

# Maryia (Masha) Fedzechkina

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## Contact Information

Department of Psychology  
University of Pennsylvania  
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## EDUCATION

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2014 | <b>University of Rochester</b> , Rochester, NY<br>Ph.D., Brain & Cognitive Sciences<br><i>Dissertation:</i> Communicative efficiency, language learning, and language universals<br><i>Advisers:</i> T. Florian Jaeger & Elissa Newport |
| 2012 | <b>University of Rochester</b> , Rochester, NY<br>M.A., Brain & Cognitive Sciences  |
| 2011 | <b>LSA summer institute</b> ,<br>University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO   |
| 2009 | <b>University of Cologne</b> , Cologne, Germany<br>M.A., Linguistic Data Processing, English, & Phonetics   |
| 2007 | <b>Minsk State Linguistic University</b> , Minsk, Belarus<br>B.A., English & German   |

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2014 – present | <b>Postdoctoral researcher</b><br><b>Language Development and Language Processing Lab</b> ,<br>University of Pennsylvania<br><i>Advisers:</i> John Trueswell & Lila Gleitman |
| 2006 – 2009    | <b>Research assistant</b><br><b>Linguistic Data Processing</b> ,<br>University of Cologne<br><i>Adviser:</i> Juergen Rolshoven   |

## PAPERS

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Jaeger, T. F., Trueswell, J.C. (accepted). Production is biased to provide informative cues early: Evidence from miniature artificial languages.

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (under review). Balancing effort and information transmission during language acquisition: Evidence from word order and case-marking.

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (accepted) The miniature artificial language learning paradigm as a complement to typological data.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2013). Communicative biases shape structures of newly acquired languages. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2012). Language learners restructure their input to facilitate efficient communication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(44): 17897-17902.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in language learning: Evidence from word order and case-marking interaction. *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Trueswell, J.C. (2015). Production is biased to provide informative cues early: Evidence from miniature artificial languages. Talk to be presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Pasadena, CA, July 23-25.

Roberts, G. & **Fedzechkina, M.** (2015). Population structure, social bias, and efficiency: An iterated-learning study. Talk to be presented at the 13th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Newcastle, England, July 20-25.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). The miniature artificial language learning paradigm as a complement to typological data. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 2014, Washington, DC, March 14-16, 2014.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). Functional biases in acquisition shape cross-linguistically frequent structures. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 2014, Washington, DC, March 14-16.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2013). Communicative biases shape structures of newly acquired languages. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Berlin, Germany, July 31-August 3.

Jaeger, T. F., **Fedzechkina, M.,** Kurumada, C., Newport, E. (2012). Confusability reduction in production and acquisition. DGfS 2012 workshop 'Information Density and Linguistic Variation', Frankfurt, Germany, March 9.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in language learning: Evidence from word order and case-marking interaction. 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Boston, MA, July 20-23.

## **CONFERENCE POSTERS**

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Jaeger, T. F., Trueswell, J. (2015). Producing informative cues early: Evidence from a miniature artificial language. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-21.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Chu, B., Jaeger, T. F. (2015). 'Long before short' preference in a head-final artificial language: In support of dependency minimization accounts. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-21.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). Trading off robust information transmission in language learning and language structure. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA, November 7-9.

**Fedzechkina, M.,** Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). Language processing shapes language change: Redundant cues are less likely to be maintained in language. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Columbus, OH, March 13-15.

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in acquisition: Language learners restructure the input to avoid uncertainty. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA, November 4-6.

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in (artificial) language learning. 24<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Stanford, CA, March 24-26.

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Word order and case-marking in language acquisition and processing. 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA, January 6-9. **[designated media-worthy]**

## INVITED TALKS

**2014.** *Communication shapes structures of newly acquired languages.* Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo -- SUNY, Buffalo, NY, January 27.

**2013.** *Learners' communicative preferences shape structures of newly acquired languages.* Language and Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, November 18.

**2013.** *Learners' communicative preferences shape structures of newly acquired languages.* Language Development and Language Processing Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, May 15.

**2011.** *Are there functional biases in language acquisition?* Cognitive and Computational Approaches to Language Group, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, January 10.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2013

**Teaching Assistant**, Language Development

Taught by Dr. Susan Thompson

Gave 3 guest lectures on syntactic & morphological development, planned & held review sessions, wrote & graded exams, held weekly office hours

Fall 2012

**Guest Lecturer**, Language and Psycholinguistics

Topic: Child language processing

Fall 2011

**Teaching Assistant**, Language and Psycholinguistics

Taught by Dr. T. Florian Jaeger

Gave a guest lecture on child sentence processing, wrote & graded weekly assignments, planned & held review sessions, held weekly office hours

Fall 2010

**Teaching Assistant**, Language and Psycholinguistics

Taught by Dr. Patricia Reeder

Gave a guest lecture on parsing development in children, planned & held review sessions, graded exams & papers, held weekly office hours

Spring 2010

**Teaching Assistant**, Language Development

Taught by Dr. Sara Finley

Wrote & graded exams, held weekly office hours

## **UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP**

### **Undergraduate research assistants, University of Pennsylvania:**

- Barry Oshiba, Fall 2014
- Juan Padilla, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015
- Ivy Gregory, Spring 2015
- Emily Eck, Summer 2015

### **Undergraduate research assistants, University of Rochester:**

- Madeline Clark, Spring 2015 – present
- Becky Chu, Spring 2014 – present
- Patrick Davis, Summer 2013
- Suzanne Blackley, Spring 2013 – Spring 2014
- Shreya Krishnan, Summer 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
- Erica Williams, Spring 2013, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
- Kate Heffernan, Spring 2013
- Meghan Hennessy, Spring 2013
- Christopher Anzalone, Fall 2012
- Elisa Hoyos, Fall 2012
- Rachel Aronovitz, Fall 2012
- Cynthia Orr, Fall 2012
- Theodore Lincoln, Summer 2012
- Greta Smith, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
- Tara Stanley, Fall 2011 – Summer 2013
- Vivian Choi, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011
- Keryn Bernstein, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011
- Colleen Dolan, Summer 2010, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012
- Rebecca Glass, Summer 2010

### **Independent study students, University of Rochester:**

- Becky Chu, Summer 2014. Topic: 'First and second language influences on the acquisition of case-marking in the third language'.
- Suzanne Blackley, Summer 2013 – Summer 2014. Topic: 'Communicative influences on the acquisition of optional case systems: A partner study using miniature artificial languages'.
- Delarom Menhaj, Spring 2013. Topic: 'The role of language experience in morphological acquisition'.
- Eric Partridge, Spring, 2012. Topic: 'Production strategies in two-word stage children'.
- Shreya Krishnan, Spring, 2012. Topic: 'Production strategies in two-word stage children'.
- Tara Stanley, Spring 2011. Topic: 'Functional biases in language acquisition'.
- Colleen Dolan, Spring 2010. Topic: 'Processing influences on word order acquisition'.
- Rebecca Glass, Spring 2010. Topic: 'Processing influences on word order acquisition'.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Ad-hoc reviewer:**

Cognition; Language, Learning, and Development; Language, Cognition, & Neuroscience; Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science; Cognitive Science Society Conference

## MEDIA COVERAGE

**Fedzechkina, M.**, Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2012). Language learners restructure their input to facilitate efficient communication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(44): 17897-17902.

**Reported in:** Psychology Today, Academic Minute, Sceptic's Guide to the Universe, ScienceOmega, Rochester Review, Futurity, Phys.org, ScienceBlog, Science Daily, E-Science News, Sify News, ThruthDrive, BioSpace.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2011	<b>Paula Menyuk travel award</b> for BUCLD 2011
2011	<b>LSA summer institute</b> fellowship
2007 – 2009	<b>Koelner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds</b> , Cologne, Germany Scholarship for academic excellence
2007	<b>University of Cologne</b> , Cologne, Germany Tuition waver
2000 – 2004	<b>Minsk State Linguistic University</b> , Minsk, Belarus Scholarship for academic excellence

## LANGUAGES

**Belarusian** (native)  
**Russian** (native)  
**English** (fluent)  
**German** (fluent)  
**Italian** (intermediate)

Philadelphia, PA  
June 3, 2015