



Department of Linguistics
1401 Marie Mount Hall,
University of Maryland,
College Park, MD, 20742

 minahirzel.com
 mhirzel (at) umd (dot) edu

RESEARCH

First language acquisition of syntax and semantics; island constraints and universal grammar; acquisition of *wh*-movement; early sentence processing; syntactic bootstrapping; acquisition of argument structure; early verb learning

EDUCATION

PhD in Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD (expected) Fall 2021
Directed by: Dr. Ellen Lau and Dr. Jeffrey Lidz

BA in Linguistics, Honors College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 8-20-2015
BS in Neuroscience, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 8-20-2015
Specialization in Cognitive Science, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 8-20-2015

PUBLICATIONS

- (*in prep*) Hirzel, Mina, Ailis Cournane, Valentine Hacquard. "Learning to map modals to meanings: children use modals to differentiate flavor, but not force."
- (*in prep*) Hirzel, Mina, Laurel Perkins, Jeffrey Lidz. "Predictive processing of *wh*-questions at 19 months-old."
- (*in prep*) Hirzel, Mina, Jeffrey Lidz. "3 year-olds respect island constraints."

PRESENTATIONS

- Nov. 2020 **Hirzel, Mina**, Laurel Perkins, Jeffrey Lidz. "19 month-olds parse *wh*- questions incrementally." Presented at the 45th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 45), Boston (hosted virtually due to COVID-19). [talk]
- Mar. 2020 **Hirzel, Mina**, Laurel Perkins, Jeffrey Lidz. "19 month-olds represent and incrementally parse filler-gap dependencies." Presented at CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Amherst (hosted virtually due to COVID-19). [poster]
- Nov. 2019 **Hirzel, Mina** & Jeffrey Lidz. "3 year-olds respect island constraints." Presented at the 44th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44), Boston. [talk]
- Nov. 2019 Cournane, Ailis, **Mina Hirzel**, Valentine Hacquard. "Learning to map modals to meanings: An elicited production study on 'force and 'flavor'." Presented at the 44th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44), Boston. [poster]

- Apr. 2019 **Hirzel, Mina**, Valentine Hacquard, Ailís Cournane. “Young children use different modals for different ‘flavors’.” The Eighth Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), New York. [poster]
- Mar. 2019 **Hirzel, Mina**, Ailis Cournane, Valentine Hacquard. “Young children’s elicited productions of modal words: children differentiate modal ‘flavors’ and forces.” Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Baltimore. [poster]
- Jan. 2019 Muller, Hanna, Phoebe Gaston, Bethany Dickerson, Adam Liter, Karthik Durvasula, **Mina Hirzel**, Kasia Hitczenko, Margaret Kandel, Paulina Lyskawa, Jacqueline Nelligan, Maxime Papillon, Laurel Perkins. “Gender bias in representation and publishing rates across subfields.” Linguistic Society of America Meeting. New York City. [talk]
- Nov. 2017 Lau, Ellen, **Mina Hirzel**, Natalia Lapinskaya, Jeffrey Lidz. “Syntactic Constituent Rate Effects in EEG.” Presented at the Society for the Neurobiology of Language Annual Meeting (SNL), Baltimore. [poster]
- Nov. 2017 **Hirzel, Mina**, Aaron Steven White, Jeffrey Lidz. “Biased distributions in dialogs do not shape verb learning.” Presented at the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 42), Boston. [poster]
- Mar. 2014 Latack, Kyle, **Mina Hirzel**. “Taking baths with duck-ducks: Exploring children’s comprehension of contrastive reduplication.” Presented at the Toronto Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (TULCON). Toronto, Canada. [talk]
- Sept. 2013 Gamache, Jessica, Kyle Latack, **Mina Hirzel**, Cristina Schmitt. “Noun categories in children’s production of noun-noun compounds.” Presented at Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA). Oldenburg, Germany. [talk]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Language Science Fellow, Language Science Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 2016-current

- **Language Acquisition Lab**, Dr. Jeffrey Lidz.
Argument structure (infants; manual eye-gaze analysis; habituation-switch), sentence processing (infants; manual eye-gaze analysis), *wh*-dependencies (infants; manual eye-gaze analysis), modality (children; sentence-repair task), island constraints (children; question-after-story task)
- **Neurolinguistics Lab**, Dr. Ellen Lau.
Adult sentence processing; adult electroencephalography (EEG)

Post-Baccalaureate Researcher, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 2015-2016

- **Language Acquisition Lab**, Dr. Jeffrey Lidz.
Sentence processing (infants; manual eye-gaze analysis)
- **Neurolinguistics Lab**, Dr. Ellen Lau.
Adult sentence processing; adult electroencephalography (EEG)

Undergraduate Researcher, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- **Language Acquisition Lab**, Dr. Cristina Schmitt and Dr. Alan Munn. 2013-2015

Noun-noun compounds (children; corpus analysis), contrastive reduplication (children; picture selection task)

- **Neurolinguistics Lab**, Dr. Alan Beretta. 2013-2014
Measure phrases (adults; stimuli design)
- **Speech Perception-Production Lab**, Dr. Laura Dilley. 2012-2013
Prosody (child speech; Rhythm and Pitch labeling)
- **Floriculture Department**, Mike Olrich, Dr. Nate Durussel, Dr. Cathy Whitman 2011-2012
Watering twice daily; lights twice daily; greenhouse maintenance; data collection (flowers, stems, nodes, leaves, height); pest inspection

TEACHING

Instructor, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD Fall 2019

- LING449B: Acquisition and island constraints (*10 students*)
Designed, taught and created assignments. Supervised research, writing and presentations of final papers

Guest Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD Fall 2020

- LING449: Questions: meaning, use and learning. Course instructor: Yu'an Yang
"Early acquisition of *wh*-questions"

Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- LING311: Syntax 1 for Tonia Bleam (*20 students*) Spring 2019
Grading, created rubrics, office hours
- LING200: Intro Linguistics for Margaret Antonisse (*26 students*) Fall 2018
Led weekly discussion sessions, created supplemental course materials, office hours and grading
- LING444: Language Acquisition for Jeffrey Lidz (*21 students*) Fall 2017
Grading, office hours

MENTORING

Mentor, Language Acquisition Lab, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Mentored on stimuli design, data collection, coding, analysis, writing and presentations. Planned semester goals, met weekly to check progress and make adjustments, and served as a mentor.

Undergraduate student mentees:

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Gabriella Hochmuth (Spring 2020)

Jiabao Zhou (Spring 2019)

Becca Lebovitz (Fall 2019)

Mariam Aiyad (Summer-Fall 2019)

William Simpson (Fall 2019)

Madelyn Seymour (Spring 2018)

Grace Hynes (Spring 2017)

Taylor Sheely (Fall 2017)

High School student mentees:

Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

Hannah Lee (Summer 2018)

Elia Martin (Fall 2016)

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2017-2021 Fellow, NSF-NRT Training Program, "NRT-DESE: Flexibility in Language Processes and Technology: Human- and Global-Scale" (NSF: #1449815), University of Maryland
- 2015-2016 Baggett Fellowship, University of Maryland
- 2014 Honors College Conference Travel Award, Michigan State University
- 2014 Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) Travel Award
- 2013 Travel Award, College of Arts and Letters, Michigan State University
- 2013 Internship, Summer Linguistic Institute, University of Michigan

SERVICE

- 2020-current **Student Representative, Dean's Graduate Advisory Board**, Department of Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2016-2020 **Managing Editor**, *Language Acquisition: A Journal of Developmental Linguistics*
- 2018-2019 **Co-Organizer, Developmental Science Workshop** (with Tyler Knowlton and Zoe Ovans): *Endless Possibilities: The Development of Possibility and Necessity in Cognition, Language and Society*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2019-2020 **Co-Chair, Linguistics Graduate Student Association** (with Phoebe Gaston, Hanna Muller), Linguistics Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2016-2019 **Student member and Co-Chair (2017-2018), Outreach Committee** (with Paulina Lyskawa), Language Science Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- Volunteer** Maryland Day, University of Maryland (2016-2019)
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Family Days (2018 in Boston; 2019 in Washington, D.C.)
Advancing Tomorrow's Leaders in STEM (ATLAS) Career Expo (2016-2017). *Coordinated ~5 volunteers*
- Organizer** Paint Branch High School visit to the Language Science Center (~100 students) (Apr. 2019, University of Maryland). *Planned visit, coordinated ~15 volunteers*
- 2018 **Reviewer (Ad Hoc)**, *Cognitive Psychology*
- 2017-2018 **Student Member, Colloquium Committee**, Linguistics Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2017 **Student Member, Organizing Committee, Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 27**, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2017 **Student Member, Organizing Committee, Admissions Open House**, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

SKILLS

Methods (behavioral)

Infants (16-21 months-old): Intermodal Preferential-Looking Paradigm, Habituation-Switch paradigm (infant controlled)

Children (2-5 years-old): Question-after-story task, Magic box task, Picture selection task, Coloring task, Truth Value Judgement Task, Sentence-repair task

Adults: Electroencephalography (EEG), discrimination tasks, acceptability judgment tasks

Data science R, R markdown, Supercoder, i-coder, Habit, PsychoPy, MATLAB (basic), python (basic)

Speech and Prosody Praat (scripting, spectrogram), Rhythm and Pitch (RaP) labeling

Corpora CHILDES, CLAN (basic)

Design Adobe Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, CSS, HTML, Microsoft Office

Languages English (native), Spanish (beginner)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Linguistic Society of America