

Stephen Politzer-Ahles  
14 February 2017  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies  
stephen.politzerahles@polyu.edu.hk

## 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	Cheung, C., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Hwang, H., Chui, R., Leung, M., & Tang, T. Comprehension of presuppositions in school-age Cantonese-speaking children with and without autism spectrum disorders. <i>Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics</i> .
in press	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , & Zhang, J. Evidence for the role of tone sandhi in speech production. <i>Journal of Chinese Linguistics</i> .
2017	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> An extension of within-subject confidence intervals to models with crossed random effects. <i>The Quantitative Methods for Psychology</i> , 13, 75-94.
2016	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Holliday, J., Girolamo, T., Spsychalska, M., & Berkson, K. Is linguistic injustice a myth? A response to Hyland (2016). <i>Journal of Second Language Writing</i> , 34, 3-8.

- 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.
- 2016 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.

#### Conference proceedings and working papers

- 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**

- 2010            East Asia & Pacific Summer Institutes #1015160, National Science Foundation, “An ERP investigation of the processing of visually-presented Mandarin sentences”

### **Institutional fellowships**

- 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            The UChicago Language Research Forum, UChicago Center in Hong Kong. March  
 2015            Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London. 19 May  
 2015            School of Languages, Linguistics & Film, Queen Mary University London. 2 December  
 2015            Department of Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading. 1 December  
 2014            Department of Linguistics, Indiana University. 5 December

## **CONFERENCE POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Oral presentations**

- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Schluter, K., Wu, K., & Almeida, D. Asymmetries in the perception of Mandarin tones: Evidence from mismatch negativity. 18<sup>th</sup> 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. 23<sup>rd</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, United Kingdom, 28-30 May
- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** "Maybe" not all scalar implicatures are created equal. 89<sup>th</sup> 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. 89<sup>th</sup> 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. 20<sup>th</sup> Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference. Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 3-6 September
- 2012 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. The role of phonological alternation in speech production: evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi. 164<sup>th</sup> Acoustical Society of America. Kansas City, United States, 22-26 October. Invited talk
- 2012 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Zhang, J. The role of tone sandhi in speech production: evidence for phonological parsing. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tonal Aspects of Languages. Nanjing, China, 26-29 May
- 2008 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** The puzzle of Mandarin *le*: an integrated approach. 20<sup>th</sup> North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics. Columbus, United States, 25-27 April

## Posters

- 2017 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, Wiener, S., & Zhang, C. Predictive tones facilitate Mandarin lexical identification: evidence from ERPs. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 29<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 169<sup>th</sup> Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May
- 2015 Berkson, K., & **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Phonation type contrasts and vowel quality in Marathi. 169<sup>th</sup> Acoustical Society of America. Pittsburgh, United States, 18-22 May
- 2015 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Asymmetrical mismatch negativity effects in Mandarin tone perception. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> Neurobiology of Language. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 27-29 August
- 2014 Tucker, M., **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Almeida, D. Agreement attraction in the neural language system. 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Phonology Meeting. Manchester, United Kingdom, 29-31 May
- 2014 **Politzer-Ahles, S.** Neural correlates of realizing scalar inferences: an MEG study. 27<sup>th</sup> 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. 27<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup> Experimental Pragmatics Conference. Utrecht, Netherlands, 4-6 September
- 2013 **Politzer-Ahles, S.**, & Fiorentino, R. The realization of scalar inferences: context sensitivity without processing cost. 26<sup>th</sup> 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 164<sup>th</sup> 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. 19<sup>th</sup> 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. 41<sup>st</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 18<sup>th</sup> 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]

### 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

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**

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

### **Ad-hoc article reviewing**

*Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*  
*Brain and Language*  
*Cognition*  
*Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*  
*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**

*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 <i>Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics</i> , 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)