

Lilia Rissman

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Curriculum Vitae

Updated 7/2017

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

2013-present: **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 supplement 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

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Rissman, L., Rawlins, K. (2017). Ingredients of instrumental meaning. *Journal of Semantics*, 1-31.
- Cartmill, E.A., Rissman, L., Novack, M., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (in press). The emergence of iconic features in co-speech gesture and homesign. *Language, Interaction and Acquisition*.
- Rissman, L., Goldin-Meadow, S. (2017). The development of causal structure without a language model. *Language Learning and Development*.
- 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). Agent backgrounding and language emergence: evidence from Nicaraguan Sign Language.

Rissman, L., Horton, L., & Goldin-Meadow, S. (in preparation). Conceptual event categories shape the structure of homesign: a cross-cultural study.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

(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. (to be presented). "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. (to be presented). "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**

Europa, 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-present: 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:

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