

TIMOTHY JAMES LEFFEL

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2014– 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, with [links] for open access items

- 2014 Restrictive versus non-restrictive composition: An MEG study (with Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pytkänen). *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* 29(10):1191–1204. [link]
- 2014 Pronominal F-markers in Basa'a (with Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzbica). 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]

unpublished manuscripts

- 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 (refereed abstracts)

- 2016 Imprecision is pragmatic: Evidence from referential processing (with Chris Kennedy and Ming Xiang). to be presented at *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. (SALT 26, talk)
- 2016 ‘Not very’ Adj: Vagueness and implicature calculation (with Alexandre Cremers, Jacopo Romoli, and 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 (with Chris Kennedy and 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 (with Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pytkäinen). *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 Basa’a (with 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. (talk)
- 2011 Epistemic modality in Masalit. *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 42*. University of Maryland, College Park, MD. (talk)
- 2010 Term focus in Masalit. *SUNY/Yale/NYU/CUNY (SYNC) Mini-Conference 12*, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY. (graduate student conference, 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 Basa’a. 15th Internal Workshop of the SFB 632. Wandlitz, Germany. (with Paul Roger Bassong, Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba)
- 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)/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

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; daily fantasy sports modeling
- 2015 Program committee member, Experimental Pragmatics 2015 (XPRAG)
- 2013–15 Consulting Linguist (p/t contractor), Penguin Inc.
> developed reading difficulty metrics for L2 English readers
- 2012–13 NYU Semantics Group talk series coordinator
- 2010– Ad hoc referee, *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*; *Lingua*; *NYU Working Papers in Linguistics*; SYNC (abstracts); XPRAG (abstracts); CLS (abstracts)
- 2012 Manuscript editor (p/t contractor), American Journal Experts
- 2011 Co-organizer (with 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 competencies

- > R, Python, L^AT_EX, Praat, E-Prime Studio, very basic knowledge of a few other statistical computing suites and programming languages

language proficiencies

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