John R. Starr

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EDUCATION

2025 (Expected)	Ph.D. Linguistics (Advisor: Marten van Schijndel)	Cornell University
	Dissertation: *Dynamic interaction of linguistic streams during processing*	
2023	M.A. Linguistics	Cornell University
2020	B.A. Linguistics, B.A. English Writing (Minor: Persian)	University of Pittsburgh

PUBLICATIONS

under review | **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. "Rational use of phonological cues during processing: evidence from rhyme"

accepted w/ revisions | **John R. Starr** & Marten van Schijndel. "Losing phonotactic distinctions in context." *Cognitive Science.*

2024 | Jacob Matthews, **John R. Starr**, & Marten van Schijndel. "Semantics or spelling? Probing contextual word embeddings with orthographic noise." In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics 2024*. [link]

2023 | **John R. Starr** & Marten van Schijndel. "Discourse context modulates phonotactic processing." In *Supplemental Proceedings of the 2023 Annual Meeting on Phonology.*

EDITED VOLUMES

2022 | **John R. Starr**, Juhyae Kim, & Burak Öney (eds.). *Proceedings of the 32nd Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT32)*. El Colegio de Mexico (COLMEX) & the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

2021 | Nicole Dreier, Chloe Kwon, Thomas Darnell, & **John R. Starr** (eds.). *Proceedings of the 31st Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT31)*. Brown University.

INVITED TALKS

2024 | "Trending toward a contextual psycholinguistics." *Breiss Lab*. University of Southern California. [Virtual]

| "Bust or robust? Unpacking Representational Sensitivity of Modern Vector Representations" *Columbia University NLP Group.*

| "What can natural language processing tell us about human language processing?" *University of Pittsburgh Python for Linguists (PyLing).* [Virtual]

2022 | "A first look at mind rhymes." *The Berkeley Phonetics, Phonology, and Psycholinguistics Forum (PHORUM).* [Virtual]

PRESENTATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACT)

2025 | **John R. Starr** & Marten van Schijndel. "Focus reveals how people (variably) update event representations to novel material." The *38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP).*

| Ashlyn Winship, Zander Lynch, **John R. Starr**, Yifan Wu, Lucas Li, & Marten van Schijndel. "Experimentally extracting implicit instruments." The *38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP).*

2024 | **John R. Starr** & Marten van Schijndel. "Contexts let you flop and flip binomials" The *30th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) Conference.*

| Jacob Matthews, **John R. Starr**, & Marten van Schijndel. "Semantics or spelling? Probing contextual word embeddings with orthographic noise." The *62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).*

2023 | **John R. Starr** & Marten van Schijndel. "Discourse context modulates phonotactic processing." The *2023 Annual Meeting on Phonology.*

| **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. "The relationship between phonological viability and syntactic complexity." The *30th Manchester Phonology Meeting (30mfm).*

| **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. "Salient phonological information modulates the effect of semantic priming in prediction." The *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP).*

| **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, Marten van Schijndel, & Draga Zec. "Phonological structure influences incremental syntactic processing." The *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP).*

| 2022 | **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. "Semantics reels us in: A first look at mind rhymes." The *35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP)*. |

OTHER PRESENTATIONS (NON-PEER REVIEWED ABSTRACT)

| 2024 | **John R. Starr**. "Situating phonological phenomena within events." The *3rd Workshop on Processing and Evaluating Event Representations (PEER)*. |

| 2022 | **John R. Starr**, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. "Subversive verses alter alternatives: Mind rhyme and its implications on covert processing." The *1st Workshop on Processing and Evaluating Event Representations (PEER)*. |

TEACHING

Instructor of Record:

| 2023 | Fall | LING1101: *How We're Laughter Crafters* | Cornell University |

Teaching Assistant: (* = Head GTA for UTAs)

2024	Spring	LING4424/6624	CS4744: *Computational Linguistics I*	Cornell University
2023	Spring	LING4424/6624	CS4744: *Computational Linguistics I*	Cornell University
2022	Fall	*CS5740/4740: *Natural Language Processing*	Cornell University
	Spring	LING1170	CS1710: *Introduction to Cognitive Science*	Cornell University
2021	Fall	LING3303: *Introduction to Syntax and Semantics*	Cornell University
2020	Spring	LING2340/1340: *Data Science for Linguists*	University of Pittsburgh
2019	Spring	LING1000: *Introduction to Linguistics*	University of Pittsburgh

AWARDS

2024, 2021	Cornell Cognitive Science Graduate Research Award	($1,000)
2023	Cornell Graduate School Graduate Travel Award	($750)
	Cornell Cognitive Science Graduate Travel Award	($750)
2020	Sage Fellowship	($73,000)
2020-Present	Beinecke Scholarship	($34,000)

SERVICE

2023-2025	Student Representative	LSA Executive Committee
2023-Present	Writing Coach	Cornell Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives (OADI)
2023-2024	President	Cornell Linguistics Circle
2022-2023	Graduate Student Representative	Faculty search committee in Phonology
2021-2022	Social Chair	Cornell Linguistics Circle
2020-2022	Organizer	Cornell University Department of Linguistics Open House

REVIEWING

2025	Penn Linguistic Conference, Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Workshop on Processing and Evaluating Event Representations (PEER)
2024	Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Journal of Memory and Language

EMPLOYMENT

2018-2020	Linguistic Data Intern	*Voci Technologies*
2019	LORELEI Assistant	*Carnegie Mellon University*

LANGUAGES

Native: English

Advanced: Persian

Programming: Python [pandas, NumPy, transformers, PyTorch]; R; Git

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, phonology, language modeling, information theory, natural language processing, priming, dynamical modeling, poetics, humor

References available upon request.