Stephen Politzer-Ahles

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EDUCATION

2013	Ph.D, Linguistics, University of Kansas
2011	M.A., Linguistics, University of Kansas
2008	B.A., Modern Languages and Literatures, Kenyon College

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2016-   Assistant Professor
         The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
         Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies

2015-2016   Post-doctoral associate
             The University of Oxford
             Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

2013-2015   Post-doctoral associate
             New York University Abu Dhabi
             NYUAD Institute

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles

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

2017   Zhan, J., Jiang, X., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhou, X. Neural correlates of fine-grained meaning distinctions: an fMRI investigation of scalar quantifiers. *Human Brain Mapping, 8*, 3848-3864.

2017   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Al-Kaabi, M., & Almeida, D. Laryngeal features are phonetically abstract: mismatch negativity evidence from Arabic, English, and Russian. *Frontiers in Psychology - Language Sciences, 8*, 746.

2017   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials. *PLoS ONE, 12*, e0175199.

2017	**Politzer-Ahles, S.** An extension of within-subject confidence intervals to models with crossed random effects. *The Quantitative Methods for Psychology, 13*, 75-94.
2016	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 42*, 1547-1570.
2016	Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: ERP investigation of English fricative place features. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience, 31*, 728-740.
2015	Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Pak, N., Martínez-García, M., & Coughlin, C. Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP Investigation of the processing of novel compounds. *The Mental Lexicon, 10*, 413-434.
2015	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Gwilliams, L. Involvement of prefrontal cortex in scalar implicatures: evidence from magnetoencephalography. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience, 30*, 853-866.
2013	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. *PLoS ONE, 8*, e63943.
2013	Lee, H., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Jongman, A. 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.
2013	Hunt, L., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Gibson, L., Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. Pragmatic inferences modulate N400 during sentence comprehension: evidence from picture-sentence verification. *Neuroscience Letters, 534*, 246-251.
2013	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. 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.

Chapters

in press	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Chen, S. Significance. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*.

Letters and commentaries

2016	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Holliday, J., Girolamo, T., Spychalska, M., & Berkson, K. Is linguistic injustice a myth? A response to Hyland (2016). *Journal of Second Language Writing, 34*, 3-8.

Conference proceedings and working papers

in press	Cheung, C., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Hwang, H., Chui, R., Leung, M., & Tang, T. Comprehension of presuppositions in school-age Cantonese-speaking children with and without autism spectrum disorders. *Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics*.
2015	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: evidence from mismatch negativity. *International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.
2015	**Politzer-Ahles, S.** "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. *LSA Extended Abstracts.*
2012	**Politzer-Ahles, S.** Are intermediate levels of the scale used during online comprehension of scalar implicatures? *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics, 33*, 1-15.
2012	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. The role of phonological alternation in speech production: Evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics, 18*, 060001.
2012	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. *Tonal Aspects of Languages*.
2011	**Politzer-Ahles, S.** A Minimalist account of Uyghur genitives. *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics, 32*, 106-119.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Extramural fellowships

2018-2020	Early Career Scheme #25606117, Research Grants Council (Hong Kong), "Mental representations of Chinese tones: abstract vs. episodic accounts". 742,856 HKD
2010	East Asia & Pacific Summer Institutes #1015160, National Science Foundation, "An ERP investigation of the processing of visually-presented Mandarin sentences"

Institutional grants and fellowships

2017-2019	Start-up fund for new recruits #1-ZE89, Faculty of Humanities – The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, "Testing how the brain deploys phonological knowledge of Mandarin tones during speech comprehension", 500,000 HKD
2017-2018	Departmental grant #G-UACX, Central Research Fund – The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, "The mental representation and processing of Cantonese-English loanwords", 100,000 HKD
2012	NIDCD T32 Pre-Doctoral Training in Language Impairment, Child Language Doctoral Program – University of Kansas.
2010	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for Global & International Studies – University of Kansas

2009-2010   Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for East Asian Studies –
              University of Kansas

Awards

2013   One-University Open Access Publishing Fund, University of Kansas
2013   CUNY Travel Award, CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing
2012   Doctoral Student Research Fund, University of Kansas
2012   IPA Student Award, International Phonetic Association
2011-2012   France Ingemann Scholarship, Linguistics Department – University of Kansas
2009   Linguistics Honors Fellowship, Linguistics Department – University of Kansas
2008-2009   Graduate Studies Scholarship, University of Kansas

INVITED TALKS

2017   Challenges in linking electrophysiological data to the theory of scalar implicature.
              *Revising formal semantic and pragmatic theories from a neurocognitive
              perspective*, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. 19 June
2017   On the lexical representation of allomorphs in Mandarin third tone sandhi. *The
              UChicago Language Research Forum*, UChicago Center in Hong Kong, Hong
              Kong. 17 March
2012   (with Jie Zhang) The role of phonological alternation in speech production:
              evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. *164th Acoustical Society of America*. Kansas
              City, United States. 22-26 October

CONFERENCE POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations

2017   Nieuwland, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Heyselaar, H., Segaert, K., Darley, E.,
              Kazanina, N., Von Grebmer Zu Wolfsthurn, S., Bartolozzi, F., Kogan, V., Ito, A.,
              Meziere, D., Barr, D., Rousselet, G., Ferguson, H., Busch-Moreno, S., Fu, X.,
              Kulakova, E., Tuomainen, J., Husband, M., Donaldson, D., Kohút, Z.,
              Rueschemeyer, S., & Huettig, F. Phonological form is not probabilistically pre-
              activated during language comprehension: A 9-lab failure to replicate DeLong,
              Urbach & Kutas (2005). 30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence
              Processing. Cambridge, United States, 30 March – 1 April
2015   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the
              perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. 18th
              International Congress of Phonetic Sciences. Glasgow, United Kingdom, 10-14
              August
2015   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. Underspecification of voice
              features in the mental larynx. 23rd Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester,
              United Kingdom, 28-30 May

2015   **Politzer-Ahles, S.** "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. 89th Linguistic Society of America. Portland, United States, 8-11 January

2015   Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, King, J., & Almeida, D. Errors in the brain: magneto- and electroencephalographic evidence from English agreement. 89th Linguistic Society of America. Portland, United States, 8-11 January

2014   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: ERP investigation English fricative place features. 20th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 3-6 September

2012   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. 3rd Tonal Aspects of Languages. Nanjing, China, 26-29 May

2008   **Politzer-Ahles, S.** The puzzle of Mandarin *le*: an integrated approach. 20th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Columbus, United States, 25-27 April

Posters

2017   Zhang, C., Huang, X., **Politzer-Ahles**, **S.**, Peng, G., & Zhang, J. Neural encoding of T3 sandhi in Mandarin Chinese speakers in speech production. 9th Neurobiology of Language Conference. Baltimore. 8-10 November.

2017   Cheung, C., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Cheung, G., Choi, H., Lai, L., Leung, M., & Tang, T. Knowledge of presupposition triggers in Cantonese-speaking children with and without autism spectrum disorders. 62nd Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association. Hong Kong, 26-28 May.

2017   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Wiener, S., & Zhang, C. Predictive tones facilitate Mandarin lexical identification: evidence from ERPs. 1st International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics. Hong Kong, 10-12 March.

2016   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Husband, E. Consequences of scalar inference derivation revealed through eye movement measures. 22nd Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September

2016   Husband, E., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Coercing events or inserting structure? Eye-tracking evidence for a distinction between semantic and syntactic enrichment. 22nd Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September

2016   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. An MMN investigation of the Russian voicing contrast. 22nd Architectures and Mechanisms in Language Processing. Bilbao, Spain, 1-3 September

2016   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. An MMN investigation of the Russian voicing contrast. 8th Neurobiology of Language. London, United Kingdom, 17-20 August

2016   Bovolenta, G., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Husband, M. Differential ERPs to local vs. global prediction failures. 29th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Gainesville, United States, 3-5 March

2015   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using

event-related potentials. 7th Neurobiology of Language. Chicago, United States, 15-17 October

2015   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. 169th Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May

2015   Berkson, K., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Phonation type contrasts and vowel quality in Marathi. 169th Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May

2015   **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Asymmetrical mismatch negativity effects in Mandarin tone perception. 22nd Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 28-31 March

2015   Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Liao, K. Morpheme-based combinatorial processing of English compounds: evidence from magnetoencephalography and lexical decision. 22nd Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 28-31 March

2014   Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. Agreement attraction in the neural language system. 20th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 3-6 September

2014   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. No place for [h]: an ERP investigation English fricative place features. 6th Neurobiology of Language. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27-29 August

2014   Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. Agreement attraction in the neural language system. 6th Neurobiology of Language. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27-29 August

2014   Schluter, K., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. No place for /h/: an ERP investigation of [Place] in English intervocalic fricatives. 22nd Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, United Kingdom, 29-31 May

2014   **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Neural correlates of realizing scalar inferences: an MEG study. 27th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, United States, 13-15 March

2014   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Durbin, J., & Li, L. The role of working memory in the online realization of scalar inferences. 27th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbus, United States, 13-15 March

2013   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. Sensitivity of online scalar inferencing to context and to processing load. 5th Experimental Pragmatics Conference. Utrecht, Netherlands, 4-6 September

2013   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. 26th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. Columbia, United States, 21-23 March

2012   **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. Individual differences in logical ability predict ERP responses to underinformative sentences. 4th Neurobiology of Language Conference. San Sebastian, Spain, 25-27 October

2012   Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Pak, N. Probing the dynamics of complex word recognition: An ERP investigation of the processing of novel compounds. 4th Neurobiology of Language Conference. San Sebastian, Spain, 25-27 October

2012	Lee, H., Jongman, A., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Speakers of tonal and non-tonal Korean dialects use different cue weightings in the perception of the three-way laryngeal stop contrast. 164th Acoustical Society of America. Kansas City, United States, 22-26 October
2012	**Politzer-Ahles, S.,** Jiang, X., Fiorentino, R., & Zhou, X. Independence of pragmatic and lexico-semantic processing in picture-sentence verification. 19th Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Chicago, United States, 31 March – 3 April
2012	Fiorentino, R., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Popescu, E., & Popescu, M. The role of morphological juncture identification in complex word processing: an MEG investigation. 41st Society for Neuroscience. Washington, United States, 12-16 November
2011	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. Event-related potential investigation of scalar implicature processing using picture-sentence verification. 3rd Neurobiology of Language. Annapolis, United States, 9-11 November
2011	Hunt, L., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Minai, U., & Fiorentino, R. N400 is elicited by pragmatic as well as semantic anomalies: a visual-world study of scalar implicatures. 3rd Neurobiology of Language. Annapolis, United States, 9-11 November
2011	**Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Fiorentino, R., Jiang, X., & Zhou, X. Online processing of scalar implicatures in Chinese as revealed by event-related potentials. 18th Cognitive Neuroscience Society. San Francisco, United States, 2-5 April

TEACHING

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

2016-7	Psycholinguistics [Chinese and Bilingual Studies]
2016-7	Contrastive Analysis of Chinese and English [Chinese and Bilingual Studies]
2017	Research Methods [Doctorate in Applied Language Studies]

University of Kansas

2013	Psycholinguistics [Linguistics], teaching assistant

Mentoring

2016-7	Master of Speech Therapy programme final projects [Chinese and Bilingual Studies, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University]

Ad hoc

2017	Workshop on ERP experiment design and data analysis [Shandong University of Finance and Economics], 30 May – 2 June
2016	Workshop on mixed-effects modeling in R [Linguistics, University College London], 18-20 May

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2010-2013   Graduate research assistant, Neurolinguistics and Language Processing
             Laboratory – University of Kansas (PI: Robert Fiorentino)
2008-2009   Graduate research assistant, Department of Anthropology – University of Kansas
             (PI: Arienne Dwyer)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Ad-hoc grant reviewing

FWO - Flanders
National Science Foundation
Research Grants Council (Hong Kong)
Swiss National Science Foundation

Ad-hoc article reviewing

Bilingualism: Language and Cognition
Brain and Language
Cognition
Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience
Cognitive Psychology
Developmental and Cognitive Neuroscience
Developmental Neuropsychology
Developmental Science
Frontiers in Psychology
Frontiers in Neuroscience
JASA Express Letters
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition
Journal of Memory and Language
Language and Speech
Language, Cognition and Neuroscience
Neuropsychologia
Psychonomic Bulletin and Review
Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

Ad-hoc conference reviewing

Cognitive Science Society
Experimental Pragmatics
Neurobiology of Language
Linguistic Society of America

Tonal Aspects of Languages

Departmental and institutional service

2013-2014   Member of post-doc council and representative to faculty council, New York University Abu Dhabi

2010-2012   President of Linguistics Graduate Student Association, Department of Linguistics – University of Kansas

2010-2011   Editor of *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics*, Department of Linguistics – University of Kansas

2008-2010   Student representative for Linguistics Graduate Student Association, Department of Linguistics – University of Kansas

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Software

Data analysis and statistics: R, MATLAB, SPSS, Microsoft Excel / OpenOffice Calc
Electrophysiological and neuroimaging: EEGLAB, FieldTrip, Neuroscan Edit, BESA, Brain Vision Analyzer, CTF DataEditor, FreeSurfer, MNE
Experimental control: Presentation, Paradigm, Experiment Builder
Acoustic: Praat, MultiSpeech, Audacity
Other: Transcriber, GNU Image Manipulation Program, Apache

Programming, markup, and typesetting languages

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

Languages

English (native), Mandarin (advanced), French (intermediate), Uyghur (basic), Hindi (bare-bones), Northern Monguor (bare-bones)