brown Bag, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, March 12.
- 2015 Linking parser development and acquisition of syntax. Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, February 6.
- 2013 Learning to parse syntactic dependencies. Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, September 27.
- 2013 Statistically learning (to parse) non-local dependencies. Center for Brain and Language, Hiroshima University, May 16.
- 2012 From input to intake: Cross-linguistic investigations of parser and grammar development. Yale Syntax Colloquium, Department of Linguistics, Yale University, April 27.
- 2012 From input to intake: Cross-linguistic investigations of parser and grammar development. IGERT Seminar, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania, April 18.
- 2012 Children's active wh-comprehension and its consequences on the input distribution. Seminar on Acquisition and the Human Language Faculty, Department of Linguistics, Georgetown University, April 4.
- 2011 Predicting wh-dependencies: Parsing, interpretation, and learning perspectives. Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science, University of Delaware, December 2.
- 2011 Predicting wh-dependencies: Parsing, interpretation, and learning perspectives. Center for Language and Speech Processing, Johns Hopkins University, September 30.
- 2011 Syntactic and interpretive commitments in filler-gap dependency processing. Department of Linguistics, Leiden University, June 16.
- 2010 Children's initial interpretation and re-interpretation of Japanese and English wh-attachment ambiguities. NTT Communication Science Laboratories, November 30.
- 2010 Helping children out of kindergarten-paths in English and Japanese wh-questions. Developmental Psycholinguistics Seminar, Kyoto Sangyo University, November 25.
- 2010 Risky business: Predictive structure building in first and second language learners. Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook University, March 3.
- 2010 Risky business: Predictive structure building in adults and children. Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, March 1.
- 2010 Comprehension of wh-constructions in child sentence processing. Center for Brain and Language, Hiroshima University, January 21.

**Refereed Conference Presentations**

- 2016 Atkinson, E., & Omaki, A. Adaptation of gap predictions in filler-gap dependency processing. Poster presented at CUNY 2016.
- 2016 Omaki, A., Ovans, Z., & Dillon, B. Intrusive reflexive binding inside a fronted wh-predicate. Poster presented at CUNY 2016.
- 2016 Atkinson, E., & Omaki, A. Immature filler-gap dependency processing in 5- to 7-year-olds. Paper presented at the LSA 2016 Annual Meeting, January 10.
- 2015 Apple, A., & Omaki, A. Incrementality and garden-path recovery in children's resolution of direct object vs. sentential complement ambiguity. Paper presented at BUCLD 2015, November 13.
- 2015 Apple, A., & Omaki, A. Development of sentential complement ambiguity processing. Poster presented at CUNY 2015, March 21.
- 2014 Atkinson, E., Reisinger, D., & Omaki, A. Do small clause predicates ameliorate island violations? Poster presented at Gradient Symbolic Computation workshop, Johns Hopkins University, November 14.
- 2014 Omaki, A., Kobayashi, T., & Lidz, J. Cue reliability in the acquisition of Japanese case markers. Paper presented at

BUCLD 39, November 7.

- 2014 Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., & Franck, J. Abstract knowledge of non-canonical word order by 21 month olds. Paper presented at BUCLD 39, November 9.
- 2014 Omaki, A., & Apple, A. Adaptation of active gap filling in coordinated sentences. Talk presented at AMLaP 2014, University of Edinburgh, September 4.
- 2014 Atkinson, A., Omaki, A., & Wilson, C. Modeling visual world eye-tracking data: Insights from fMRI. Poster presented at AMLaP 2014, University of Edinburgh, September 6.
- 2014 Atkinson, A., & Omaki, A. Grammatical faithfulness in processing of multiple dependencies. Poster presented at AMLaP 2014, University of Edinburgh, September 6.
- 2014 Lane, C., Kanjlia, S., Omaki, A., & Bedny, M. Sensitivity to syntactic complexity in visual cortex of blind adults. Talk presented at Society of Neurobiology of Language Conference 2014, Amsterdam, August 29.
- 2014 Villata, S., Rizzi, L., Omaki, A., & Franck, J. Relativized Minimality: A systematic investigation on intervention effects. Poster presented at CUNY 2014, Columbus, Ohio State University.
- 2014 Omaki, A., Dillon, B., Kubo, T., Sato, M., & Sakai, H. Anti-locality preference in the processing of Japanese reflexive binding. Poster presented at CUNY 2014, Columbus, Ohio State University.
- 2013 Atkinson, E., Apple, A., Rawlins, K., & Omaki, A. Wh-island amelioration at the interfaces: syntax, processing, and semantic distinctness. Talk presented at NELS 44, Storrs, University of Connecticut.
- 2013 Villata, S., Omaki, A., Rizzi, L., & Frank, J. Relativized Minimality and cue-based memory model: New insights on the role of similarity. Poster presented at AMLaP 2013, Marseille, France.
- 2013 Atkinson, E., Simeon, K., & Omaki, A. The time course of filler-gap dependency processing in the developing parser. Poster presented at CUNY 2013, Columbia, South Carolina.
- 2012 Lidz, J., Omaki, A., & Orita, N. Input in the lab causes 15-month-olds to learn an English non-adjacent dependency. Paper presented at BUCLD 37, Boston University.
- 2012 Hsin, L., Legendre, G., & Omaki, A. Priming cross-linguistic interference in bilingual children. Paper presented at BUCLD 37, Boston University.
- 2012 Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., Panizza, D., Villata, S., & Franck, J. Sentence revision and executive control in French-speaking children and adults: Evidence from wh-questions with filled-gaps. Poster presented at BUCLD 37, Boston University.
- 2012 Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., Panizza, D., Villata, S., & Franck, J. Linking cognitive control to revision of garden-path wh-questions in adults and children. Paper presented at AMLaP 2012, Riva del Garda, Italy.
- 2012 Omaki, A., Kobayashi, T., Lassotta, R., Rizzi, L., & Franck, J. Input effects on parser development: Evidence from Japanese word order development. Poster presented at AMLaP 2012, Riva del Garda, Italy.
- 2012 Hsin, L., Legendre, G., & Omaki, A. Priming cross-linguistic interference in bilingual children. Poster presented at AMLaP 2012, Riva del Garda, Italy.
- 2012 Hsin, L., & Omaki, A. Context and constructions: Cross-linguistic influence in bilingual preschoolers. Poster to be presented at International Workshop on Language Production 2012, New York University.
- 2012 Omaki, A., Lassotta, R., Kobayashi, T., Rizzi, L., & Franck, J. Delay of word order development in Japanese? Evidence from a preferential looking study with 19 and 30-month-old children. Poster to be presented at Cognitive Science Society, Sapporo, Japan.
- 2011 Omaki, A., & Nakao, C. *Acceptability asymmetry and interpretive symmetry between subject and object resumptive pronouns in English*. Paper presented at Islands in Contemporary Linguistic Theory, Vitoria, Spain, 16-18 November.
- 2011 Omaki, A., Lassotta, R., & Franck, J. Sentence revision difficulties in French-speaking children and adults: Evidence from wh-questions with filled gaps. Poster presented at AMLaP 2011, Paris, France, 2 September.
- 2011 Franck, J., Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., & Rizzi, L. Sentence processing in 19-month-olds: The role of abstract word order representations. Poster presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, San Sebastian, Spain, 15 April.
- 2011 Omaki, A., Davidson White, I., Goro, T., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. The effectiveness of revision cues in retracting incremental wh-attachment in Japanese. Paper presented at Society of Research on Child Development (SRCD 2011), Montreal, Canada, 1 April.
- 2010 Omaki, A., Davidson White, I., Goro, T., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. Using verb information to escape from kindergarten-paths in English and Japanese wh-questions. Paper presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 35), Boston, 5 November.
- 2010 Omaki, A., Lau, E. F., Davidson White, I., & Phillips, C. Hyper-active gap filling: Pre-verbal object gap creation in

- English filler-gap dependency processing. Poster presented at Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP) 2010, York, UK, 7 September.
- 2010 Omaki, A., Davidson White, I., Goro, T., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. Verb primacy and kindergarten-path effects in wh-processing: Evidence from English and Japanese. Paper presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing 2010, New York, NY. 19 March.
- 2010 Jurka, J., Omaki, A., & Nakao, C. In defense of the CED: Revisiting German and Japanese subject island effects. Paper presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference for Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 2010), University of Southern California, CA.
- 2010 Jurka, J., Omaki, A., & Nakao, C. It's not the end of the CED as we know it: Revisiting German and Japanese subject island effects. Paper presented at the Linearization Workshop at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) 2010, Berlin, Germany.
- 2010 Omaki, A., Lau, E. F., & Phillips, C. Resolving English filler-gap dependencies in advance of verb information. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Baltimore.
- 2009 Omaki, A., Trock, A., Wagers, M., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. Active gap search in the visual world with lexical competitors. Poster presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing 2009, Davis, CA.
- 2009 Kush, D., Omaki, A., & Hornstein, N. Reanalyzing relative clause island effects. Paper presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), Nantes, France.
- 2009 Kush, D., Omaki, A., Dillon, B., Alcocer, P., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. Bound variable dependencies reveal structure-sensitivity of search. Poster presented at the Annual CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing 2009, Davis, CA.
- 2008 Omaki, A., & Schulz, B. Evidence for the online use of island constraints in second language processing. Paper presented at the Second Language Research Forum 2008, Honolulu, 17 October.
- 2008 Omaki, A., Conroy, A. M., & Lidz, J. An experimental investigation of referential/nonreferential asymmetries in syntactic reconstruction. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on Quantitative Investigations in Theoretical Linguistics (QITL-3), Helsinki, 3 June.
- 2007 Goro, T., Gagliardi, A., Omaki, A., Katsura, N., Tamura, S.-I., Yusa, N., & Phillips, C. Freedom of scope and conservatism in the development of Japanese. Paper presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 32), Boston, 4 November.
- 2007 Omaki, A. Verbal morphology: Return of the affix hopping approach. Poster presented at the North Eastern Linguistics Society (NELS) 38, Ottawa, 26 October.
- 2007 Omaki, A., Dyer, C., Malhotra, S., Sprouse, J., Lidz, J., & Phillips, C. The time-course of anaphoric processing and syntactic reconstruction. Paper presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing 2007, San Diego, CA. 29 March.
- 2005 Miyao, M., & Omaki, A. No ambiguity about it: Korean learners of Japanese have a clear attachment preference. Poster presented at the 30th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston, 5 November.
- 2005 Bullock, G., Omaki, A., Schulz, B., Schwartz, B. D., & Tremblay, A. Did they say in Interlanguage that CP is missing, or did they say that in Interlanguage CP is missing? Paper presented at the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA 2005), Siena, 9 November.
- 2005 Omaki, A. Working memory and relative clause attachment under increased sentence complexity. Poster presented at the 18th Annual CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing, Tucson, 2 April.
- 2004 Omaki, A., & Arij, K. Testing and attesting the use of structural information in L2 processing. Paper presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition, Bloomington, 16 April.
- 2004 Omaki, A., & Arij, K. On the use of structural and lexical information in second language processing. Poster presented at the 17th CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing, College Park, 26 March.
- 2003 Arij, K., Omaki, A., & Tatsuta, N. Psycholinguistic evidence on RTO constructions in Japanese. Poster presented at the 34th North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS), Stony Brook, 8 November.
- 2003 Omaki, A., & Arij, K. Working memory capacity for sentence processing: Is it language-independent? Paper presented at the 16th Second Language Research Forum, Tucson, Arizona. 17 October.
- 2003 Arij, K., Omaki, A., & Tatsuta, N. Working memory restricts the use of semantic information in ambiguity resolution. Poster presented at the 4th International Conference on Cognitive Science, Sydney, 14 July.

### **Other Invited Presentations**

- 2012 Typical language development and its implications for autism. An informal lecture for Autism Advocate (an

undergraduate student organization), Johns Hopkins University, 27 February.

## **Professional Activities**

### ***Membership in professional organizations***

2004-present Linguistic Society of America

### ***Ad hoc reviewing of scholarly works***

Journals, Books Applied Psycholinguistics; Bilingualism: Language and Cognition; Biolinguistics; Cognition; Frontiers in Psychology; Journal of Child Language; Journal of East Asian Linguistics; Journal of Linguistics; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research; Language; Language Acquisition; Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Language Learning and Development; Lingua; Linguistic Inquiry; Natural Language and Linguistic Theory; Oxford University Press; SLRF Proceedings; Studies in Language Sciences

Conference Abstracts Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing (AMLaP); Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD); CUNY Conference on Sentence Processing; Generative Approach to Language Acquisition (GALA); Generative Approach to Language Acquisition North America (GALANA); Generative Approach to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA); Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference; Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting; Second Language Research Forum (SLRF)

Grant Agency National Science Foundation (Linguistics; Developmental and Learning Sciences)

### ***Organizing conferences and workshops***

2014 The Continuous and the Discrete in Sentence Processing, Johns Hopkins University (co-organizer)

2006 Language Learning Fest: Counts, Cues, Constraints and Computation, University of Maryland (co-organizer)

## **Teaching Experience**

### ***Johns Hopkins University***

2011-2015 Undergraduate: Psycholinguistics; Language and Mind

Graduate: Seminar on sentence processing; Seminar on language acquisition (w/ Geraldine Legendre); Seminar on experimental syntax/semantics (w/ Kyle Rawlins)

### ***University of Maryland (as instructor)***

2007-2009 Undergraduate psycholinguistics seminar (Grammar, processing and learning of long-distance dependencies); Language & Mind (Introduction to linguistics for majors)

### ***University of Hawai'i***

2004-05 Intermediate/Advanced English Listening/Speaking for ESL learners

## **Graduate Advising**

Emily Atkinson (PhD expected 2016)

Karen Clothier (PhD expected 2019)

Aaron Apple (PhD expected 2020)

Carolyn Jane Lutken (PhD expected 2020)

## **Collaborators**

Marina Bedny, *Johns Hopkins University*

Brian Dillon, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Julie Franck, *University of Geneva, Switzerland*

Tessei Kobayashi, *NTT Communication Science Laboratories, Japan*

Jeff Lidz, *University of Maryland*

Nazbanou Nozari, *Johns Hopkins University*

Colin Phillips, *University of Maryland*

Hiromu Sakai, *Waseda University, Japan*

## **Languages**

Japanese: Native  
English: Near native  
German: Reading knowledge; basic speaking ability  
French: Reading knowledge; basic speaking ability