Niels Dickson

PHD STUDENT · UCI LANGUAGE SCIENCE

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Education

University of California, Irvine   *September 2020 - present*

PhD Language Science

- Advisors: Dr. Richard Futrell and Dr. Lisa Pearl

Louisiana State University   *August 2016 - May 2020*

BS Psychology and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Math, French, and Philosophy

- Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Christopher R. Cox

Professional Experience

2020-Present   **Graduate Teaching Assistant,** Language Science, University of California, Irvine

2019-2020   **Lab Manager,** Eye-Movement, Memory, and Attention (EMMA) Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Megan Papesh

2019-2020   **Undergraduate Research Assistant,** ReLearn Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Christopher R. Cox

2018-2019   **Undergraduate Research Assistant,** EMMA Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Megan Papesh

2016-2018   **Undergraduate Research Assistant,** Office of Applied Cognition, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Sean Lane
- Supervisor: Dr. Daniella Cash

Publications

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Dickson, N, Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2022. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*, 5, Article 22.
`https://scholarworks.umass.edu/scil/vol5/iss1/22/`

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2019   **LSU Honors College Thesis Research Scholarship,** Tiger Athletic Foundation   *$ 750*

2018-2019   **Travel Stipend,** LSU Discover Undergraduate Research Program   *$ 1,660*

Presentations

Dickson, N. 2023. Acquiring *wh*-dependencies through efficient representation. UCI Spring Language Science Colloquium Series.

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2022. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. Talk presented at *Society for Computation in Linguistics*, Remote.

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2021. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. Poster presented at *46th Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Boston University, MA.

[+]**Dickson, N.**, Cash, D. & Papesh, M. 2019. Remembering and Rejecting: Not Just Two Sides of the Same Coin? Talk presented at *LSU Discover Day*, Baton Rouge, LA.

Dickson, N., Knotts, S., Jones, B., Cash, D. K., & Lane, S.M. (2018). Lost in Translation: The Difference Between Interpreting Verbal and Numeric Information. Poster presented at *LSU Discover Day*, Baton Rouge, LA.

Cash, D., **Dickson, N.**, Cleere, A., Allo, H., Jones, B., Knotts, S., & Lane, S. (2018). TMI: Justifications Detract from Expressions of Confidence. Poster presented at *Southeastern Psychological Association*, Charleston, SC.

[+] *Awarded 1st place for Oral Presentation in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts Division at LSU Discover Conference.*

Teaching Experience

Spring 2023	**LSCI 2: Discover Language,** Teaching Assistant
Winter 2023	**LSCI 20: Intro to Syntax,** Teaching Assistant
Fall 2022	**LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language,** Teaching Assistant
Spring 2022	**LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics,** Teaching Assistant
Winter 2022	**LSCI 155: Psychology of Language,** Teaching Assistant
Fall 2021	**LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language,** Teaching Assistant
Spring 2021	**LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics,** Teaching Assistant
Winter 2021	**LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics,** Teaching Assistant
Fall 2020	**LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language,** Teaching Assistant

Research Experience

University of California, Irvine - Language Science *Irvine, CA*
Co-Advisors: Dr. Lisa Pearl, Dr. Richard Futrell *2020-Present*
- Concentration Exam: "The computations underlying the acquisition of syntactic categories"

Louisiana State University - Psychology *Baton Rouge, LA*
Advisor: Dr. Christopher R. Cox *2019-2020*
- Honor's Thesis: "The Relative Contributions of Taxonomic and Thematic Knowledge When Making Similarity Judgements"

Outreach & Professional Development

Academic Service

2022-Present	**Grad Student Industry Application Group,** Founder
	• Organized a group of UCI Language Science grad students to prepare industry internship applications. We invited guests with industry experience, researched potential positions, and workshopped resumes.
2020-2021	**UCI Language Science Colloquium,** Organizing Committee Member
2020-2021	**California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP),** Organizing Committee Member

Development

openHPI's Introduction to Bayesian Data Analysis, an online course on the openHPI platform taught by Dr. Shravan Vasishth and Dr. Anna Laurinavichyute. I learned the logic behind analyzing data within a Bayesian framework and the technical skills needed to analyze my own data using the brms R package.

Languages

Natural	English (native), French (intermediate)
Computer	Python, R, LaTeX