

# Morgan Moyer

Department of Linguistics  
Margaret Jacks Hall  
Building 460, Rm. 127  
Stanford, CA 94305-2150

Email: [mcmoyer11@gmail.com](mailto:mcmoyer11@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://morganmoyer.net>  
Github: [mcmoyer11](#)

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broad • pragmatics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition and learnability, semantics, philosophy of mind, theory of mind  
Narrow • semantics/pragmatics of questions, attitude verbs, discourse particles, indexical pronouns

## APPOINTMENTS

2020–2021 Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University

## EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D. Linguistics, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
*Thesis:* The question of questions: resolving (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions  
*Chair:* Kristen Syrett  
*Committee:* Veneeta Dayal, Yimei Xiang, Paul Pietroski, Alex Lascarides
- 2019 Certificate in Cognitive Science, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science
- 2014 B.A. Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park  
*Thesis:* Children's Acquisition of Indexical Pronouns  
*Chair:* Valentine Hacquard, Jeff Lidz  
*Committee:* Alexander Williams
- 2011 A.A. General Studies, Montgomery College, Rockville

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

- 2019 Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind
- 2018 North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information
- 2018 Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind
- 2017 European Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information
- 2017 Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind
- 2014 North American Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020-2022 Principle Investigator. NSF SBE-SPRF-2005042. Resolving (non-) exhaustivity in questions: experimental and computational pragmatics. \$138,000. Co-PI: Judith Degen (Stanford University).
- 2019-2020 Co-Principle Investigator. NSF DDRIG-1918068. Doctoral Dissertation Research: Linguistic cues and speaker goals in the question/answer exchange. \$14,792. PI: Kristen Syrett (Rutgers University).
- 2019 Rutgers Off-Campus Dissertation Development Award, Rutgers University
- 2017-2018 Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University
- 2017 Professional Development Grant, Rutgers University
- 2014-2016 Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University
- 2014 Paula Menjuk Travel Award for BUCLD
- 2013 Baggett Summer Scholarship, University of Maryland
- 2012 Center for Applied Study of Language Summer Scholarship, University of Maryland

## DISSERTATION

**Moyer, M.** (2020). The question of questions: Resolving (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions. Ph.D. Dissertation, Rutgers University. [\[PDF\]](#).

## PUBLISHED PAPERS

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. (2020). The study of questions. *WIREs Cognitive Science*. [\[PDF\]](#).

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. (2019a). The semantics of questions. *WIREs Cognitive Science*. [\[PDF\]](#).

Moyer, M & K. Syrett. (2019b). (Non-)exhaustivity in embedded questions: contextual, lexical, and structural factors. In *Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of Sinn und Bedeutung*. [\[PDF\]](#).

**Moyer, M.** & Kristen Syrett. (2019c). Contextual, lexical and structural factors licensing Mention-Some Embedded Questions. In *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. [\[PDF\]](#).

**Moyer, M.**, Z. Husnain, & K. Syrett. (2019). Won't Somebody think of the children? beyond maximality in plural definite descriptions. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Boston University Conference on Child Language Development*. [\[PDF\]](#).

**Moyer, M.**, K. Harrigan, V. Hacquard & J. Lidz. (2015). 2-year-olds' comprehension of personal pronouns. In *Proceedings of 39th Boston University Conference on Language Development*. [\[PDF\]](#).

Dudley, R., N. Orita, **M. Moyer**, V. Hacquard & J. Lidz. (2014). Factivity in three year olds' understanding of know and think. In *Proceedings of 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development*.

Dudley, R., N. Orita, **M. Moyer**, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. (2013). Three year olds' understanding of know and think. In *Proceedings of 49th annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society*.

## PAPERS IN PROGRESS

**Moyer, M.** & J. Degen (*in prep*). Corpus pragmatics and (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions.

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett (*in prep*). The pragmatics of non-exhaustivity in *wh*-questions.

**Moyer, M.** & B. Tesar. (2017). Output-Driven Learning, Restrictiveness, and an Inductive Leap: learning stress-less prosodic systems from distributional evidence. Manuscript, Rutgers University. [\[PDF\]](#).

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. (2016). Issues in the Semantics and Pragmatics of Question Embedding: An Experimental Investigation. Manuscript, Rutgers University.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

### Talks Presented

**Moyer, M.** & J. Degen. Licensing (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions: Experimental studies. California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics. UC Irvine. May 2021.

**Moyer, M.** Licensing (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions: Experimental studies. Experiments in Linguistic Meaning 1. University Pennsylvania. September 2020.

Howland, C. & **M. Moyer**. Semantics with Non-Essential Content? Norwegian Summer Institute. August 2019.

**Moyer, M.** & R. Tirumala. How a speaker signals, and a listener resolves, levels of exhaustivity. X-Prag.de Workshop: Exhaustivity in Questions and Answers – Experimental and Theoretical Approaches. Tübingen University. June 2019.

**Moyer, M.**, Z. Husnain, & K. Syrett. 'Won't somebody think of the children? Beyond maximality with plural definite descriptions. 43rd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development. November 2018.

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. Contextual, Lexical and Structural Factors Licensing Mention-Some Embedded Questions. 59th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society. April 28, 2018.

**Moyer, M.** & B. Tesar. Inductive Leaps and Output-Driven Learning. NECPHON 11, Stony Brook University. October 2017.

**Moyer, M.** & B. Tesar. Learnability in non-Culminative Prosodic Systems. Rutgers-Delaware Workshop on Computational Phonology. April 2017.

**Moyer, M.**, K. Harrigan, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. 2-year-olds track discourse roles through pronominal reference. 6th Bi-annual Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition. February 2015.

R. Dudley, N. Orita, V., **M. Moyer**, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. Three-year-olds' understanding of know and think. 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society. April 2013.

### **Posters Presented**

**Moyer, M.** & J. Degen. Who thinks *wh*-questions are exhaustive? A corpus-based study. CogSci 2021. Vienna Cognitive Science Hub. July 2021.

**Moyer, M.** & J. Degen. A corpus-based study of (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions. 34th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. University Pennsylvania. March 2021.

Howland, C. & **M. Moyer**. Discourse connectives as cues to speaker reference. Norwegian Summer Institute. August 2019.

**Moyer, M.** & B. Tesar. Maintaining restrictiveness through induction in the Output-Driven Learner. 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. January 4, 2019.

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. (Non-)Exhaustivity in Embedded Questions: Contextual, Structural and Lexical Factors. Sinn und Bedeutung. September 5, 2018.

**Moyer, M.** & K. Syrett. Lexical, Contextual Factors Licensing Mention-Some Interpretations. Mid-Atlantic Colloquium on Studies in Meaning. Georgetown University. October 4, 2017.

**Moyer, M.,** R. Dudley, N. Orita, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. Are three-year-olds really insensitive to factivity? Phlint 2: An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Beliefs and Desires. April 2013.

**Moyer, M.,** R. Dudley, N. Orita, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. Are three-year-olds really insensitive to factivity? 3rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning. April 2013.

## INVITED TALKS

**Moyer, M.** The pragmatics of (non-)exhaustivity in wh-questions. UC Davis Language Group. UC Davis, October 16, 2020.

**Moyer, M.** Goal-Driven Interpretation: the pragmatics of (non-)exhaustivity in wh-questions. Rutgers-Bochum Workshop on Mind and Language. Rutgers University, March 2020.

**Moyer, M.** The pragmatics of non-exhaustivity in questions. Linguistics Colloquia, Rochester University, December 13, 2019.

**Moyer, M.** Resolving (Non-)Exhaustivity in Questions. ALPS Lab, Stanford University. September 16, 2019.

## CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

**Moyer, M.** Resolving (Non-)Exhaustivity in Questions. NLP Reading Group. Rutgers, September 25, 2019.

**Moyer, M.** How robust are Mention-Some readings? RuLing XIII. May 4, 2018.

**Moyer, M.** Context-Sensitive Exhaustivity. Rutgers Workshop on Language and Cognitive Science. March 24, 2018.

**Moyer, M.** and B. Tesar. Learnability in non-culminative prosodic systems. RuLing XII. May 2017.

**Moyer, M.** and B. Tesar. Learnability and culminativity in pitch-accent systems. PhonX. February 2017.

**Moyer, M.** and K. Syrett. An experimental investigation of knowledge-wh: exhaustive and non-exhaustive readings. Cognitive Science Graduate Talk Series. December 2015.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor

Spring 2017 Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201)  
Rutgers University

### Teaching Assistant

Spring 2020 Advanced Seminar in Cognitive Science (01:185:411)  
With Prof. Mary Rigdon, Rutgers University

Fall 2019 Cognitive Science: A Multidisciplinary Approach (01:185:201)  
With Prof. Austin Baker, Rutgers University

Spring 2019 Human Nature and Human Diversity (01:185:253; 01:730:253)  
With Prof. Stephen Stich, Rutgers University

Fall 2018 Cognitive Science: A Multidisciplinary Approach (01:185:201)  
With Prof. Deborah Acks, Rutgers University

Fall 2016 Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201)  
With Prof. Simon Charlow, Rutgers University

Fall 2019 Cognitive Science: A Multidisciplinary Approach (01:185:201)

## SERVICE

### Mentoring

- 2018-2020 Linguistics/Cognitive Science undergraduates, Rutgers University: London Dixon, Breanna Loucel, Mohammad Wiswall, Niranjana Ganesh
- 2015-2020 Research assistants in Dr. Kristen Syrett's lab: Divya Appasamy, Anna Goldin, Zehra Husnain, Laura Simon-Pearson, Rangaraj Tirumala, Ilana Torres
- 2018-2019 Undergraduates in independent study with Dr. Kristen Syrett: Knycholas Sutherland, Rangaraj Tirumala
- 2018 Honors College Graduate Mentor Fellow, Rutgers University: Hannah Canonigo, Victoria Gonzales, Kinnary Shah, Emily Wo, Maria Xu
- 2013-2014 Roosevelt High School STEM Program, University of Maryland: Susan Ojo

### Advising

- 2018-2019 Cognitive Science Undergraduate Major/Minor Advisor, Rutgers University

### Tutoring

- 2015-2016 Linguistics tutor, Rutgers University

### Journal reviewing

Semantics and Pragmatics  
Linguistics Vanguard

### Organization

- Spring 2019 14th Annual Rutgers University Linguistics Graduate Conference
- 2018-2019 Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Rutgers University and AAUP-AFT
- 2016-2019 Cognitive Science Graduate Student Association, Rutgers University
- Spring 2018 Cognitive Science of Language Interdisciplinary Workshop, Rutgers University
- Spring 2017 12th Annual Rutgers University Linguistics Graduate Conference
- Spring 2015 7th North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS OR AFFILIATIONS**

2017-present   Linguistic Society of America

2020-present   Cognitive Science Society

## **OTHER**

### **Technical Skills**

IbexFarm, PennController, Amazon Mechanical Turk, Prolific, Praat

### **Programming Languages**

Python, R, LaTeX, Ruby, Linux

### **Natural Languages**

English (fluent), French (proficient), German (intermediate, rusty)

Last Updated: May 23, 2021