

Ryan Law

Language and Computation in Neural Systems Group
Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
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EDUCATION

B.A. in Linguistics

2015 – 2018

University College London, UK

Grade: First Class Honours

Supervisor: Wing Yee Chow

RESEARCH POSITION

Language and Computation in Neural Systems Group

2020 – Present

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, the Netherlands

Position: Research assistant/Laboratory technician

Supervisor: Andrea Martin

NYU Neuroscience of Language Lab

2018 – 2020

New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

Position: Research assistant

Supervisor: Liina Pylkkänen

- MEG investigations into neural correlates of syntactic structure
- MEG investigations into neural correlates of linguistic modality (in collaboration with graduate student Maxime Tulling at NYU)
- fMRI-constrained MEG investigations into neural correlates of meaning composition (in collaboration with graduate student Graham Flick at NYU)

Harvard Laboratory for Developmental Studies

2017

Harvard University, USA

Position: Research assistant

Supervisor: Jesse Snedeker

- EEG investigations into children's predictive processing during natural listening

UCL Psycholinguistics Lab

2016 – 2018

University College London, UK

Position: Research assistant & dissertation student

Supervisor: Wing Yee Chow

- EEG investigations into prediction reversal during discourse comprehension
- Eye-tracking study into prediction during syntactic ambiguity resolution
- Eye-tracking study into the syntax-pragmatics interface during referential processing

University College London, UK

Position: Research assistant

Supervisors: Richard Breheny

- Investigating scalar diversity using Twitter corpus

Manuscripts

Arkhipova, Y., **Law, R.**, Xiang, M., Chow, W.Y. (in prep). Tracking expectation reversal during discourse comprehension using EEG.

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (under review). Lists with and without syntax: A new approach to measuring the neural processing of syntax.

Tulling, M., **Law, R.**, Cournane, A., Pylkkänen, L. (accepted). Neural correlates of modal displacement and discourse-updating under (un)certainly.

Guest lecture

Law, R. (2020, October). Measuring the neural processing of syntax using list. Linguistics Department, Dartmouth University, USA.

Slide Presentations

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2020, May). Lists with and without syntax: Neural correlates of syntactic structure. Data blitz presentation at the CNS 2020 Virtual Meeting.

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2019, April). Neural correlates of syntactic structure: MEG study using lists. Presentation at the Neuroscience of Language Conference 2019. Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Law, R., Arkhipova, Y., Chow, W.Y. (2018, March). Tracking expectation reversal during discourse comprehension using EEG. Presentation at the Faculty of Brain Sciences Fifth Annual Undergraduate Conference. London, UK.

Poster Presentations

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2020, June). Lists with and without syntax: Neural correlates of syntactic structure. Virtual poster presentation at the International Max Planck Research School Conference: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Language Sciences.

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2020, May). Lists with and without syntax: Neural correlates of syntactic structure. Poster presentation at the CNS 2020 Virtual Meeting.

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2019, October). . Poster accepted at the International Brain and Syntax Think Tank 2019. Evanston, USA.

Arkhipova, Y., Sostarics, T., **Law, R.,** Xiang, M., Chow, W.Y. (2019, September). ‘Nonetheless’ can reverse predictions immediately: evidence from ERPs. Poster presented at the 25th Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing Conference. Moscow, Russia.

Law, R., Pylkkänen, L. (2019, August). Lists with and without syntax: MEG effects of syntactic composition when local conceptual combination is controlled. Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language. Helsinki, Finland.

Tulling, M., **Law, R.,** Cournane, A., Pylkkänen, L. (2019, August). Discourse belief updating in the right hemisphere. Poster presented at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language. Helsinki, Finland.

Arkhipova, Y., **Law, R.,** Xiang, M., Chow, W.Y. (2019, March). ‘Nonetheless’ can reverse predictions immediately: evidence from ERPs. Poster presented at the 32nd Annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference. Boulder, USA.

Skills

Programming languages Python (particularly MNE-python, 2 years)

Experience in R, MATLAB, HTML/CSS, JavaScript

Natural languages English • Mandarin • Malay • Cantonese • Teochew • Hokkien

Awards & Honours

Best Presentation Prize	2018
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UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences Undergraduate Conference

Summer Research Bursary	2017
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Harvard University

UCL International Short Mobility Bursary	2017
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UCL Accommodation Bursary	2017
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Sultan Ibrahim Johor Bursary	2018
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State of Johor, Malaysia. (Awarded to promising Malaysian students studying abroad).

Letter of Congratulation for Academic Achievement	2015 – 2018
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UCL. (Awarded to students with outstanding grades)

Additional Employment

Customer service representative

2017

GPDQ, London, UK

- Provided customer service to the patient population in a health-care setting.
- Liaised with doctors, patients, and contractors in co-ordinating patient house visits.
- Received training in ethics such as data protection, adult & children safeguarding, and consent.

Reception assistant

2016 – 2017

UCL Student Accommodation, London UK

- Provided front desk support for students and the general public.
- Analysed and systematised maintenance report forms for efficacy and efficiency.
- Managed room bookings and co-ordinated cleaning and catering team.
- Planned and organised welcome week events for freshers.

Architectural assistant

2015

LKC Architects, Kuching, Malaysia

- Gained experience in preparing blueprints for building plan submission.
- Shadowed principal architect during co-ordination and liaison with local authorities and the State Department of Land and Survey.