

# Morgan Moyer

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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

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.** & 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.

**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.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

### Talks Presented

**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**

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