

## Mythili Menon

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**BROAD INTERESTS:** *The syntax-semantics interface; experimental approaches to syntax-semantics; domain general cognitive processing across modalities*

**SPECIFIC INTERESTS:** *gradability, degree and adjectival semantics, the syntax and semantics of comparatives; the connection between language, music, artificial language, and vision; relative clause attachment ambiguities and the role of number; plurals and pseudo-partitivity; possession and predication; classifiers and numeral semantics*

### EMPLOYMENT

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2016- Assistant Professor of English and Linguistics, Wichita State University

### EDUCATION

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2010-2016 PhD in Linguistics, University of Southern California  
Dissertation title: *Building Adjectival Meaning without Adjectives*

2010-2012 Masters in Linguistics, University of Southern California  
MA paper: *The Syntax of the Adjective in Dravidian.*

2008-2010 PhD candidate in Linguistics, The English and Foreign Languages University

2006- 2008 M.Phil in English (Linguistics), The English and Foreign Languages University  
Thesis: *A Cartography of Definiteness*

2004- 2006 M.A in Linguistics, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages  
*75.8% Aggregate (GPA.5.58 out of 6.0/ Outstanding grade) / first class honors*

2001-2004 B.A in Communicative English, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam  
*84 % Aggregate (University first rank) / first class honors*

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

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#### *External grants*

2008-2011 University Grant Commission Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)

2005-2008 University Grant Commission Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)

#### *Internal grants*

Summer 2013 University of Southern California Del Amo Fellowship

2010-2011/  
2014-2015 University of Southern California Graduate Merit Fellowship

*Travel Grants*

- 2015-2016 USC Graduate school travel award (\$1500)
- 2014-2015 USC Linguistics travel award (\$2000)
- 2015 GLOW 38 travel award (450 Euros)
- 2012 USC GSG travel award (\$500)
- 2012 Glow-in-Asia IX travel award (\$1500)

*Awards*

- 2016-2018 UConn Post Doctoral fellowship [declined]
- 2015-2016 USC Graduate School Dissertation completion fellowship
- 2015 Won second prize (\$750) in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual USC GSG Graduate Research Symposium  
*Topic:* Cross-Domain Structural Priming from Music to Language
- 2011 Published in UNAIDS magazine for work done in promoting AIDS awareness  
([http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/20110607\\_jc2069\\_30outlook\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/20110607_jc2069_30outlook_en.pdf))
- 2004 First rank in Mahatma Gandhi University for B.A Communicative English

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2013 Conducted experiments in Spain on language and music.
- 2011 Elicited data from a Marwari speaker as part of a field methods course.
- 2007 Part of the National Linguistics Survey of India team of linguists at the Central Institute of Indian and Foreign Languages.
- 2006 Conducted a child language acquisition study among Malayalam bilingual children and elicited plural marking and past tense formation in Malayalam.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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*Journal Publications*

Simpson, Andrew, Arunima Choudhury, **Mythili Menon**. 2013. The derivation and licensing of covert nominals in Bangla, Hindi, and Malayalam. *Lingua* 134, 103-128.

Hao, Felix Wang, **Mythili Menon**, Elsi Kaiser. (submitted). Statistical Structures in Artificial Language Primes Relative Clause Attachment. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.

*Other Peer-reviewed Publications*

**Menon, Mythili.** 2014. Property Concepts and the Apparent Lack of Adjectives in Dravidian. In, Pritha Chandra and Richa Srishti (eds.) *The Lexicon-Syntax Interface: Perspectives from South Asian Languages*. Pp 25-52.

*Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings*

**Menon, Mythili.** (in press). The Standard Marker in Malayalam encodes Comparative Semantics. In *Proceedings of WCCFL 34*.

**Menon, Mythili.** (under review). The Standard Marker encodes Comparative semantics. In S. Kodandaram and A. Guha eds. *Proceedings of the symposium in honor of R. Amritavalli*.

**Menon, Mythili,** Roumyana Pancheva. (to appear). Decomposing color expressions in Malayalam. In S. Sundaresan and R. Balusu eds. *Proceedings of FASAL V*.

Wang, Felix Hao, **Mythili Menon,** Elsi Kaiser. 2015. Statistical Structures in Artificial languages Prime Relative Clause Attachment Biases in English. In D. C. Noelle, R. Dale, A. S. Warlaumont, J. Yoshimi, T. Matlock, C. D. Jennings, & P. P. Maglio (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

**Menon, Mythili,** Roumyana Pancheva. 2014. The grammatical life of property concept roots in Malayalam. In U. Etxeberria, A. Fălăuș, A. Irurtzun, B. Leferman eds., *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 2013*, pp. 289-302.

**Menon, Mythili.** 2013. The Apparent Lack of Adjectives in Malayalam and other Related Languages. In Nobu Goto, Koichi Otaki, Atsushi Sato, Kensuke Takita eds. *Proceedings of Glow-in-Asia IX 2012: The Main Session*. Mie University, Japan, pp. 157-171.

**Menon, Mythili.** 2012. Adverbial Comparatives: Evidence from Malayalam. In: Ana Aguilar, Anna Chernilovskaya & Rick Nouwen (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 16 vol 2*. MIT Working Papers in Linguistics, pp. 461-474.

Simpson, Andrew, Arunima Choudhury, **Mythili Menon.** 2012. South Asian Perspectives on Argument Ellipsis. In, Bum-Sik Park eds. *Three factors and Syntactic Theory. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*, pp. 370-389.

*Books*

**Menon, Mythili** and Hari Menon (under prep). *Jews of Kochi: A Visual Journey*.

*In preparation*

**Menon, Mythili** and Elsi Kaiser. *Structural Integration Priming from Music to Language*.

**Menon, Mythili** and Roumyana Pancheva. *Comparison without Adjectives*.

*Unpublished Manuscripts*

- 2011            Closest Conjunct Agreement in Marwari. Ms. USC.  
 2008            A Cartography of Definiteness.  
                   MPhil Thesis, The English and Foreign Languages University

*Edited Volumes*

- In prep.        Proceedings of the Sixth Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages  
 (FASAL 6). Joint editor with Syed Saurov. Online at JSAL.  
 2009            Universals and Variation. *Proceedings of the Seventh GLOW-in Asia*. Joint editor  
 with Rajat Mohanty. The English and Foreign Languages Press, EFLU,  
 Hyderabad.

**CONFERENCE TALKS**

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- (2017)        *Building Superlatives from Property Concept Expressions*  
91<sup>st</sup> LSA, January 05-08, 2017  
 Austin, TX  
 (2016)        *Ser and Estar: Back to Aspect*  
 (with Alfredo Garcia Pardo)  
HLS, October 07-09, 2016  
 Georgetown University, Washington D.C  
 2016        *Ser and Estar: Back to Aspect*  
 (with Alfredo Garcia Pardo)  
WoSSP 13, June 30-July 01, 2016  
 UoB, Barcelona  
 2016        *Reevaluating standard analyses of comparison: The view from Malayalam*  
FASAL 6, March 14-15, 2016  
 UMass, Amherst  
 2015        “*Than*” encodes comparative semantics  
CUSP 8, November 06-07, 2015  
 Stanford University, Palo Alto  
 2015        *Statistical Structures in Artificial Language Prime Relative Clause Attachment Biases in*  
*English*  
 (with Felix Hao Wang and Elsi Kaiser)  
37<sup>th</sup> Cognitive Society Meeting, July 23-25, 2015  
 Pasadena, California  
 2015        *Decomposing color expressions in Malayalam*  
 (with Roumyana Pancheva)  
GLOW 38, April 15-18, 2015

University of Paris 8 and CNRS, Paris

- 2015 *Decomposing color expressions in Malayalam*  
(with Roumyana Pancheva)  
Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL 5),  
Yale University, April 11-12, 2015
- 2013 *The Grammatical Life of Property Concept Roots in Malayalam*  
(with Roumyana Pancheva)  
Sinn und Bedeutung 18, Sept 11-13, 2013, University of the Basque Country, Spain
- 2013 *Comparison in the Absence of Adjectives: The Case of Dravidian*  
Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages (FASAL 3),  
University of Southern California, March 9-10 2013
- 2013 *Structural Integration Priming from Music to Language*  
(with Elsi Kaiser)  
Music, Cognition, and Poetics workshop, April 25-27 2013  
Osnabrueck, Germany
- 2012 *The Syntax of the Adjective in Dravidian*  
Glow-in-Asia IX, Sept 04-06 2012  
Mie University, Japan
- 2012 *Empty nominal categories in Hindi, Bangla and Malayalam*  
(with Andrew Simpson and Arunima Choudhury)  
Special workshop on Ellipsis at The 14th Seoul International  
Conference on Generative Grammar, Aug 06- 09 2012  
Dongguk University, South Korea
- 2012 *Empty nominal categories in Hindi, Bangla and Malayalam*  
(Co-authored with Andrew Simpson and Arunima Choudhury)  
FASAL 2, March 17-18 2012  
MIT, Massachussetts
- 2012 *Plurality and the DP: What the Malayalam –kaL tells us*  
(with Sarah Ouwayda)  
FASAL 2, March 17-18 2012  
MIT, Massachussetts
- 2012 *Relativization and Nominalizations and the Expression of Possession in Malayalam*  
Console XX, January 4-7 2012  
Universitat i Leipzig, Germany (Unable to attend due to visa problems)
- 2011 *Two Ways of Forming Comparatives in Malayalam*  
Sinn und Bedeutung 16, September 06-08 2011  
University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

- 2011 *Revisiting Infinitives: The Need for Tense in Malayalam*  
Finiteness in South Asian Languages, June 09-10 2011  
 University of Tromsø, Norway
- 2011 *Two ways of arriving at the same meaning: Comparatives in Malayalam*  
South Asian Languages workshop, March 18-19 2011  
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2009 *Tense, Aspect, and Modality in Malayalam*  
 Paper presented at LISSIM 4, Kausani, June 10-31 2009
- 2008 *Indefinites and Specificity in Ao: The Semantics of 'ka' and 'tu' (with Temsu Jamir)*  
SCONLI 2, January 10-12 2008  
 Delhi University, India
- 2007 *Encoding Definiteness: Definiteness Effects and Alternates*  
 Presented at the Hyderabad-Nanzan-Cambridge-Siena-Connecticut joint workshop  
 National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan, December 15-18 2007
- 2007 *Indefinites and Specificity in Ao: The Semantics of 'ka' and 'tu' (with Temsu Jamir)*  
NEHU, Shillong
- 2006 *Possession and Custody: Individual and Stage level predication (with Hany Babu M.T)*  
SALA-26, 19-21 December 2006, CIIL, Mysore
- 2006 *Acquisition of Plurals in Malayalam: A Study among Multilingual Children of Hyderabad*  
28<sup>th</sup> AICL, 2-4 November 2006, Banaras Hindu University
- 2006 *Velar Gemination in Malayalam: An Optimality Theoretic Account*  
MSPIL-06, January 04-06 2006, IIT-Mumbai  
 (Shortlisted for best student paper)

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- 2016 *The Standard Marker in Malayalam Encodes Comparative Semantics*  
WCCFL 34, April 29-May 1 2016, Utah
- 2015 *On the Syntax and Semantics of Measuring: The View from Malayalam*  
89<sup>th</sup> LSA meeting, January 9-11 2015, Portland
- 2014 *Priming from Music to Language: Effects of Number Marking on the Priming of Relative Clause Attachment in Spanish (with Elsi Kaiser)*  
20<sup>th</sup> AMLaP, September 3-6 2014, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2014 *Nonadjacent lexical dependencies in an artificial language prime relative clause attachment biases (with Hao Felix Wang and Elsi Kaiser)*  
27<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Sentence Processing Conference, March 13-15 2014  
 Ohio State University, Ohio

- 2013 *Consequences of Music to one's ears: Structural Integration Priming from Music to Language* (with Elsi Kaiser)  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Sentence Processing Conference, March 21-23 2013  
University of Southern Carolina, USA
- 2013 *Structural Integration Priming between Music and Language* (with Elsi Kaiser)  
11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Linguistics, March 20-23 2013  
Canary Islands, Spain (Unable to attend due to scheduling conflict)
- 2007 *The Possessive Dative Construction in Malayalam*  
Poster presented at the Hyderabad-Nanzan-Cambridge-Siena-Connecticut joint workshop, 21-22 February 2007  
Nanzan University, Nagoya, Japan

### **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2016 *Structure and Meaning in Cognition*  
Invited talk at the Wichita State University, Kansas
- 2015 *Oral Traditions and Language Documentation*  
Invited talk at the Intangible Heritage Festival, Kerala
- 2015 *Reevaluating Standard Analyses of Comparison: The View from Dravidian*  
Invited talk at the Symposium in honor of R. Amritavalli (EFLU, Hyderabad)
- 2015 *Domain general structural priming: Music, Artificial language prime relative clauses*  
Invited talk at CNRS, Paris (Philippe Schlenker's LINGUAE group)
- 2013 *Consequences of music to one's ears.*  
The Southern California Students in Linguistics Workshop, USC

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- Instructor *LING 315: History and Structure of English*  
(Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
- Instructor *LING 317: Introduction to Linguistics*  
(Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
- Instructor *LING 151: The Nature of Language*  
(Spring 2017)
- Teaching Assistant *LING 115: Language, Culture, and Society*  
Instructor: Prof. Andrew Simpson, USC  
(Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013)
- Teaching Assistant *LING 115: Language, Culture, and Society*  
Instructor: Dr. Sandra Ferrari Disner, USC

	(Spring 2013, Spring 2014)
Teaching Assistant	<i>LING 110: In a Word</i> Instructor: Prof. Elena Guerzoni, USC (Spring 2012)
Co-instructor	Along with Professor Hemalatha (Fall 2009) The English and Foreign Languages University Course: <i>The History and Structure of English</i> (Integrated M.A course)
Instructor	May-June 2007 The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) <i>Introduction to Syntax</i>
Tutor	2007-2008 The English and Foreign Languages University <i>Introduction to Syntax and Semantics</i> 'Post Graduate Certificate of Teaching English' Participants
Co-Instructor	Along with Professor P. Madhavan (Spring 2008) The English and Foreign Languages University Course: <i>Basic Issues in Semantics</i> (Graduate level course)
Teaching Assistant	2006 - 2008 The English and Foreign Languages University Courses: <i>Basic Issues in Semantics, Introduction to Linguistics</i> (Graduate level courses)

## **MENTORING**

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Krystal Iseminger- Research Assistant 2016-2017 at Wichita State University

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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2016- Reviewer for *GLOSSA*

2016- Reviewer for *NELS 47*

2015- Reviewer for *FASAL-5* proceedings, *SCONLI-9* proceedings

2015- Program committee for 28<sup>th</sup> *CUNY* (USC, March 2015)

2014- Program committee for *WCCFL 32* (USC, March 2014)

2013- Program committee for *FASAL 3* (USC, March 2013)



2013- Contributor to SSWL database

2011- Student volunteer for *CUSP* at University of Southern California

2011- Student volunteer at *Parallel Domains: A workshop in honor of Jean-Roger Vergnaud*

2008- Chief Student coordinator for *GLOW in Asia VII*, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

2007- Instructor at the Central Institute of Indian Languages as part of the National Linguistic Survey of India (*NLSI*)

2006- Organizer of the First Student Conference in Linguistics in India (*SCONLI*) at CIEFL, Hyderabad

## **WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS**

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Workshop on Semantics	Veneeta Dayal JNU, Delhi
Workshop on Tense and Aspect	Rajesh Bhatt SALA, Mysore
LISSIM 4	Linguistic Summer school in Kausani, India
Workshop on Degree Semantics	Sinn und Bedeutung, Utrecht Univ.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Cognitive Science Society (CSS)  
Linguistics Society of America (LSA)  
Society for Music Perception and Cognition (SMPC)  
Women in Cognitive Science (WiCS)

## **SKILLS**

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Programming ability in *C++*, *Prolog*, *Python* and *R*.  
Basic knowledge of *Html* and *Java*.  
Statistical programming software: *SPSS*, *R*.

## **LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

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Malayalam	native
English	near native
Hindi	fluent

French, Spanish	elementary certification
Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Tulu	working knowledge and fieldwork
Judeo-Malayalam, Marwari	fieldwork

## ADVISING

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2015- Linguistics advisor and Company Mentor  
*Subverses Llc.*  
Early-stage language learning startup

## REFERENCES

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Roumyana Pancheva  
Associate Professor  
University of Southern California  
[pancheva@usc.edu](mailto:pancheva@usc.edu)

Andrew Simpson  
Professor and Chair of Linguistics  
University of Southern California  
[andrew.simpson@usc.edu](mailto:andrew.simpson@usc.edu)

Maria Luisa Zubizarreta  
Professor  
University of Southern California  
[zubizarr@usc.edu](mailto:zubizarr@usc.edu)

Elsi Kaiser  
Associate Professor  
University of Southern California  
[emkaiser@usc.edu](mailto:emkaiser@usc.edu)

K.A. Jayaseelan  
Professor Emeritus  
The English and Foreign Languages Univ  
[kajayaseelan11@gmail.com](mailto:kajayaseelan11@gmail.com)

Sandra Disner  
Associate Professor of Teaching Linguistics  
University of Southern California  
[sdisner@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:sdisner@dornsife.usc.edu)