

Morgan Moyer

Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle
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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

2021– Chercheuse Post Doctorant
Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, CNRS et Université Paris Cité

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 Principal 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-Principal 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. A corpus-based study of (non-)exhaustivity in *wh*-questions. 22nd Szklarska Poręba Workshop on Pragmasemantics. March 2022.

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? Phlnt 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

Understanding the semantics and pragmatics of (non-)exhaustivity in wh-questions with corpus and experimental methods. Linguae Seminar, Institute Jean-Nicod, Paris. November 2021

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

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

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

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

CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

Examining (non-)exhaustivity in wh-questions with corpus and experimental methods. LingLunch, Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle. September 2021.

Who thinks wh-questions are exhaustive? A corpus-based study. CogSci Seminar, Stanford University. April 2021.

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

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

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

Learnability in non-culminative prosodic systems. RuLing XII. May 2017.

Learnability and culminativity in pitch-accent systems. PhonX. February 2017.

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

SERVICE

Mentoring

- 2018–2020 Linguistics/Cognitive Science undergraduates, Rutgers University: London Dixon, Breanna Loucel, Mohammad Wiswall, Niranjana Ganesh
- 2015–2020 Research assistants in Rutgers Language Development Lab: Divya Appasamy, Anna Goldin, Zehra Husnain, Laura Simon-Pearson, Rangaraj Tirumala, Ilana Torres
- 2018–2019 Undergraduates in independent study: Knynicholas 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

Reviewing

Experimental Pragmatics (XPrag) Conference
Frontiers in Psychology
Glossa Psycholinguistics
Journal of Memory and Language
Linguistics Vanguard
Language Learning and Development
North Eastern Linguistic Society (NELS)
Psychological Research
Semantics and Pragmatics
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics(WCCFL)

Organization

Fall 2023 XPragX: 10th Experimental Pragmatics Conference
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

Git, PennController(/IbexFarm), Amazon Mechanical Turk, Prolific, Praat

Programming Languages

Python, R, LaTeX, Ruby, Bash

Natural Languages

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

Last Updated: June 5, 2023