

Niels Dickson

PHD STUDENT · UCI LANGUAGE SCIENCE

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Education

University of California, Irvine

September 2020 - present

PhD Language Science

- Advisors: Dr. Richard Futrell and Dr. Lisa Pearl

Louisiana State University

August 2016 - May 2020

BS Psychology and Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Math, French, and Philosophy

- Honors thesis advisor: Dr. Christopher R. Cox

Publications

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Dickson, N., Futrell, R., & Pearl, L. 2024. I Forgot but It's Okay: Learning about Island Constraints under Child-Like Memory Constraints. In *BUCLD 48 Proceedings*.

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2022. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*, 5, Article 22.
<https://scholarworks.umass.edu/scil/vol15/iss1/22/>

MANUSCRIPTS

Dickson, N. 2023. Review of Unsupervised POS Tagging and Its Implications on Language Acquisition. arXiv:2312.10169.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2019	LSU Honors College Thesis Research Scholarship, Tiger Athletic Foundation	\$ 750
2018-2019	Travel Stipend, LSU Discover Undergraduate Research Program	\$ 1,660

Presentations

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2023. I forgot but it's okay: Learning about island constraints under child-like memory constraints. Poster presented at *48th Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Boston, MA.

Dickson, N. 2023. Acquiring *wh*-dependencies through efficient representation. UCI Spring Language Science Colloquium Series.

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2022. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. Talk presented at *Society for Computation in Linguistics*, Remote.

Dickson, N., Pearl, L., & Futrell, R. 2021. Learning constraints on *wh*-dependencies by learning how to efficiently represent *wh*-dependencies: A developmental modeling investigation with Fragment Grammars. Poster presented at *46th Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Remote.

†**Dickson, N.**, Cash, D. & Papesch, M. 2019. Remembering and Rejecting: Not Just Two Sides of the Same Coin? Talk presented at *LSU Discover Day*, Baton Rouge, LA.

Dickson, N., Knotts, S., Jones, B., Cash, D. K., & Lane, S.M. (2018). Lost in Translation: The Difference Between Interpreting Verbal and Numeric Information. Poster presented at *LSU Discover Day*, Baton Rouge, LA.

Cash, D., **Dickson, N.**, Cleere, A., Allo, H., Jones, B., Knotts, S., & Lane, S. (2018). TMI: Justifications Detract from Expressions of Confidence. Poster presented at *Southeastern Psychological Association*, Charleston, SC.

⁺ *Awarded 1st place for Oral Presentation in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts Division at LSU Discover Conference.*

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2024 **LSCI 2: Discover Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2024 **LSCI 20: Intro to Syntax**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2023 **LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring 2023 **LSCI 2: Discover Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2023 **LSCI 20: Intro to Syntax**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2022 **LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring 2022 **LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics**, Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2022 **LSCI 155: Psychology of Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2021 **LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language**, Teaching Assistant
- Spring 2021 **LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics**, Teaching Assistant
- Winter 2021 **LSCI 3: Intro to Linguistics**, Teaching Assistant
- Fall 2020 **LSCI 51: Acquisition of Language**, Teaching Assistant

Research Experience

University of California, Irvine - Language Science

Co-Advisors: Dr. Lisa Pearl, Dr. Richard Futrell

Irvine, CA

2020-Present

- Concentration Exam: “The computations underlying the acquisition of syntactic categories”

Louisiana State University - Psychology

Advisor: Dr. Christopher R. Cox

Baton Rouge, LA

2019-2020

- Honor’s Thesis: “The Relative Contributions of Taxonomic and Thematic Knowledge When Making Similarity Judgements”

Outreach & Professional Development

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2023-Present **Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL) 2024**, Organizer
- 2022-Present **Grad Student Industry Application Group**, Founder
 - Organized a group of UCI Language Science grad students to prepare industry internship applications. We invited guests with industry experience, researched potential positions, and workshopped resumes.
- 2020-2021 **UCI Language Science Colloquium**, Organizing Committee Member
- 2020-2021 **California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)**, Organizing Committee Member

DEVELOPMENT

openHPI’s Introduction to Bayesian Data Analysis, an online course on the openHPI platform taught by Dr. Shravan Vasishth and Dr. Anna Laurinavichyute. I learned the logic behind analyzing data within a Bayesian framework and the technical skills needed to analyze my own data using the brms R package.

Languages

- Natural English (native), French (intermediate)
- Computer Python, R, \LaTeX , Linux, Git

Professional Experience

- 2020-Present **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Language Science, University of California, Irvine
- 2019-2020 **Lab Manager**, Eye-Movement, Memory, and Attention (EMMA) Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Megan Papesh
- 2019-2020 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, ReLearn Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Christopher R. Cox
- 2018-2019 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, EMMA Lab, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Megan Papesh
- 2016-2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Office of Applied Cognition, LSU Psychology
- Director: Dr. Sean Lane
 - Supervisor: Dr. Daniella Cash