Thomas Graf

CV

Contact Information

Department of Linguistics
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Research Interests

- Mathematical Linguistics
    - Computational Phonology
    - Minimalist Grammars
    - Model-Theoretic Syntax
- Parsing Theory & Syntactic Processing
- Syntax
    - Binding
    - Economy, Locality and Encoding of Constraints
    - Island Constraints
    - Morphosyntax

Academic Employment and Affiliations

2013–present	Assistant Professor Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook University
2015–present	Affiliate Professor Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS), Stony Brook University

Education

2010–2013 **University of California, Los Angeles**
Ph.D. in Linguistics

- Thesis: *Local and Transderivational Constraints in Syntax and Semantics*
- Committee: **Edward P. Stabler** (chair), **David Kaplan**, **Edward L. Keenan**, **Dominique Sportiche**

2008–2010 **University of California, Los Angeles**
M.A. in Linguistics

- Thesis: *Logics of Phonological Reasoning*
- Committee: **Edward P. Stabler** (chair), **Robert Daland**, **Edward L. Keenan**, **Kie Zuraw**

2003–2007 **University of Vienna**
Mag.phil. ($\approx$ M.A.) in Linguistics

- Thesis: *From Vagueness to Disaster: On the Intricacies of Feature Checking*
- Committee: **Wolfgang U. Dressler** (chair), **Chris Schaner-Wolles**

Books

in press   *The Computational Theory of Syntactic Constraints*. Springer: Berlin.

Refereed Journal Papers

to appear   A Computational Guide to the Dichotomy of Features and Constraints. *Glossa*.

2007   Agreement with Hybrid Nouns in Icelandic. *Snippets* 16, 7f.

Refereed Book Chapters

2012   Concealed Reference-Set Computation: How Syntax Escapes the Parser's Clutches. In Anna Maria Di Sciullo (ed.), *Towards a Biolinguistic Understanding of Grammar. Essays on Interfaces*, 339–362. John Benjamins: Amsterdam.

2010   Formal Parameters of Phonology: From Government Phonology to SPE. In Thomas Icard and Reinhard Muskens (eds.), *Interfaces: Explorations in Logic, Language and Computation*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 6211, 72–86. Springer: Berlin.

Paper-Reviewed Proceedings Papers

2016   Aksënova, Alëna, —, and Sedigheh Moradi. Morphotactics as Tier-Based Strictly Local Dependencies. *Proceedings of SIGMORPHON 2016*.

—, Alëna Aksënova, and Aniello de Santo. A Single Movement Normal Form for Minimalist Grammars. *Formal Grammar 2016*.

de Santo, Aniello, —, and Alëna Aksënova. An Alternate View on Strong Lexicalization in TAG. *Proceedings of TAG+ 2016*.

2015   —, Brigitta Fodor, James Monette, Gianpaul Rachielle, Aunika Warren, Chong Zhang. A Refined Notion of Memory Usage for Minimalist Parsing. *Proceedings of the 14th Meeting on Mathematics of Language (MoL 2015)*, 1–14.

2014   — and Bradley Marcinek. Evaluating Evaluation Metrics for Minimalist Parsing. In *Proceedings of the 2014 ACL Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics*, 28–36.

Late Merge as Lowering Movement in Minimalist Grammars. In Nicholas Asher and Sergei Soloviev (eds.), *Proceedings of LACL 2014*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 8535, 107–121. Springer: Heidelberg.

Models of Adjunction in Minimalist Grammars. In Glyn Morrill, Reinhard Muskens, Rainer Osswald, and Frank Richter (eds.), *Formal Grammar 2014*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 8612, 52–68. Springer: Heidelberg.

2012   Locality and the Complexity of Minimalist Derivation Tree Languages. In Philippe de Groot and Mark-Jan Nederhof (eds.), *Formal Grammar 2010/2011*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 7395, 208–227. Springer: Heidelberg.

Movement-Generalized Minimalist Grammars. In Denis Béchet and Alexander Dikovsky (eds.), *Proceedings of LACL 2012*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 7351, 58–73. Springer: Heidelberg.

Reference-Set Constraints as Linear Tree Transductions via Controlled Optimality Systems. In Philippe de Groot and Mark-Jan Nederhof (eds.), *Formal Grammar 2010/2011*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 7395, 97–113. Springer: Heidelberg.

2011   Closure Properties of Minimalist Derivation Tree Languages. In Sylvain Pogodalla and Jean-Philippe Prost (eds.), *Proceedings of LACL 2011*, Lectures Notes in Artifical Intelligence 6736, 96–111. Springer: Heidelberg.

2010   Some Interdefinability Results for Syntactic Constraint Classes. In Christian Ebert, Gerhard Jäger and Jens Michaelis (eds.), *The Mathematics of Language*, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 6149, 72–87. Springer: Heidelberg.

2009   Towards a Factorization of String-Based Phonology. In Thomas Icard (ed.), *Proceedings of the 14th ESSLLI Student Session*, 72–84.

Abstract-Reviewed Proceedings Papers

to appear   Feature Geometry and the Person Case Constraint: An Algebraic Link. To appear in *Proceedings of CLS 50*.

The Syntactic Algebra of Adjuncts. To appear in *Proceedings of CLS 49*.

2012   Tree Adjunction as Minimalist Lowering. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+11)*, 19–27.

— & Natasha Abner: Is Syntactic Binding Rational?. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+11)*, 189–197.

2010   Comparing Incomparable Frameworks — A Model Theoretic Approach to Phonology. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 16(1), Article 10.

Non-Refereed Publications

2014   Beyond the Apparent: Cognitive Parallels Between Syntax and Phonology. In Carson T. Schütze and Linnaea Stockall (eds.), *Connectedness: Papers by and for Sarah van Wagenen*, UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics 18, 161–174.

2012   An Algebraic Perspective on the Person Case Constraint. In Thomas Graf, Denis Paperno, Anna Szabolcsi, Jos Tellings (eds.), *Theories of Everything. In Honor of Ed Keenan*, UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics 17, Article 13, 85–90.

2010   A Tree Transducer Model of Reference-Set Computation. In Thomas Graf (ed.), *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics* 15, Article 4, 1–53.

Logics of Phonological Reasoning. M.A. thesis, University of California, Los Angeles.

2007   *From Vagueness to Disaster: On the Intricacies of Feature Checking*. M.A. thesis, University of Vienna.

Edited Publications

2012   —, Denis Paperno, Anna Szabolcsi, Jos Tellings (eds.): *Theories of Everything. In Honor of Ed Keenan*. UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics 17.

2010   Papers in Mathematical Linguistics 1. *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics* 15.

Invited Talks

2017   tba. *CLS*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

2016   tba. September 13, Yale, New Haven, CT.

       Computational Lessons from and for Language. April 28, Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS), Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY.

2015   *Towards an Algebraic Morphosyntax*. December 16, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

       Computational Unity Across Language Modules. December 15, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

       Adjuncts, Conjuncts, Ojuncts: Deriving Strong Island Constraints. December 14, Institute of Linguistics, Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), Moscow, Russia.

       Syntax and Phonology: A Computational Common Core. Dec 10, Department of Mathematical Linguistics, Saint Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

       Formal Processing Theory, or Parsing Without Parsers. Workshop on Minimalist Parsing, October 9–12, MIT, Boston, MA.

2014   *Adjuncts, Islands, Algebra (With a Sprinkle of Semantics)*. November 4, CUNY, New York, NY.

       Person Case Constraints and Feature Complexity in Syntax. January 9, University of Vienna, Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, Vienna, Austria.

2013   *Computational Computational Linguistics*. December 4, Stony Brook University, Department of Psychology, Stony Brook, NY.

       Optionality Implies Islandhood. November 1, NYU, Department of Linguistics, New York, NY.

       Islands without Islands. October 4, University of Delaware, Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science, Newark, DE.

       Constraints Emerge from Merge. February 12, Stony Brook University, Department of Linguistics, Stony Brook, NY.

2010   *Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics: Where do we Find Optimality?*. December 14, University of Göttingen, Institut für Linguistik, Göttingen, Germany.

       Optimality Conditions Could Care Less About Optimality. December 10, Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS), Berlin, Germany.

Reference-Set Computation = Minimalism + Transformational Rules?. December 8, University of Bielefeld, Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaften, Bielefeld, Germany.

Talks & Posters

2016   —, Aniello De Santo, and Alëna Aksënova. *A Single Movement Normal Form for Minimalist Grammars*. 21st Conference on Formal Grammar, August 20–21, Bolzano, Italy.

Aksënova, Alëna, —, and Sedigheh Moradi. *Morphotactics as Tier-Based Strictly Local Dependencies*. 14th SIGMORPHON Workshop on Computational Research in Phonetics, Phonology, and Morphology, August 11, Berlin, Germany.

De Santo, Aniello, Alëna Aksënova, —. *An Alternate View on Strong Lexicalization in TAG*. 12th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalism (TAG+12), June 29 – July 1, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany.

2015   —, Brigitta Fodor, James Monette, Gianpaul Rachielle, Aunika Warren, Chong Zhang. *A Refined Notion of Memory Usage for Minimalist Parsing.* Fourteenth Meeting on Mathematics of Language (MOL14), July 25–26, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

A Hidden Consensus: Computational Invariants of Minimalist Syntax. The Road Ahead, May 28–30, Athens, Greece. Poster

— and Jeffrey Heinz. *Commonality in Disparity: The Computational View of Syntax and Phonology*. GLOW 38, April 15–18, Paris, France.

A Computational Guide to the Dichotomy of Features and Constraints. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) 2015, March 4–6, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany.

2014   *Dependencies in Syntax and Phonology: A Computational Comparison*. 8th North East Coast Computational Phonology Meeting (NECPHON 2014), November 15, NYU, New York, NY.

Models of Adjunction in Minimalist Grammars. Conference on Formal Grammar (FG-2014), August 16–17, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany.

— and Bradley Marcinek. *Evaluating Evaluating Metrics for Minimalist Parsing*. Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics (CMCL 2014), June 26, Baltimore, MD.

Late Merge as Lowering Movement in Minimalist Grammars. Logical Aspects of Computational Linguistics (LACL 2014), June 18–20, IRIT, Toulouse, France.

Feature Geometry and the Person Case Constraint: An Algebraic Link. 50th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 50), April 10–12, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

2013   *The Syntactic Algebra of Adjuncts*. 49th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 49), April 18–20, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

The Price of Freedom: Why Adjuncts are Islands. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS) 2013, March 12–15, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.

Of Tops and Bottoms: The Algebra of Person Case Constraints. The Southern California Students in Linguistics Workshop (SCSiL), January 18, USC, Los Angeles, CA.

2012	— & Natasha Abner: *Is Syntactic Binding Rational?*. The 11th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+11), September 26–28, University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France.

Tree Adjunction as Minimalist Lowering. The 11th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+11), September 26–28, University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France.

Movement-Generalized Minimalist Grammars. Logical Aspects of Computational Linguistics (LACL 2012), July 2–4, LINA, Nantes, France.

Natasha Abner & —: *Binding Complexity and the Status of Pronouns in English and ASL*. Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language (FEAST), June 1–2, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland.

Natasha Abner & —: *The Complexity of Binding in English and ASL*. 48th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 48), April 19–21, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Why There Must be Exceptions to Principle B. 30th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 30), April 13–15, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA.

2011	*Locality and the Complexity of Minimalist Derivation Tree Languages*. 16th Conference on Formal Grammar (FG-2011), August 6–7, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Closure Properties of Minimalist Derivation Tree Languages. Logical Aspects of Computational Linguistics (LACL 2011), June 29–July 1, LIRMM, Montpellier, France.

Optimality is not a Race: Against a Performance-Based View of Reference-Set Computation. GLOW 34, April 28–30, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

Lost in Translation: A Formal Model of Merge-over-Move and its Implications for the Language Faculty. ConSOLE XIX, January 5–8, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands.

2010	*Efficient Computation at the Interfaces*. On Linguistic Interfaces II (OnLI II), December 2–4, University of Ulster, Belfast, United Kingdom.

Rethinking Transderivationality. 41st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 41), October 22–24, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Controlled Optimality Systems as Models of Transderivational Constraints. Interdisciplinary Summer School, Workshop and Round Table in Computational Linguistics, Cognitive and Information Science, Workshop for Junior Researchers, August 28–29, University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia. [cancelled]

Global Optimality in Endocentric Optimality Systems. 23rd International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2010), August 23–27, Chinese Information Processing Society of China, Beijing, China. [cancelled]

Reference-Set Constraints as Linear Tree Transductions via Controlled Optimality Systems. 15th Conference on Formal Grammar (FG-2010), August 7–8, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Concealed Reference-Set Computation or How Syntax Escapes the Parser's Clutches. The Language Design, May 27–29, UQAM, Montreal, Canada.

2009   *Locality in Flux — Reducibility Results for Syntactic Constraints*. Conference on Minimalist Approaches to Syntactic Locality (MASL), August 26–28, Research Institute for Linguistics, Budapest, Hungary.

Some Interdefinability Results for Syntactic Constraint Classes. Eleventh Meeting on Mathematics of Language (MOL11), August 20–21, University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany.

Towards a Factorization of String-Based Phonology. 2009 ESSLLI Student Session, July 20–31, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France.

Comparing Incomparable Frameworks — A Model Theoretic Approach to Phonology. 33rd Pennsylvania Linguistics Colloquium (PLC33), March 27–29, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

2008   *Ein modelltheoretischer Blick auf syntaktische Constraints* [A Model Theoretic Perspective on Syntactic Constraints]. Generative Grammatik des Südens 2008 (GGS08), May 2–4, ZAS Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

Awards, Grants & Prizes

2015   Research Initiative Grant for Faculty in the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Lettered Social Sciences (FAHSS)
        Stony Brook University

2014   E.W. Beth Dissertation Prize for Outstanding Dissertations in Logic, Language, and Information
        Association for Logic, Language and Information

2012–2013   Rosenfield-Abrams Dissertation Year Fellowship
        UCLA Graduate Division

2011–2012   Humanities Dean's Fellowship
        UCLA Graduate Division

2010 & 2011   DOC-Fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
        Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)

2010   Chancellor's Prize Summer Mentorship Award
        UCLA Graduate Division

2009   Springer Prize for Best Student Paper at ESSLLI2009
        ESSLLI Student Session

Chancellor's Prize Summer Mentorship Award
UCLA Graduate Division

Teaching

Stony Brook	Computational Linguistics 2 (graduate level)
	Computational Phonology (graduate level)
	Computational Syntax (graduate level)
	Language and Meaning (undergraduate level)
	Language and Technology (undergraduate level)
	Parsing and Syntactic Processing (graduate level)
	Syntax (undergraduate level)

Service

Conference Reviews	CMCL (2015, 2016), ESSLLI Student Session (2012), LabPhon 15 (2016), WCCFL (2014, 2015)
Journal Reviews	Biolinguistics (2015, 2016), Cambridge University Press (2011), Italian Journal of Linguistics (2014), Journal of Language Modelling (2016), Journal of Linguistics (2015), Linguistic Inquiry (2013, 2014), Natural Language & Linguistic Theory (2011), Oxford University Press (2012, 2015)
2009–present	Creator and current maintainer of the **timeline of the history of generative syntax**. Available online: `http://thomasgraf.net/timeline.html`
2009–2013	Creator and maintainer of the *uclawpl* LaTeX 2_ε class file used by the **UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics**
	Editorial board member of the **UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics**
Sep/09–June/10	Vice president of the **UCLA Graduate Linguistics Circle**

Languages

Natural	in decreasing order of proficiency: German, English, French, Icelandic, Old Norse, Latin, Middle High German, Spanish
Formal	Bash, CSS, HTML, LaTeX, Lua, OCaml, Prolog, Python, Ti*k*Z