

Michael Wilson

Curriculum Vitae

Updated November 1, 2023

Contact

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Newark, Delaware 19716

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Nationality United States

Appointments

2023 – Present Assistant Professor of Instruction
Department of Linguistics & Cognitive Science
University of Delaware

2021 – 2023 Post-doctoral Research Associate
Department of Linguistics, Yale University
Supervisor: Robert Frank

Education

2015 – 2021 PhD, Linguistics
Dissertation: *The Syntactic and Semantic Atoms of the Spray/load Alternation*
Committee: Kyle Johnson (Chair), Rajesh Bhatt, Seth Cable, Luiz Amaral
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2012 – 2013 BA, Linguistics and Hispanic Linguistics, *summa cum laude*
University of Texas at Austin

Publications

IN PREPARATION

Resubmitted **Michael Wilson**, & Brian Dillon. [Alignment between thematic roles and grammatical functions facilitates sentence processing: Evidence from experiencer verbs.](#) *Journal of Memory and Language*. Submitted 9 February 2023. Revise & resubmit decision received 30 March 2023. Revisions submitted 16 October 2023.

In preparation **Michael Wilson**, & Robert Frank. People actively generalize to passives; computational models don't. In preparation.

In preparation **Michael Wilson**. Multiple predication in the first phase: Evidence from *spray/load* verbs. In preparation.

In preparation Shota Momma, & **Michael Wilson**. The interaction between complementizer production and long-distance dependencies in English. In preparation.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Accepted **Michael Wilson**, Jackson Petty, & Robert Frank. How abstract is linguistic generalization in large language models? Experiments with argument structure. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. Final acceptance received 2 July 2023.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEER-REVIEWED VOLUMES

- Accepted **Michael Wilson**, & Tom Roeper. (Re)sultatives. In Marcel den Dikken, & Hideki Kishimoto (Eds.) *Formal Perspectives on Secondary Prediction*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.
- 2020 **Michael Wilson**, & Rong Yin. [Argument and adjunct coordination in Spanish](#). In Juan J. Colomina-Almiñana, & Sandro Sessarego (Eds.) *Language Patterns in Spanish and Beyond: Structure, Context and Development*, Routledge Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics, (pp. 13–36). London/New York: Routledge.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2023 **Michael Wilson**, & Robert Frank. Inductive bias is in the eye of the beholder. *GenBench workshop 2023*.
- 2023 Deanna DeCarlo, William Palmer, **Michael Wilson**, & Robert Frank. NPIs aren't exactly easy: Variation in licensing across large language models. *BlackboxNLP 2023*.
- 2023 **Michael Wilson**, Zhenghao Zhou, & Robert Frank. [Subject-verb agreement with Seq2Seq transformers: Bigger is better, but still not best](#). In Tim Hunter, & Brandon Prickett (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*, vol. 6, (pp. 278–288). Amherst, MA: Society for Computation in Linguistics.
- 2022 **Michael Wilson**. [P-conflation in the English spray/load alternation](#). In Özge Bakay, Breanna Pratley, Eva Neu, & Peyton Deal (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, vol. 2, (pp. 221–230). Amherst: GLSA.
- 2022 **Michael Wilson**, & Thomas Roeper. [Re- visiting resultatives](#). In Özge Bakay, Breanna Pratley, Eva Neu, & Peyton Deal (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, vol. 2, (pp. 231–240). Amherst: GLSA.
- 2022 Jackson Petty, **Michael Wilson**, & Robert Frank. [Do language models learn position-role mappings?](#) In Ying Gong, & Felix Kpogo (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, vol. 2, (pp. 657–671). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2021 **Michael Wilson**. [How to derive non-logophoric backward binding for stative location verbs](#). In Alexandros Kalomoiros, & Lefteris Paparounas (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference*, vol. 27.1 of *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*, (pp. 247–255). Philadelphia: Penn Graduate Linguistics Society.
- 2020 Daoxin Li, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, **Michael Wilson**, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, Emma Merritt, Diego Lopez, & Austin Tero. [Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin](#). In Megan M. Brown, & Alexandra Kohut (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, vol. 1, (pp. 294–307). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2020 **Michael Wilson**. [The reversible core of object experiencer, location, and govern-type verbs](#). In Maggie Baird, & Jonathan Pesetsky (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, vol. 3, (pp. 285–294). Amherst: GLSA.

- 2019 **Michael Wilson**. [The dative illusion as an argument for lexicalist argument structure](#). In Eszter Ronai, Laura Stigliano, & Yenan Sun (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*, (pp. 541–556). Chicago: CLS.
- 2018 **Michael Wilson**. [Causing resultative passives](#). In Kate Bellamy, Anastasiia Ionova, & George Saad (Eds.) *ConSOLE XXV: Proceedings of the 25th Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe*, (pp. 310–330). Leiden: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

- 2022 **Michael Wilson**, Jackson Petty, & Robert Frank. [Probing language models' knowledge of position-role mappings with novel word learning](#). Talk presented at the Jabberwocky Words in Linguistics Workshop, University of Bucharest/University of Massachusetts Amherst (Online).
- 2022 **Michael Wilson**. [P-conflation in the English *spray/load* alternation](#). Poster presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. (Online).
- 2022 **Michael Wilson**, & Thomas Roeper. [Re- visiting resultatives: Evidence for non-uniformity](#). Poster presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C. (Online).
- 2021 **Michael Wilson**. [P-conflation in the English *spray/load* alternation](#). Poster presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Rutgers University (Online).
- 2021 **Michael Wilson**, & Thomas Roeper. [Re- visiting resultatives](#). Poster presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Rutgers University (Online).
- 2021 **Michael Wilson**, & Thomas Roeper. [\(Re\)sultatives](#). Talk presented at the International Workshop on Secondary Predication 2021, Nihon University (Online).
- 2021 **Michael Wilson**. [Again reveals multidominance in the structure of *spray/load* verbs](#). Poster presented at the 39th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of Arizona (Online).
- 2020 **Michael Wilson**, & Brian Dillon. [Thematic roles' alignment with grammatical functions facilitates sentence processing](#). Poster presented at the 26th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, University of Potsdam (Online).
- 2020 **Michael Wilson**. [How to derive non-logophoric backward binding for stative location verbs](#). Talk accepted for presentation at the 44th Annual Penn Linguistics Conference. Conference canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2020 Shota Momma, **Michael Wilson**, & Victor Ferreira. [Syntax guides verb planning in sentence production](#). Talk presented at the 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Online).
- 2020 Shota Momma, & **Michael Wilson**. [What does *that* tell us about sentence production?](#) Poster presented at the 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Online).

- 2020 **Michael Wilson.** [How to derive non-logophoric backward binding for stative location verbs.](#) Poster presented at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2019 Daoxin Li, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, **Michael Wilson**, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, Emma Merritt, Diego Lopez, & Austin Tero. [Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin.](#) Poster presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Boston University Conference on Language Development.
- 2019 Daoxin Li, Xiaolu Yang, Thomas Roeper, **Michael Wilson**, Rong Yin, Jaieun Kim, & Emma Merritt. [Acquisition of recursion in child Mandarin.](#) Poster presented at the 14th Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition conference, University of Milano-Bicocca.
- 2019 **Michael Wilson.** [The reversible core of ObjExp, location, and govern-type verbs.](#) Talk presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Sheraton New York Times Square.
- 2018 **Michael Wilson**, & Rong Yin. [Argument and adjunct coordination in Spanish.](#) Talk presented at the 2018 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2018 **Michael Wilson.** [The reversible core of ObjExp, location, and govern-type verbs.](#) Poster presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, Cornell University.
- 2018 **Michael Wilson.** [The dative illusion as an argument for lexicalist argument structure.](#) Talk presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, University of Chicago.
- 2018 **Michael Wilson.** [Interpreting an interpretive illusion: What the dative illusion tells us about processing.](#) Poster presented at the 31st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of California, Davis.
- 2017 **Michael Wilson.** Causing resultative passives. Talk presented at the Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe XXV, 4–6 January 2017, University of Leipzig. ([Slides](#), [Handout](#)).

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2020 **Michael Wilson** (Ed.) [Paths of Development: Language Acquisition in Spring 2020.](#) Self-published. (This volume collects course papers and theses on language acquisition written by undergraduates in the University of Massachusetts Amherst's linguistics program during the Spring 2020 semester.)

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Syntactic productivity in people and large language models. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 4 May 2023.

NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 **Michael Wilson.** [How do children acquire possessive recursion?](#) Talk at LAWNE Language Acquisition Workshop, 13 November 2016, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2013 **Michael Wilson.** *Answer to Do People Learn Nouns or Verbs More Easily?* on Quora. Published on [HuffPost](#).
(The images have broken on HuffPost, but they can be seen at the original answer on Quora.)

MANUSCRIPTS

- 2018 **Michael Wilson.** Argument structure and adjectival passives. Unpublished ms., University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2017 **Michael Wilson.** The dative illusion as an argument for lexical argument structure. Unpublished ms., University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2014 Juan J. Colomina-Almiñana, & **Michael Wilson.** Historical, theoretical, and empirical developments in linguistic relativity. Unpublished ms., University of Texas at Austin.

Teaching**AS INSTRUCTOR**

- Fall 2023 Linguistics 890: Topics in Argument Structure
Cognitive Science 697: Experimental Linguistics
Linguistics 202: Science of Language
University of Delaware

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Spring 2020 Linguistics 411: Introduction to Language Acquisition
Instructor: Tom Roeper
- Fall 2018 Linguistics 401: Introduction to Syntax
Instructor: Kyle Johnson
Linguistics 610: Semantics and Generative Grammar (Graduate level)
Instructor: Seth Cable
- Spring 2018 Linguistics 305: Writing for Linguistics
Instructor: Brian Dillon
- Fall 2017 Linguistics 412: Language Processing and the Brain
Instructor: Lyn Frazier
Linguistics 101: People and Their Language (Online)
Instructor: Magda Oiry
- Summer 2017 Linguistics 101: People and Their Language (Online)
Instructor: John Kingston
- Spring 2017 Linguistics 101: People and Their Language (Two in-person sections)
Linguistics 101: People and Their Language (Online)
Instructor: John Kingston
- Fall 2016 Linguistics 201: Introduction to Linguistic Theory
Instructor: Nick LaCara

AS WRITING CONSULTANT

- 2011–2013 Over 300 individual sessions helping students with their writing
[University of Texas at Austin Writing Center](#)
[Texas State University Writing Center](#)

Fall 2011 Hosted weekly grammar, spelling, and punctuation review sessions
Texas State University Writing Center

Fall 2011 Co-hosted workshop on essay structure
Texas State University Writing Center

Service

REVIEWER

2023 *Memory & Cognition* (×1)
Glossa Psycholinguistics (×2)

2022 *Glossa Psycholinguistics* (×2)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2020–2021 Research Assistant to Shota Momma
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2019 Research Assistant to Shota Momma
University of Massachusetts Amherst

DEPARTMENT

2023 Undergraduate Advisor
University of Delaware

2019–2021 Student Representative to the Faculty
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2017–2019 Colloquium Reception Coordinator
University of Massachusetts Amherst

CONFERENCES

2020 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing
Co-organizer

EDITOR

2013 *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*
Copy editor, layout editor

Languages

English Native speaker (American)

Spanish Strong reading, writing, and conversational ability

French Limited reading and writing ability

Awards & Honors

Spring 2019 Departmental Research Fellowship
Department of Linguistics · University of Massachusetts Amherst

2014–Present Phi Beta Kappa · Member

Fall 2013 *Summa cum laude*, Dean's Honor List
University of Texas at Austin

- Spring 2013 *Magna cum laude*, Dean's Honor List
University of Texas at Austin
- Fall 2012 *Magna cum laude*, Dean's Honor List
University of Texas at Austin
- Fall 2011 Award for Academic Excellence; Dean's List; Honors Student
Texas State University
- Spring 2011 Award for Academic Excellence; Dean's List
Texas State University
- 2009 – Present Phi Theta Kappa · Member

Skills

- Technical Python (Hugging Face Transformers, PyTorch, Pandas, spaCy, nltk), \LaTeX , R (brms, lme4), PCIBex, EyeTrack, Excel, Praat, Audacity
- Methodologies self-paced reading, forced choice, acceptability judgment, speeded acceptability, eye-tracking while reading, speech production (sentence recall, picture description)