

Matthew Kogan

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🏠 Personal Website

📍 University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Linguistics
1156 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Education

2021 – 2026 **PhD in Linguistics, UC Santa Cruz**

2021 – 2023 **MA in Linguistics, UC Santa Cruz**

Advisor : Matt Wagers

Thesis : Maintaining Syntactic Positions and Thematic Roles in Memory

2018 – 2021 **BA with Honors in Linguistics, UC Santa Cruz**

with Minor in Literature

Non-degree programs

2024 **Graduate Pedagogy Fellowship Program, UC Santa Cruz**

Pedagogical Leadership Certificate, The Learning Center

Papers

under review **Subject islands are not reducible to construction-specific discourse function**

Mandy Cartner, **Matthew Kogan**, Niko Webster, Matt Wagers, and Ivy Sichel

2025 **Revisiting interference effects in subject retrieval**

Qualifying Exam (Manuscript)

2024 **Or What? Questions as Complex Exclamative Speech Acts**

Second Qualifying Paper (Manuscript)

2023 **Maintaining Syntactic Positions and Thematic Roles in Memory**

MA Thesis

Peer-Reviewed Presentations (* = first author)

2025 **Sources of distortion and confusion in distributed representations of morphosyntactic structure***

Poster at the California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 8, UC Davis (with Ruqing Yao* and Matt Wagers)

2025 **Subject islands do not reduce to construction-specific discourse function**

Poster at the Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 56, New York University (with Niko Webster, Mandy Cartner, Matt Wagers, and Ivy Sichel)

2025 **Subject islands are not caused by information structure clashes : Cross-constructional evidence***

Poster at the Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP) 38, University of Maryland. (with Mandy Cartner*, Niko Webster*, Matt Wagers, and Ivy Sichel)

2025 **Information structure alone cannot account for subject islandhood : an experimental study***

Talk at Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 47, Goethe University. (with Niko Webster*, Mandy Cartner*, Matt Wagers, and Ivy Sichel)

- 2024 **Subject Islands are not Caused by Information Structure Clashes : Evidence from Topicalization***
Poster at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) 30, University of Edinburgh. (with Niko Webster, Mandy Cartner, Ivy Sichel, and Matt Wagers)
- 2024 **Probing Facilitatory and Inhibitory Interference with English Ditransitives***
Poster at the Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP) 37, University of Michigan. (with Matt Wagers)
- 2024 **Canonical Argument Alignment Modulates Gap, but not RP, Acceptability in English***
Poster at the Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP) 37, University of Michigan. (with Mandy Cartner, Ivy Sichel, Maziar Toosarvandani, and Matt Wagers)
- 2024 **Investigating Syntactic Gating during Subject Retrieval with English Ditransitives***
Talk at California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 6, Stanford. (with Matt Wagers)
- 2023 **Maintaining Syntactic Positions and Thematic Roles in Memory : Evidence from Ditransitive Alternations in English***
Poster at Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP) 29, BCBL. (with Matt Wagers)
- 2023 **The Subject-Object Asymmetry in Embedded Questions : Evidence from the Maze***
Talk at California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 5, UCLA. (with Matt Wagers)
- 2023 **Developing Computer Games in Field Methods Classes : A tool for language teaching revitalization**
Talk in special session *Engaging the Community : Using field methods classes for community outreach* at the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting. (Giorgia Troiani, Jeremías Salazar, Guillem Belmar, Andrew Hedding, Jack Duff, Natalia Gracida Cruz*, & Fe Silva-Robles)
- 2023 **Implementing Game of Tones***
Tutorial in special session *Engaging the Community : Using field methods classes for community outreach* at the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) Annual Meeting. (with Andrew Hedding, Jack Duff, and Mykel Lorne Brinkerhoff)
- 2022 **"It's alive!" : Animacy-based structural expectations rapidly update with context**
Poster at the Conference on Human Sentence Processing (HSP) 35, UCSC. (with Stephanie Rich, Lalitha Balachandran, Jack Duff, Nicholas Van Handel, Maya Wax Cavallaro, and Matt Wagers)

Local presentations

- 2025 **Modeling interference with distributed representations of lexical, morphological, and positional information.**
Talk at Bay Area Language Processing Interest Group (BAyLI), UCSC. (with Ruoying Yao)
- 2025 **Subject islands are not reducible to discourse function**
Talk at Linguistics At Santa Cruz, UCSC. (with Niko Webster, Mandy Cartner, Matt Wagers, and Ivy Sichel)
- 2024 **Or What? Questions As Complex Exclamative Speech Acts**
Talk at Linguistics Spring Research Symposium, UCSC
- 2023 **The Role of Specifiers in a Content-Addressable Retrieval Mechanism**
Talk at Linguistics Spring Research Symposium, UCSC

Research Experience

- 2024 **Graduate Student Researcher** (Assessment for Learning Excellence and Equity Center, UCSC)
Institutional analyses of equity gaps in undergraduate student performance
PI: Anna Sher

- 2023 **Graduate Student Researcher** (UCSC)
Probing Facilitatory and Inhibitory Interference with English Ditransitives
PI : Matt Wagers
- 2023 **Graduate Student Researcher** (UCSC, NSF Grant BCS-201984)
Animacy and Resumption at the Border of Cognition and Grammar
PIs : Maziar Toosarvandani, Ivy Sichel, and Matt Wagers
- 2021 – 2022 **Undergraduate Research Assistant** (UCSC, NSF Grant BCS-201984)
Animacy-based structural expectations rapidly update with context
PIs : Maziar Toosarvandani, Ivy Sichel, and Matt Wagers
- 2020 – 2021 **Undergraduate Research Assistant** (UCSC)
Studying Implicit Prosody with Delexicalized Melodies
PIs : Nicholas Van Handel and Matt Wagers

Teaching

Lead Instructor, UCSC

Fall 2024 **Pedagogy of Linguistics**

Faculty Mentor : Rachel Walker

Teaching Assistant, UCSC

Spring 2025 **Psycholinguistics and Linguistic Theory**
Winter 2025 **Syntax I**
Spring 2024 **Psycholinguistics and Linguistic Theory**
Winter 2024 **Introduction to Linguistics**
Fall 2023 **Phonology II**
Sum. 2023 **Psycholinguistics and Linguistic Theory**
Spring 2023 **Introduction to Linguistics**
Fall 2022 **Semantics I**

Instructor : Amanda Rysling
Instructor : Mia Gong
Instructor : Matt Wagers
Instructor : Andrew Angeles
Instructor : Ryan Bennett
Instructor : Jack Duff
Instructor : Ivy Sichel
Instructor : Maziar Toosarvandani

Grader, UCSC

Spring 2024 **Introduction to Linguistics**

Instructor : Andrew Angeles

Small Group Tutor, UCSC Learning Support Services

Spring 2022 **Syntax I**
Winter 2022 **Semantics II**
Fall 2021 **Psycholinguistics and Linguistic Theory**

Instructor : Jorge Hankamer
Instructor : Jess H.K. Law
Instructor : Matt Wagers

Service

- 2023 – 2025 **Reviewer**, *California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)*
- 2024 – 2025 **Co-Coordinator**, *SPLAP Reading Group*
Organized weekly reading group on semantics, philosophy of language, and pragmatics.
- 2023 – 2024 **Chair**, *Colloquia Events Committee*
Led and coordinated with subcommittees to prepare for and execute Linguistics Department Colloquia.
- 2023 **Organizing Committee Volunteer**, *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*
Assisted with organizing and execution of 41st WCCFL hosted at UCSC
- 2022 – 2023 **Co-Coordinator**, *SPLAP Reading Group*
Organized weekly reading group on semantics, philosophy of language, and pragmatics.

- 2022 - 2023 **Hospitality Subcommittee Chair**, *Colloquia Events Committee*
Managed hospitality and reception for Departmental Colloquia.
- 2022 - 2023 **Lead Student Organizer**, *Nido de Lenguas*
Organized community facing outreach events celebrating indigenous Oaxacan languages; Developed a web-based memory game for learning lexical tones
- 2018 - 2019 **Voting Delegate**, *Porter College Senate*
Represented students in campus-wide decisions regarding university policy changes and funding

Mentorship

- 2025 **s/lab Summer Program**, *UCSC Linguistics Dept.*
Research Assistants : Aditi Borra, Noel Thomas
- 2025 **Undergraduate Research Fellows in Linguistics and Language Studies**, *UCSC*
Research Assistants : Ulysses Noë, Matthew Vasser
- 2024 **Undergraduate Research Fellows in Linguistics and Language Studies**, *UCSC*
Research Assistants : Lisa Pham, Alison Sun, Matthew Vasser
- 2023 **Undergraduate Research Fellowship**, *UCSC Linguistics Dept.*
Research Assistant : Alison Sun

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

- 2025 - 2026 **THI Oaxacan Languages Public Fellowship**
- 2025 **TLC Resource Development Fellowship**
- 2024 **THI Graduate Summer Public Fellowship**
- 2024 **TLC Graduate Pedagogy Fellows Fellowship**
- 2023 **Humanities Division Summer Fellowship**
- 2021 - 2022 **THI Undergraduate Research Fellowship**
- 2020 - 2021 **Aerojet Rocketdyne Student Scholarship**
- 2019 - 2020 **UCSC College Scholar's Program**
- 2018 - 2021 **Dean's Honors List (9 Quarters)**

Languages & Skills

English	<i>native</i>
Russian	<i>fluent</i>
R	<i>advanced</i>
HTML/CSS	<i>proficient</i>
LaTeX	<i>proficient</i>
JavaScript	<i>familiar</i>
Python	<i>familiar</i>