

John R. Starr

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EDUCATION

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

PUBLICATIONS

resubmitted	John R. Starr & Marten van Schijndel. “When a bnick falls in a context, does anyone notice it?”
resubmitted	John R. Starr , Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. “Rhyming over priming: rhyme tempers semantic priming effects.”
2024	Jacob Matthews, John R. Starr , & Marten van Schijndel. “Semantics or spelling? Probing contextual word embeddings with orthographic noise.” In <i>Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics 2024</i> .
2023	John R. Starr & Marten van Schijndel. “Discourse context modulates phonotactic processing.” In <i>Supplemental Proceedings of the 2023 Annual Meeting on Phonology</i> .

EDITED VOLUMES

2022	John R. Starr , Juhyae Kim, & Burak Öney (eds.). <i>Proceedings of the 32nd Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT32)</i> . El Colegio de Mexico (COLMEX) & the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).
2021	Nicole Dreier, Chloe Kwon, Thomas Darnell, & John R. Starr (eds.). <i>Proceedings of the 31st Semantics and Linguistic Theory Conference (SALT31)</i> . Brown University.

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)

INVITED TALKS

2024	<p>“Bust or robust? Unpacking Representational Sensitivity of Modern Vector Representations” <i>Columbia University NLP Group</i>.</p> <p>“What can natural language processing tell us about human language processing?” <i>University of Pittsburgh Python for Linguists (PyLing)</i>.</p>
2022	<p>“A first look at mind rhymes.” <i>The Berkeley Phonetics, Phonology, and Psycholinguistics Forum (PHORUM)</i>.</p>

PRESENTATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACT)

2024	<p> John R. Starr & Marten van Schijndel. “Contexts let you flop and flip binomials” The 30th <i>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) Conference</i>.</p> <p> Jacob Matthews, John R. Starr, & Marten van Schijndel. “Semantics or spelling? Probing contextual word embeddings with orthographic noise.” The 62nd <i>Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)</i></p>
2023	<p> John R. Starr & Marten van Schijndel. “Discourse context modulates phonotactic processing.” The 2023 <i>Annual Meeting on Phonology</i>.</p> <p> John R. Starr, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. “The relationship between phonological viability and syntactic complexity.” The 30th <i>Manchester Phonology Meeting (30mfm)</i>.</p> <p> John R. Starr, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. “Salient phonological information modulates the effect of semantic priming in prediction.” The 36th <i>Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP)</i>.</p> <p> John R. Starr, Helena Aparicio, Marten van Schijndel, & Draga Zec. “Phonological structure influences incremental syntactic processing.” The 36th <i>Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP)</i>.</p>
2022	<p> John R. Starr, Helena Aparicio, & Marten van Schijndel. “Semantics reels us in: A first look at mind rhymes.” The 35th <i>Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP)</i>.</p>

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 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)*.

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

2024	Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Journal of Memory and Language
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TEACHING

Instructor of Record:

2023	Fall	LING1101: <i>How We're Laughter Crafters</i>	Cornell University
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Teaching Assistant:

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

EMPLOYMENT

2018-2020	Linguistic Data Intern	<i>Voci Technologies</i>
2019	LORELEI Assistant	<i>Carnegie Mellon University</i>

LANGUAGES

Native/fluent: English

Advanced: Persian

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational psycholinguistics, language modeling, information theory, natural language processing, priming, phonology, dynamical modeling, poetics, humor

References available upon request.