

Stephen Politzer-Ahles

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Education

Ph.D.: Linguistics (with honors), University of Kansas. 2013.
Dissertation: *Psycholinguistic and Neurolinguistic Investigations of Scalar Implicature*
M.A.: Linguistics (with honors), University of Kansas. 2011.
B.A.: Modern Languages and Literatures (magna cum laude, departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa), Kenyon College. 2008.

Professional appointments

Assistant Professor (summer 2016 – present), *Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)*.
Post-doctoral research assistant (summer 2015 – summer 2016), *Language and Brain Laboratory (University of Oxford, PI Matthew Husband)*.
Post-doctoral associate (summer 2013 – summer 2015), *Neuroscience of Language Lab (New York University Abu Dhabi, PI Alec Marantz)*.

Extramural funding

NSF East Asia & Pacific Summer Institutes (summer 2010) fellowship for research in China. *National Science Foundation*. Project title: "An ERP Investigation of the Processing of Visually-Presented Mandarin Sentences" (award ID #1015160).

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

Politzer-Ahles, S., Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. (in prep.). "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials.

Politzer-Ahles, S., Girolamo, T., Holliday, J., Spsychalska, M., & Berkson, K. (accepted). Is linguistic injustice a myth? A response to Hyland (2016). *Journal of Second Language Writing*.

Politzer-Ahles, S., Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. (in press). Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*.

Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.,** & Almeida, D. (2016). No place for /h/: ERP investigation of English fricative place features. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*, 31, 728-740.

Politzer-Ahles, S. & Zhang, J. (in press). Evidence for the role of tone sandhi in speech production. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*.

- Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Pak, N., Martínez-García, M., & Coughlin, C. (2015). Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP Investigation of the processing of novel compounds. *The Mental Lexicon*, 10, 413-434.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** & Gwilliams, L. (2015). Involvement of prefrontal cortex in scalar implicatures: evidence from magnetoencephalography. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*, 30, 853-866.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** & Fiorentino, R. (2013b). The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. *PLoS ONE*, 8, e63943.
- Lee, H., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Jongman, A. (2013). Speakers of tonal and non-tonal Korean dialects use different cue weightings in the perception of the three-way laryngeal stop contrast. *Journal of Phonetics*, 41, 117-132.
- Hunt, L., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Gibson, L., Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. (2013). Pragmatic inferences modulate N400 during sentence comprehension: evidence from picture-sentence verification. *Neuroscience Letters*, 534, 246-251.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. (2013). Distinct neural correlates for pragmatic and semantic meaning processing: An event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification. *Brain Research*, 1490, 134-152.

Conference proceedings and working papers:

- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. (2015). Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2015). "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. *LSA Extended Abstracts*.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2012). Are intermediate levels of the scale used during online comprehension of scalar implicatures? *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, 33, 1-15.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** & Zhang, J. (2012d). The role of phonological alternation in speech production: Evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics*, 18, 060001.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** & Zhang, J. (2012c). The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. *Tonal Aspects of Languages 2012*.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2011). A Minimalist account of Uyghur genitives. *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, 32, 106-119.

Posters and presentations

- Politzer-Ahles, S.** & Husband, M. (forthcoming). Consequences of scalar inference derivation revealed through eye movement measures. Poster to be presented at 22nd *Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing conference*. Bilbao, Spain.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (forthcoming). An MMN investigation of the Russian voicing contrast. Poster to be presented at 22nd *Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing conference*. Bilbao, Spain.
- Husband, M. & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** (forthcoming). Coercing events or inserting structure? Eye-tracking evidence for a distinction between semantic and syntactic enrichment. Poster to be

- presented at 22nd *Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing conference*. Bilbao, Spain.
- Schluter, K., Politzer-Ahles, S., & Almeida, D. (2016). Neural correlates of voicing underspecification in English and Arabic Fricatives. Poster at 24th *Manchester Phonology Meeting*. Manchester, United Kingdom.
- Bovolenta, G., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Husband, M. (2016). Differential ERPs to local vs. global prediction failures. Poster at 29th *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Gainesville, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. (2015). "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials. Poster at 7th *Neurobiology of Language Conference*. Chicago, United States.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. (2015). Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. Oral presentation at 18th *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*. Glasgow, UK.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2015). Underspecification of voice features in the mental larynx. Oral presentation at 23rd *Manchester Phonology Meeting*, Manchester, UK.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. (2015b). Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. Poster at 169th *Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Pittsburgh, United States.
- Berkson, K., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2015). Phonation type contrasts and vowel quality in Marathi. Poster at 169th *Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Pittsburgh, United States.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2015). Asymmetrical mismatch negativity effects in Mandarin tone perception. Poster at 22nd *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, USA.
- Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Liao, K. (2015). Morpheme-based combinatorial processing of English compounds: evidence from magnetoencephalography and lexical Decision. Poster at 22nd *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2015). "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. Oral presentation at 89th *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*. Portland, USA.
- Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, King, J., & Almeida, D. (2015). Errors in the brain: magneto- and electroencephalographic evidence from English agreement. Oral presentation at 89th *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*. Portland, USA.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2014c). No place for /h/: ERP investigation English fricative place features. Oral presentation at 20th *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference*. Edinburgh, UK.
- Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2014b). Agreement attraction in the neural language system. Poster at 20th *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference*. Edinburgh, UK.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2014b). No place for [h]: an ERP investigation English fricative place features. Poster at 6th *Society for the Neurobiology of Language Conference*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2014a). Agreement attraction in the neural language system. Poster at 6th *Society for the Neurobiology of Language Conference*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. (2014a). No place for /h/: an ERP investigation of [Place] in English intervocalic fricatives. Poster at 22nd *Manchester Phonology Meeting*. Manchester, UK.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2014). Neural correlates of realizing scalar inferences: an MEG study. Poster at 27th *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Columbus, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Durbin, J., & Li, L. (2014). The role of working memory in the online realization of scalar inferences. Poster at 27th *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Columbus, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. (2013c). Sensitivity of online scalar inferencing to context and to processing load. Poster at 5th *Experimental Pragmatics Conference*. Utrecht, Netherlands.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. (2013a). The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. Poster at 26th *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Columbia, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. (2012). Individual differences in logical ability predict ERP responses to underinformative sentences. Poster at 4th *Neurobiology of Language Conference*. San Sebastian, Spain.
- Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Pak, N. (2012). Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP investigation of the processing of novel compounds. Poster at 4th *Neurobiology of Language Conference*. San Sebastian, Spain.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. (2012b). The role of phonological alternation in speech production: Evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. Invited talk at 164th *Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Kansas City, USA.
- Lee, H., Jongman, A., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** (2012). Speakers of tonal and non-tonal Korean dialects use different cue weightings in the perception of the three-way laryngeal stop contrast. Poster at 164th *meeting of the Acoustical Society of America*. Kansas City, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. (2012a). The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. Oral presentation at *Tonal Aspects of Languages 2012*. Nanjing, China.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. (2012). Independence of pragmatic and lexico-semantic processing in picture-sentence verification. Poster at 19th *Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting*. Chicago, USA.
- Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Popescu, E., & Popescu, M. (2011). The role of morphological juncture identification in complex word processing: an MEG investigation. Poster at 2011 *Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting*. Washington, USA.
- Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. (2011b). Event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification. Poster at 3rd *Neurobiology of Language Conference*. Annapolis, USA.
- Hunt, L., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. (2011). N400 is elicited by pragmatic as well as semantic anomalies: a visual-world study of scalar implicatures. Poster at 3rd *Neurobiology of Language Conference*. Annapolis, USA.

Politzer-Ahles, S., Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. (2011a). Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese as revealed by event-related potentials. Poster at *18th Cognitive Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, USA.

Politzer-Ahles, S. (2008). The puzzle of Mandarin *le*: an integrated approach. Oral presentation at *20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics*. Columbus, USA.

Teaching

Instructor, workshop on mixed-effects modeling for psycholinguistics (18-20 May 2016). *Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London*.

Teaching assistant, LING 435/735 "Psycholinguistics" (spring 2013). *Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas*. Supervisor: Annie Tremblay.

Guest lecturer, LING 910 "Second Language Speech Perception and Production" (October 2012). *Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas*. Supervisor: Annie Tremblay. Workshop on mixed effects modeling in R.

Guest lecturer, LING 438/738 "Neurolinguistics" (September 2011, September 2012). *Department of Linguistics, University of Kansas*. Supervisor: Robert Fiorentino. Workshop on electrophysiological data analysis.

Tutor, "Introduction to Linguistics" (spring 2010). *McNair Scholars program, Department of Education Administration, University of Kansas*.

Teaching assistant, "Intensive Introductory Chinese" (fall 2007, spring 2008). *Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Kenyon College*.

Teaching assistant, "Intensive Introductory French" (spring 2006, fall 2007). *Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Kenyon College*.

Research positions

Graduate research assistant (fall 2010 – summer 2013), *Neurolinguistics and Language Processing Laboratory (University of Kansas, PI Robert Fiorentino)*.

Graduate research assistant (fall 2008 – spring 2009), *Department of Anthropology (University of Kansas, PI Arienne Dwyer)*.

Academic service

Ad-hoc grant reviewer for:

- *National Science Foundation*
- *Swiss National Science Foundation*
- *FWO - Flanders*

Ad-hoc article reviewer for:

- *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*
- *Brain and Language*
- *Cognition*
- *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*
- *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*
- *Developmental Neuropsychology*

- *Frontiers in Psychology*
- *Frontiers in Neuroscience*
- *Journal of Memory and Language*
- *Neuropsychologia*
- *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*

Ad-hoc abstract reviewer for:

- *Neurobiology of Language conference*
- *Linguistic Society of America annual meeting*
- *Tonal Aspects of Language symposium*

Member of post-doc council and representative to faculty council (fall 2013 – fall 2014), *New York University Abu Dhabi*.

Session chair for 16th *Undergraduation Research Symposium* (spring 2012), *University of Kansas*.

President of *Linguistics Graduate Student Association* (fall 2010 – spring 2012), *University of Kansas*.

Editor of *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics* (fall 2010 – fall 2011), *University of Kansas*.

Student representative for *Center for Teaching Excellence* (spring 2011), *University of Kansas*.

Student representative for *Linguistics Graduate Student Association* (fall 2008 – spring 2010), *University of Kansas*.

Fellowships, honors, and awards

One-University Open Access Publishing Fund (April 2013). *University of Kansas*.

CUNY Travel Award (March 2013). *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*.

Departmental honors on oral comprehensive examinations (October 2012). *Linguistics Department, University of Kansas*.

Doctoral Student Research Fund (May-July 2012). *University of Kansas*.

IPA Student Award (May 2012). *International Phonetic Association*.

NIDCD T32 Pre-Doctoral Training in Language Impairment (2012). *Child Language Doctoral Program, University of Kansas*.

Frances Ingemann Scholarship (fall 2011 – spring 2012). *Linguistics Department, University of Kansas*.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (2010, declined). *Center for Global & International Studies, University of Kansas*.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (summer 2009 – spring 2010). *Center for East Asian Studies, University of Kansas*.

Linguistics Honors Fellowship (spring 2009). *Linguistics Department, University of Kansas*.

Graduate Studies Scholarship (fall 2008 – spring 2012). *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Kansas*.

Honors/First-Year Fellowship (fall 2008 – spring 2009). *College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Kansas*.

Phi Beta Kappa Society (spring 2008). *Kenyon College*.

Distinguished Academic Scholarship (fall 2004 – spring 2008). *Kenyon College*.

Skills and languages

Software:

Data analysis and statistics: R, MATLAB, SPSS, Microsoft Excel / OpenOffice Calc

Electrophysiological/neuroimaging: EEGLAB, FieldTrip, NeuroScan Edit, BESA, Brain Vision Analyzer, CTF DataEditor, FreeSurfer, MNE

Experiment control: Presentation, Paradigm, Eyelink Experiment Builder

Acoustic: Praat, MultiSpeech

Other: Transcriber, Audacity, GNU Image Manipulation Program, Apache, Eyelink

Programming, markup, and typesetting languages:

Python, Perl and Perl CGI, C++, TCL, Windows cmd, Unix (bash, tcsh), LaTeX, HTML, MediaWiki

Languages:

English (native), Mandarin (near-native), French (intermediate), Uyghur (basic), Hindi (elementary), Northern Monguor (elementary)