

Lilia Rissman

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Curriculum Vitae

Updated 10/2017

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Ph.D. in Cognitive Science, May 2013

Dissertation title: *Event participant representations and the instrumental role: a cross-linguistic study*

Advised by Barbara Landau & Kyle Rawlins

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

B.A. in Linguistics and Cognitive Science; English and American Literature, May 2003

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Highest Honors in Linguistics and Cognitive Science

Thesis title: *Subject pronoun expression in native and non-native grammars of Spanish*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-present: **Radboud University**, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Postdoctoral fellow

Department of Communication and Information Studies

Advised by Asifa Majid

2013-2017: **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

Postdoctoral scholar

Department of Psychology

Advised by Susan Goldin-Meadow

HONORS, AWARDS & FUNDING

2017-2019: Radboud Excellence Initiative postdoctoral fellowship, Radboud University

2017: Research grant for project "Flexible strategies for encoding events: classifiers and constructed action in American Sign Language." Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language,, University of Chicago (\$1750)

2013-2016: NIH diversity fellowship for postdoctoral research, parent grant: NIDCD RO1 DC000491 "From spontaneous sign systems to language." (PI: Susan Goldin-Meadow)

2006 – 2012: trainee under National Science Foundation Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT): *Unifying the Science of Language*

2007: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program honorable mention
Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute fellowship

1999 - 2003: Brandeis University Hiatt Challenger fellowship

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Rissman, L. & Rawlins, K. (2017). Ingredients of instrumental meaning. *Journal of Semantics*, 34(3), 507-537.
- Cartmill, E.A., Rissman, L., Novack, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). The emergence of iconic features in co-speech gesture and homesign. *Language, Interaction and Acquisition*, 8(1), 42-68.
- Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). The development of causal structure without a language model. *Language Learning and Development*, 13(3), 286-299.
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (2015). Using instruments to understand argument structure: Evidence for gradient representation. *Cognition*, 142(0), 266-290.
- Rissman, L., Legendre, G., Landau, B. (2013). Abstract morphosyntax in two and three-year-old children: evidence from priming. *Language Learning and Development*, 9(3), 278-292.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Rissman, L., Horton, L., Flaherty, M., Senghas, A., Copolla, M., Brentari, D., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2016). Strategies in gesture and sign for demoting an agent: effects of language community and input. *Proceedings from Evolution of Language 10*.
- Rissman, L. (2015). Cinderella broke and broke: object deletion and manner-result complementarity. *Proceedings from Chicago Linguistic Society 51*. 425-439.
- Rissman, L. (2013). Periphrastic *use*: a modal account of instrumentality. In Y. Fainleib, N. LaCara, & Y. Park (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society* (Vol. 2, pp. 137-150). Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.
- Rissman, L. (2011). Instrumental *with* and *use*: modality and implicature. *Proceedings from Semantics and Linguistic Theory 21*, 532-551.
- Rissman, L. (2010). Instrumental *with*, locatum *with* and the argument/adjunct distinction. *LSA Meeting Extended Abstracts 2010*.

MANUSCRIPTS

- Rissman, L., Woodward, A. , & Goldin-Meadow, S. (under review). Perceptual influences on sentence production and event construal: Degrees of visual prominence of an animate agent.
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (in preparation). Instrumental participants in verbal semantic structure: A comparison of English, Spanish and Mandarin.
- Rissman, L., Horton, L., Flaherty, M., Senghas, A., Copolla, M., Brentari, D., Goldin-Meadow, S. (in preparation). Alternate event construals and language emergence: evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

(2017) "Grammatical innovation in emerging signed languages: distinguishing alternate event construals." Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics: Diversity in Language, Culture and Cognition colloquium series (Nijmegen, the Netherlands).

(2017) "Cognitive biases and the mapping from concepts to semantics." University of California Davis, Department of Linguistics (Davis, CA).

(2016) "How language structures cognition: insights from language development and variation." University of Richmond, Department of Psychology (Richmond, VA).

(2016) "From concepts to semantics: the development of agentive language." New York University, Department of Linguistics (New York, NY).

(2013) "How verbs determine event participant representation: the case of instruments." Northwestern University, Philosophy and Linguistics Workgroup (Evanston, IL).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Rissman, L. (to be presented). "Tools for understanding verb meaning: explicit judgments vs. implicit behavior." Paper presentation part of the organized session "Understanding judgment data in syntax and semantics" at the 92nd annual meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Salt Lake City, UT).

Rissman, L., Woodward, A., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). "Linguistic encoding of flexible event construal in adults and children." Paper presentation at the workshop on **Event Representations in Brain, Language, and Development** (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands).

Cartmill, E.A., Rissman, L., Novack, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). "Mapping hand to world; Development of iconic representation in gesture and homesign." Poster presentation at **Cognitive Science 2017** (London, England).

Horton, L., Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. & Brentari, D. (2017). "The Emergence of Agent-Marking Strategies in Child Homesign Systems." Paper presentation at the 53rd Meeting of the **Chicago Linguistic Society** (Chicago, IL).

Horton, L., Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. & Brentari, D. (2017). "The Emergence of Agent-Marking Strategies in Child Homesign Systems." Paper presentation at **Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory** (Reykjavík, Iceland).

Rissman, L., Horton, L., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). "Crosslinguistic biases shape the semantic structure of verbs: evidence from deaf homesigning children." Paper presentation at the 91st annual meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Austin, TX).

Rissman, L., Horton, L., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (2016). "Event categories in the absence of linguistic input: a cross-cultural study of child homesign." Poster presentation at the 41st annual **Boston University Conference on Language Development** (Boston, MA).

Rissman, L., Horton, L., Flaherty, M., Senghas, A., Copolla, M., Brentari, D., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2016). "Strong and weak agents in gesture and emerging sign language." Paper presentation at the 7th biennial conference of the **International Society for Gesture Studies** (Paris, France).

- Rissman, L., Horton, L., Flaherty, M., Senghas, A., Copolla, M., Brentari, D., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2016). "Strategies in gesture and sign for demoting an agent: effects of language community and input." Paper presentation at the 10th biennial **Evolution of Language** conference (New Orleans, LA).
- Rissman, L., Horton, L., Brentari, D., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2016). "Demoting the agent in Nicaraguan Sign Language: effects of language input on linguistic structure." Paper presentation at the 90th annual meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Washington, DC).
- Rissman, L. (2015). "Cinderella broke and broke: object deletion and manner-result complementarity." Paper presentation at the 51st Meeting of the **Chicago Linguistic Society** (Chicago, IL).
- Rissman, L. (2015). "Intentionality and modality in the semantics of an instrumental verb." Paper presentation at the **Modality and Subjectivity** workshop, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society (Chicago, IL).
- Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2015). "Morphological & lexical markers of causation in the gestures of a child homesigner." Paper presentation at the 89th annual meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Portland, OR).
- Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2014). "Does handling handshape mark causation in homesign? Evidence from two child homesigners." Paper presentation at the 11th annual meeting of the **High Desert Linguistic Society**, included in the panel "Effects of community and age in emerging sign languages" (Albuquerque, NM).
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (2013). "Instruments and verbal meaning: evidence from English, Spanish and Mandarin." Poster presentation at the University of Chicago **Semantic Variation Workshop** (Chicago, IL).
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (2013). "Argument judgments and the nature of verbal semantic structure." Paper presentation at the 31st **West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics** (Tempe, AZ).
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (2012). "Event participants and verbal semantic structure." Paper presentation at the 1st annual **PHLING research symposium** (College Park, MD).
- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K., Landau, B. (2011). "Semantic argument structure across languages." Paper presentation at the 44th International Annual Meeting of the **Societas Linguistica Europaea**, included in workshop "The Argument/Adjunct Distinction Cross-Linguistically" (Logroño, Spain).
- Rissman, L. (2011). "Instrumental *with* and *use*: modality and intention." Poster presentation at **Semantics and Linguistic Theory 21** (New Brunswick, NJ).
- Rissman, L. (2011). "Understanding instruments." Paper presentation at the 85th Annual Meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Pittsburgh, PA).
- Rissman, L. (2010). "Periphrastic *use*: a modal account of instrumentality." Paper presentation at the 41st Annual Meeting of the **North East Linguistic Society** (Philadelphia, PA).
- Rissman, L. (2010). "Periphrastic *use*: the expression of goals." Paper presentation at the **Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning** (Philadelphia, PA).
- Rissman, L., Legendre, G., & Landau, B. (2010). "Abstract morphosyntactic representation in 2-year-old children: evidence from syntactic priming." Poster presentation at 17th Biennial **International Conference on Infant Studies** (Baltimore, MD).

Rissman, L. (2010). "Explaining the locative alternation." Paper presentation at the **Georgetown Linguistics Society** (Washington, DC).

Rissman, L. (2010). "Instrumental *with*, locatum *with* and the argument/adjunct distinction." Paper presentation at the 84th Annual Meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Baltimore, MD).

Rissman, L., Legendre, G., & Landau, B. (2009). "Abstract auxiliary BE representation in 2-year-old children: evidence from syntactic priming." Poster presentation at the 34th annual **Boston University Conference on Language Development** (Boston, MA).

Rissman, L., Legendre, G., & Landau, B. (2009). "Abstract auxiliary BE representation in 2-year-old children: evidence from syntactic priming." Poster presentation at the 31st annual meeting of the **Cognitive Science Society** (Amsterdam, the Netherlands).

Rissman, L. (2007). "L2 acquisition of Spanish subjects: is the NSP enough?" Poster presentation at the 81st annual meeting of the **Linguistic Society of America** (Anaheim, CA).

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer positions

Spring 2017: Meaning

Northwestern University, Department of Linguistics

Summer 2016: Introduction to Developmental Psychology

University of Chicago, Graham School for Continuing Education

Advisor to undergraduate research assistants

2013-2017: University of Chicago, Department of Psychology

2007- 2012: Johns Hopkins University, Department of Cognitive Science

Teaching assistant positions: Johns Hopkins University, Department of Cognitive Science

Spring 2012: Language and Advertising with Prof. Kyle Rawlins

Fall 2009, Fall 2011: Semantics I with Prof. Kyle Rawlins

Spring 2010: Foundations of Cognitive Science with Prof. Paul Smolensky

Spring 2009: Classic Papers in Language Learning with Prof. Barbara Landau

Fall 2008: Introduction to Cognitive Development with Prof. Barbara Landau

Spring 2008: Cognition with Prof. Bob Frank

Fall 2007: Language and Mind with Prof. Bill Badecker

Spring 2007: The World of Language with Prof. Geraldine Legendre

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Peer review for:

National Science Foundation Linguistics Program

Cognition

Cognitive Science: a Multidisciplinary Journal

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General

Frontiers in Psychology: Language Sciences

Language, Cognition and Neuroscience

Linguistics Vanguard

Semantics in Language Acquisition; John Benjamins series Trends in Language Acquisition Research

Boston University Conference on Language Development annual meeting

Linguistic Society of America annual meeting

Cognitive Science Society annual meeting

2015: gave linguistics outreach talk "Amazon Mechanical Turk and the impact of technology on science" at SeanCon III, a Chicago technology conference

University of Chicago

2014-2016: founding member of the University of Chicago Postdoctoral Association

2015: served on the panel "Finding a postdoc position," as part of the Academic Jobs Summer Camp sponsored by UChicagoGRAD

2015: presented the tutorial "Giving an effective conference talk" to the Psychology Department summer undergraduate reading group

2014: served on the panel "Becoming a Postdoc in a Laboratory," as part of the Learning in Laboratories series sponsored by University of Chicago Graduate Student Affairs

Johns Hopkins University, Cognitive Science Department

2012: IGERT conference coordinating committee

2008 - 2010: Colloquium series coordinating committee

2006 - 2007: Departmental event coordinator

Baltimore Polytech High School

2011: Presenter for Brain Awareness Week

Brandeis University, Linguistics Department

2002 - 2003: Undergraduate Department Representative