Nick Ballou

Gaming Psychology Researcher

Phonetician

Educational Technologist

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nickballou.com
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Skills

Inferential Statistics
Data Analysis in *R*
Experimental Design
Phonetic Analysis
Transcription
Python (basic/intermediate)
Regular Expressions

Coursework

Psycholinguistics
Intro to Computer Science
Computational Linguistics
Language Acquisition
Experimental Phonetics

Awards

Phi Beta Kappa
Ann Royal Arthur German Scholarship Award
Tulane Presidential Merit Scholar ($27k/year; 4 yrs)
Delvin Internship Grant, 2015
Fulbright Research Grant Alternate
AIPHES Doctoral Training Grant (€7k, declined)

Qualifications

Louisiana ESL Teaching Certification (180 hrs)
Pedagogical Child Care

Languages

English (native)
German (C1)
Dutch (B1)
French (A2/B1)

Hobbies

Tennis
Cruciverbalism
A cappella singing

Education

University of Cambridge (St Edmund's College) — rec. July 2018

M.Phil. *with distinction,* Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

Dissertation: *Utterance Playback in the Acquisition of L2 Phonetic Features: Factors Affecting Speech Learning During First Exposure*
(Supervisor: Dr Calbert Graham)

Tulane University — rec. May 2016

B.S. *magna cum laude*, Linguistics and Environmental Studies

Capstone paper: *The Building Blocks of Language: Bigram Frequency in Speech Patterns of Children Ages 1;9–3;1*

Experience

English Teacher — Baptist Rainbow Primary School
Hong Kong — August 2018 – July 2019

- Design and deliver varied English lessons for grades 2 and 6
- Developed new class entitled "Gaming for Good" on the history, development, and psychology of video games

Phonetics Research Assistant — University of Cambridge
Cambridge, UK — July – August 2018

- Assisted Drs Brechtje Post and Calbert Graham with the preparation of a special issue of *Phonetica* entitled 'Constancy and Variation'
- Conducted a comprehensive literature review spanning phonetics, phonology, and psycholinguistics
- Assisted with writing summary article for this high-impact journal

Au Pair — Scholik Family
Vienna, Austria — July 2016 – July 2017

- Responsible for comprehensive care of two German-speaking children, ages 6 and 10
- Acted as translator and innovative English tutor, introducing techniques like mobile games for language learning

Psycholinguistics Research Intern — Hunter College Language Acquisition Research Center
New York, NY — June – August 2015

- Recorded, transcribed, and analyzed the spontaneous speech of 2- to 3-year old children

Publications

Ballou, N (2018). Conceptualizing an ideal computer-assisted pronunciation training system: Educational technology for L2 phonetic features. *Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics,* 11.