Timothy James Leffel

short cv, apr30/2017

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SUMMARY

I'm a Research Scientist at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. Though trained as a generative linguist (formal semantics, psycholinguistics), these days I do quantitative analysis and modeling for research groups in a variety of social science fields. Enthusiast of: math/logic, scientific computing, methodology, messy data, quantitative analysis of basketball.

POSITIONS HELD, WITH BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS

2016–   Research Scientist, Academic Research Centers. NORC at the University of Chicago.

> design and implementation of statistical analyses for a variety of social science research projects
> regression modeling; simulation and resampling; data visualization, cleaning, munging

2015–16   Data science intern (p/t). Vantage Sports Inc.

> developed and implemented daily fantasy sports lineup optimization algorithm
> built and evaluated predictive models for daily fantasy performance of NBA players

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

> experimental design and implementation (surveys, eye-tracking, visual world paradigm)
> data analysis and modeling (mixed-effects and logistic regression, RM-ANOVA, others)

2013–15   Consulting linguist (p/t). Penguin Inc., Penguin Stacks Division

> developed scientifically informed reading-difficulty metrics for second-language English readers
> evaluated difficulty level for hundreds of books based on aforementioned metrics

2010–   Adjunct Instructor and Teaching Assistant in Linguistics and Psychology.

> 2016–present at the University of Chicago; 2010–2014 at New York University
> primary instructor or TA for various undergrad courses in linguistics and psychology

EDUCATION

2014   PhD, Linguistics. New York University

2011   MA, Linguistics. New York University

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

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

> research published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and conference proceedings volumes

> extensive experience presenting research projects at academic conferences, workshops, and invited talks

> peer-reviewer for scientific journals and conferences (in both linguistics and sports analytics)

> awarded competitive six-month grant from the German government for research in Berlin/Potsdam

TECHNICAL SKILLS

programming:
> R — language of choice for custom data processing pipelines, automated reporting tools
> Python — occasional use for memory intensive operations, large datasets, integration with other systems

scientific and statistical computing:
> R — primary paradigm for wrangling data and fitting/evaluating statistical models (`lme4`, `MASS`, `VGAM`, etc.)
> Python — occasional use for bayesian modeling (via `pyMC`)

other skills:
> strong LaTeX skills, incl. beamer; tikz/pgf; integration with R and R-Markdown; custom macros; etc.
> basic web development skills, incl. HTML; CSS; a few Javascript libraries; Shiny; HTML5-based slides
> comfortable in git- and github-based version control workflows