

## EMPLOYMENT

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### ETH Postdoctoral Fellow

Department of Computer Science, ETH Zürich,

Zürich, Switzerland

1/2023 - present

- Joint association with Ryan Cotterell and Mrinmaya Sachan, Institute for Machine Learning
- Postdoctoral Researcher (9/22 - 12/22)

## EDUCATION

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### Harvard University

Ph.D. in Linguistics

Cambridge, MA

9/2017 - 5/2022

- Dissertation Title: “Informative Presupposition and Accommodation”  
Dissertation Committee: Kathryn Davidson, Gennaro Chierchia, Roger Levy
- Visiting student, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Department of Cognitive Science (Summer 2018)

### Stanford University

B.A.S in Symbolic Systems and Slavic Languages and Literature with Honors

Stanford, CA

9/2011 - 8/2015

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

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- Computational Models of Sentence Processing
- Natural Language Processing and Computational Linguistics
- Experimental Psycholinguistics

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- [1] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Tiago Pimentel, Clara Meister, Ryan Cotterell, Roger Levy. “[Testing the Predictions of Surprisal Theory in 11 Languages](#)”, *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2023.
- [2] Alexandre Cremers, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Benjamin Spector. “[Exhaustivity and Anti-Exhaustivity in the RSA Framework: Testing the Effect of Prior Beliefs](#)”, *Cognitive Science*, 2023.
- [3] Tiago Pimmentel, Clara Miester, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy and Ryan Cotterell. “[On the Effect of Anticipation on Reading Times](#)”, *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2023.
- [4] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Richard Futrell and Roger Levy. “[Using Computational Models to Test Syntactic Learnability](#)”, *Linguistic Inquiry*, 2022.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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- [1] Clara Meister, Tiago Pimentel, Luca Malagutti, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Ryan Cotterell. “[On the Efficacy of Sampling Adapters](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, 2023

- [2] Wangchunshu Zhou, Yuchen Jiang, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Ryan Cotterell, Mrinmaya Sachan. “[Controlled Text Generation with Natural Language Instructions](#)”, in *Proceedings of the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2023
- [3] Thomas Clark, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Edward Gibson, Roger Levy. “[Which Evidence for Availability Effects on Speaker Choice in the Russian Comparative Alternation](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2022
- [4] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy, Kathryn Davidson. “[Which Presuppositions are Subject to Contextual Felicity Constraints?](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)*, 2021
- [5] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Pranali Vani, Roger Levy. “[A Targeted Assessment of Incremental Processing in Neural Language Models and Humans](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, 2021
- [6] Pranali Vani, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy. “[Using the interpolated maze task to assess incremental processing in english relative clauses](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2021
- [7] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Jon Gauthier, Jennifer Hu, Peng Qian, Roger Levy. “[On the Predictive Power of Neural Language Models for Human Real-Time Comprehension Behavior](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2020
- [8] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Peng Qian, Richard Futrell, Ryosuke Kohita, Roger Levy, Miguel Ballesteros. “[Structural Supervision Improves Few-Shot Learning and Syntactic Generalization in Neural Language Models](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2020
- [9] Tristan Thrush, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy. “[Investigating Novel Verb Learning in BERT: Selectional Preference Classes and Alternation-Based Syntactic Generalization](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Third BlackboxNLP Workshop on Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP*, 2020
- [10] Jennifer Hu, Peng Qian, Jon Gauthier, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy. “[A Systematic Assessment of Syntactic Generalization in Neural Language Models](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2020
- [11] Jon Gauthier, Jennifer Hu, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Peng Qian, Roger Levy. “[SyntaxGym: An Online Platform for Targeted Evaluation of Language Models](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: System Demonstrations*, 2020
- [12] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy, Richard Futrell. “[What syntactic structures block dependencies in RNN language models?](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2019
- [13] Richard Futrell, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Takashi Morita, Peng Qian, Miguel Ballesteros, Roger Levy. “[Neural language models as psycholinguistic subjects: Representations of syntactic state](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers)*, 2019
- [14] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Peng Qian, Richard Futrell, Miguel Ballesteros, Roger Levy. “[Structural Supervision Improves Learning of Non-Local Grammatical Dependencies](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers)*, 2019
- [15] Aixiu An, Peng Qian, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy. “[Representation of Constituents in Neural Language Models: Coordination Phrase as a Case Study](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and the 9th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-IJCNLP)*, 2019

- [16] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy, Richard Futrell. “[Hierarchical Representation in Neural Language Models: Suppression and Recovery of Expectations](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2019 ACL Workshop BlackboxNLP: Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP*, 2019
- [17] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Benjamin Spector. “[The Role of Prior Beliefs in The Rational Speech Act Model of Pragmatics: Exhaustivity as a Case Study](#)”, in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2019
- [18] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Roger Levy, Takashi Morita, Richard Futrell. “[What do RNN Language Models Learn about Filler–Gap Dependencies?](#)”, in *Proceedings of the 2018 EMNLP Workshop BlackboxNLP: Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP*, 2018.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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- [1] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Jon Gauthier, Peng Qian, Jennifer Hu and Roger Levy “[Learning Syntactic Structures from String Input](#)”, *Algebraic Structures in Natural Language*, 2022 (pp. 113-138). CRC Press.

## MANUSCRIPTS AND THESES

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- [1] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, “[Informative Presupposition and Accommodation](#)”, PhD Dissertation, Harvard University, 2022.
- [2] Richard Futrell, **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, Takashi Morita, and Roger Levy, “[RNNs as psycholinguistic subjects: Syntactic state and grammatical dependency](#)”, arXiv preprint, 2018.
- [3] **Ethan Gotlieb Wilcox**, “[Revolutionary Linguistics: The Ideology of the Soviet Esperanto Movement 1917-1938](#)”, BA Honors Thesis, Stanford University, 2015

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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### Conference Presentations

- “Language Models as Cognitive Models: The Cases of Syntactic Generalization and Real-Time Language Comprehension”, The Fourth International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics, Seoul Korea (8/23)

### Departmental Colloquia

- “Learning and Processing Linguistic Structure in Humans and Machines”, Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, USA. (2/23)
- “Using Computational Models to Test Syntactic Learnability”, Department of Linguistics, University of Geneva, Switzerland. (12/22)
- “Structure and Statistical Processing in Humans and Machines”, Department of Linguistics, Yale University, USA. (3/22)
- “Using Computational Models to Test Syntactic Learnability”, Department of English, Dongguk University, Korea. (1/22)
- “Using Presuppositions to Introduce Novel Information”, Department of Linguistics (Universals Colloquium Series), Harvard University, USA. (11/21)
- “How to Evaluate Neural Networks as Models of Linguistic Cognition”, Department of English, Dongguk University, Korea. (2/21)

### Lab Talks / Other Invited Presentations

- “Structure and Statistical Processing in Humans and Machines”, Language, Logic Learning Lab, UC Davis, USA. (5/22)
- “Neural Network Language Models and the Argument from the Poverty of the Stimulus”, Department of Linguistics (Ling Lunch Series), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. (10/19)
- “Using Structure to Predict the next Word: What RNN Language Models Learn about Syntax”, Computation and Psycholinguistics Lab, Johns Hopkins University, USA. (2/19)
- “What do RNN Language Models Learn about the Filler-Gap Dependency?”, Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Science Laboratory, Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris), France (8/18)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- ETH Zurich Postdoctoral Fellowship 1/2021 - present
- Graduate Student Research Grant, Mind Brain Behavior Initiative, Harvard 1/2021, 10/2019, 5/2018
- Best Honors Thesis, Division of Languages Cultures and Literatures, Stanford University 6/2015

## TEACHING

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- Assistant Head Tutor, Department of Linguistics, Harvard 9/2020-5/2021
- “Statistical Methods in Linguistics” (Ling 190), Harvard (TA) 1/2020 - 5/2020
- “Computational Psycholinguistics” (BCS 9.19), MIT (TA) 1/2020 - 5/2020
- “Language, Structure and Cognition” (Ling 83), Harvard (TA)  
*Certificate for Distinction in Teaching* 9/2019 - 12/2019

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### Conference Organization

- Organizing Committee, “BabyLM Challenge” shared task at the Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL)

### Departmental Service

- Graduate Student Representative, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University (2020-2022)
  - Implemented first ever department climate survey
  - Ran graduate portion of new faculty search
  - Coordinated graduate student Covid-19 Response

### Reviewing

- **Journals:** Open Mind (MIT Press); Behavior Research Methods
- **Conferences:** ACL (2020, 2023); EMNLP (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023); ACL Rolling Review (2022, 2023), COLING (2022), CogSci (2021), Meaning in Context Workshop @ ICLR (2021)  
*Outstanding reviewer recognition, EMNLP, 2020*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Transcendent Endeavors</b> Computational Linguist	New York, NY 10/16 –8/17
<b>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Freelance</b> Translator and Editor	Moscow and Remote 10/15 –10/16
<b>Palantir</b> Product Quality Engineer Intern	Palo Alto, CA 6/14 –9/14

## SELECTED TRANSLATIONS

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All work co-translated from Russian with Mikhail Lion

- “[Sanctions and Retaliation: Where Russia-U.S. Relations are Headed](#)” by Andrey Movchan, *Carnegie Center Moscow*. 2018.
- “[Is Putin Losing Control of Russia’s Conservative Nationalists?](#)” by Alexander Baumov, *Foreign Affairs*, 2017
- “[The Accidental Formation of Russia’s War Coalition](#)” by Konstantin Gaaze, *Carnegie Center Moscow*, 2017
- “[Going to the People – and Back Again: The Changing Shape of the Russian Regime](#)” (white paper) by Alexander Baumov, Carnegie Center Moscow, 2017
- “The Snow Queen” by Evgeny Schwartz (stage play), produced by Dacha Theater / Lesser Known Players, Seattle WA, 2016

## REFERENCES

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Roger Levy Professor Department of Brain and Cognitive Science MIT rplevy@mit.edu	Kathryn Davidson John L. Loeb Associate Professor Department of Linguistics Harvard University kathryndavidson @fas.harvard.edu	Richard Futrell Assistant Professor Department of Language Science University of California, Irvine rfutrell@uci.edu
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