

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	Zhan, J., Jiang, X., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , & Zhou, X. Neural correlates of fine-grained meaning distinctions: an fMRI investigation of scalar quantifiers. <i>Human Brain Mapping</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	Schluter, K., <b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Al-Kaabi, M., & Almeida, D. Laryngeal features are phonetically abstract: mismatch negativity evidence from Arabic, English, and Russian. <i>Frontiers in Psychology - Language Sciences</i> , 8, 746.
2017	<b>Politzer-Ahles, S.</b> , Xiang, M., & Almeida, D. "Before" and "after": investigating the relationship between temporal connectives and chronological ordering using event-related potentials. <i>PLoS ONE</i> , 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.**, Holliday, J., Girolamo, T., Sychalska, M., & Berkson, K. Is linguistic injustice a myth? A response to Hyland (2016). *Journal of Second Language Writing*, 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.
- 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*.

## 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

- 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

- 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. *164<sup>th</sup> 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 Wolfsturn, 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). 30<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 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 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. 62<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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**

*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 <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)