Timothy James Leffel

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2016–   Research Scientist, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

2014–16 Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Linguistics. University of Chicago

EDUCATION

2014   PhD, Linguistics. New York University
thesis   *The semantics of modification: Adjectives, nouns, and order*   [`lingbuzz`]
advisor   Chris Barker

2012   Visiting PhD student, Linguistics. Universität Potsdam and SFB 632, Berlin

2011   MA, Linguistics. New York University

2009   BA with honors, *magna cum laude*, Linguistics/Philosophy. The Ohio State University

RESEARCH

Publications and submissions, with [`links`] for open access items and drafts

to app.   Imprecision is pragmatic: Evidence from referential processing (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *The Proceedings of SALT 26*.

subm'ed Vagueness and the derivation of structural implicatures (w/ Alexandre Cremers, Jacopo Romoli, Nicole Gotzner). [`draft`]

2014   Restrictive versus non-restrictive composition: An MEG study (w/ Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pylkkänen). *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* 29(10):1191–1204. [`link`]

2014   Pronominal F-markers in Basaá (w/ Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). In Huang, Poole, and Rysling (eds), *Proceedings of NELS 43*, 265–276.

2012   Modality and future reference in Masalit. In Marlo et al. (eds), *Selected Proceedings of ACAL 42*, 221–230. [`link`]

2011   English proximal/distal non-deictic demonstratives align with hearer-new/hearer-old information status. *Snippets* 23:9–10. [`link`]

Manuscripts, unpublished or in preparation

in prep   Interpreting gradable adjectives in context: Domain distribution vs. scalar representation (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang).

2011   Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. Semantics qualifying paper, New York University.

2011   Focus constructions in Masalit. Syntax qualifying paper, New York University.

Conference presentations (peer-reviewed abstracts)

2016   Imprecision is pragmatic: Evidence from referential processing (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. (SALT 26, talk)

2016   'Not very' Adj: Vagueness and implicature calculation (w/ Alexandre Cremers, Jacopo Romoli, Nicole Gotzner). *The 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC. (LSA 90, talk)

2016   Context and world knowledge in gradable adjective interpretation (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *The 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC. (LSA 90, talk)

2014   Restrictive versus non-restrictive composition: An MEG study (w/ Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pylkkänen). *The 27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. (CUNY 27, poster)

2012   Information structure and pronominal morphology in Basaá (w/ Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). *North East Linguistic Society 43*, City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY. (NELS 43, poster)

2012   Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World 35*, Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany. (GLOW 35, poster)

2012   Nonrestrictive adjectives and blind implicatures. *Workshop on Semantic and Pragmatic Properties of (Non) restrictivity*. Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany. (SPPNR, talk)

2011   Epistemic modality in Masalit. *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 42*. University of Maryland, College Park, MD. (ACAL 42, talk)

2010   Term focus in Masalit. *SUNY/Yale/NYU/CUNY Mini-Conference 12*, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY. (SYNC 12, talk)

Workshops, invited talks, other presentations

2015   Meaning alternations and kind reference in modified nouns. Michigan State University Linguistics Colloquium, East Lansing, MI. (invited colloquium)

2013   A syntactically conservative approach to Bolinger effects. Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 3, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. (non-refereed workshop)

2012   Information structure-related fronting and pronominal morphology in Basaá (w/ Paul Roger Bassong, Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). 15th Internal Workshop of the SFB 632. Wandlitz, Germany. (internal workshop)

2012	'Single' as anti-plural. Universität Potsdam Semantics Colloquium. Potsdam, Germany.
2011	Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. Yale University Department of Linguistics Lunch Talk, New Haven, CT. (invited)
2010	Continuation semantics for expressives and epithets. Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 1, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. (non-refereed workshop, poster)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2015–16	Some Institutes for Advanced Study (SIAS) Summer Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2015) and National Humanities Center, Chapel Hill (2016).
2009–14	MacCracken Graduate Fellowship (tuition/fees/stipend), New York University.
2012	Research grant for temporary PhD position in the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 632. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Six months of full financial support.
2009	Bingham Award for Best Undergraduate Essay in Philosophy, The Ohio State University. Paper: "Should an Intuitionist Accept Church's Thesis?" (cash prize)
2009	ASC Excellence in Scholarship Award, The Ohio State University.
2004–05	Ohio Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program. Scholarship to enroll in courses at Columbus State Community College during final year of high school. (tuition, fees, textbooks paid)

TEACHING

University of Chicago

2016	Instructor for Psycholinguistics. Fall quarter.

New York University

2013	TA for Linguistics as Cognitive Science. Spring semester. Primary instructor: Alec Marantz.
2012	TA for Introduction to Semantics, with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructor: Chris Barker.
2011	TA for Grammatical Analysis (introductory syntax), with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructor: Mark Baltin.
2011	Instructor for Language (introduction to linguistics). Summer term. Co-instructor: Luiza Newlin-Lukowicz.
2010	TA for Language and Mind (introduction to (psycho)linguistics), with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructors: Alec Marantz and Brian McElree.

Elsewhere

2010   No Child Left Behind tutor in English and Mathematics for NYC Public Schools.
         Summer. New York, NY. (subcontracted through The Academic Advantage, Inc.)

2009   Instructor for Conversational ESL, University Settlement.
         Fall. New York, NY. (volunteer)

2007   Tutor for Language and Formal Reasoning (LING 280), The Ohio State University.
         Fall quarter. Columbus, OH.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016–   Research contractor (p/t), National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
         > execution of comprehensive reviews of scientific literature on child educational development

2015–   Data science intern (p/t), Vantage Sports Inc.
         > statistical analysis and modeling of advanced NBA datasets; predictive modeling for DFS

2010–   Ad hoc referee for
         Journal of African Languages and Linguistics; *Lingua*; *NYU Working Papers in Linguistics*;
         SYNC (abstracts); XPRAG (abstracts); CLS (abstracts)

2015   Program committee member, Experimental Pragmatics 2015 (XPRAG), U Chicago

2014   Organizing committee member, Semantics and Linguistic Theory 24 (SALT), NYU

2013–15 Consulting Linguist (p/t contractor), Penguin Inc.
         > developed scientifically-informed reading difficulty metrics for English Language Learners

2012–13 NYU Semantics Group talk series coordinator

2012   Manuscript editor (p/t contractor), American Journal Experts

2011   Co-organizer (w/ Neil Myler), The 13th annual SYNC Linguistics Mini-Conference

2010–11 Semantics faculty search committee student representative, New York University

2010–11 Linguistics treasurer and representative to NYU Graduate Student Government

MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Technical skills

> R (fluent), Python (intermediate), LaTeX (fluent), html (basic), Rmd/Rnw (fluent), Praat (basic), E-Prime Studio (basic), MS Excel (intermediate), basic knowledge of Matlab, Stata, Javascript, CSS

Language proficiencies

> English (native); German (basic verbal communication); French, Spanish (some reading knowledge)

> Basaá, Masalit (research knowledge)