Veronica Boyce

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology   **Cambridge, MA**

Bachelor of Science in Brain & Cognitive Science   June 2019

Select Courses: Computational Psycholinguistics (9.19); Lab in Psycholinguistics (9.59); Computational Cognitive Science (9.66); Learning and Linguistic Representations (9.S913)

Award: Walle J.H. Nauta Award for Outstanding Research   April 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MIT, Computational Psycholinguistics Lab   **Cambridge, MA**

Undergraduate Researcher   February 2017 – May 2019

Research Support Associate   June 2019 – present

- Designed, ran, and analysed data for production, comprehension, and interpretation experiments to understand how pronouns are produced and interpreted when the referent is a gender-stereotyped role noun.
- Automated material preparation and implemented a web-interface for running Maze experiments (an incremental processing method).
- Replicated a Maze experiment using the automated process and web-interface.
- Supervise an undergraduate research assistant on improving Maze experiment codebase.

MIT, Language Acquisition Lab   **Cambridge, MA**

Undergraduate Researcher   June 2016 – August 2016

- Performed an extensive literature search on auxiliary selection and unaccusativity.
- Designed and conducted a corpus search of the CHILDES database looking at French-speaking children's productions of the passé composé.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MIT, Department of Brain & Cognitive Science   **Cambridge, MA**

Teaching Assistant   February 2019 – May 2019

- Teaching Assistant for Computational Psycholinguistics class of 30 students.
- Created exam problems and graded homework and exams.
- Presented a guest lecture on my work on gendered pronouns and role nouns.
- Answered students' conceptual and technical questions during office hours 2 hours/week.

PUBLICATIONS

V. Boyce, R. Futrell, R. Levy. "Maze Made Easy: Better and easier measurement of incremental processing difficulty." *Journal of Memory and Language.* 2019.

V. Boyce, A. Aravind, and M. Hackl. "Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development.* 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

V. Boyce, T. von der Malsburg, T. Poppels, R. Levy. "Remember him, forget her: Gender bias in the comprehension of pronominal referents." *CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference.* 2019. Talk.

V. Boyce, R. Futrell, R. Levy. "Maze Made Easy: Better and easier measurement of incremental processing difficulty." *CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference.* 2019. Poster.

V. Boyce, T. von der Malsburg, T. Poppels, R. Levy. "Female gender is consistently under-expressed in pronoun production and under-inferred in comprehension." *LSA Annual Meeting.* 2019. Poster.

V. Boyce, T. von der Malsburg, T. Poppels, R. Levy. "Implicit gender biases in the production and comprehension of pronominal references." *CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference.* 2018. Poster.

V. Boyce, A. Aravind, and M. Hackl."Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." *Boston University Conference on Language Development.* 2017. Talk.

CLASS PROJECTS

Learning and Lingustic Representations 2018
Bayesian Analysis of Grammatical Category Learning
- Group project testing a Bayesian model on different hypotheses about number of grammatical categories (i.e. number, gender) in toy models of different languages.

Neuroscience of Morality 2017
Towards understanding the conversation surrounding sexual assault
- Individual paper synthesizing research on psychology and neuroscience of moral judgments to attempt to explain pattern of blaming victim and not perpetrator.

Language Variation & Change 2017
Does Language Change Reflect Social Change? A look at gendering of nouns in English
- Individual project examining prevalence of -man words (ex. fireman) and neutral alternatives (ex. firefighter) over time using Google Books Corpus.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MIT Tech Squares **Cambridge, MA**
Tech Squares President May 2016–May 2019
- Researched, wrote, and shepherded to adoption a Safer Dances Policy (anti-harassment policy) for the dance group.
- Supervised club officers and managed tasks to ensure proper club functioning.
- Organized a 50th anniversary dance weekend with over 200 attendees.

Pleasure @ MIT **Cambridge, MA**
Peer sex educator Jan 2017–May 2019
- Gave more than 10 presentations and facilitated discussions on relationship and sexual health topics for MIT students.
- Designed, scripted, and presented a module on relationship types.
- Interviewed prospective members and presented during new-member training.

MIT Mystery Hunt **Cambridge, MA**

Writing Team Member Feb 2014–Jan 2015

- Collaborated on a team of a hundred MIT students and alumni to design, write, and run Mystery Hunt 2015, a weekend-long puzzle hunt of over 160 puzzles for over 2000 participants.
- Devised and wrote four puzzles and provided test-solving feedback on dozens of puzzles.
- Planned, acquired supplies for, and organized the creation of costumes and props for over 20 characters.

SKILLS

Computer skills: R, Python, git, L*TEX, javascript, HTML.