

# Troy G. Messick

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## Employment

- 2017- Assistant Professor in Linguistics, Rutgers University.  
2016-2017 Lecturer in Linguistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## Education

- 2017 PhD in Linguistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
2015 MA in Linguistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
Areas of examination: Syntax and Semantics  
2011 BA in Linguistics and Psychology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

## Non-degree study

- Summer Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor,  
2013 24 June-19 July.  
Summer Fifth North American Summer School on Logic, Language and Information (NASS-  
2012 LLI 5), University of Texas, Austin 18-22 June.

## Areas of specialization

Broad: Syntactic theory, Morphology, Syntax-Semantics interface, Comparative syntax-semantics, Experimental Linguistics.

Narrow: Agreement, ellipsis, person, case, complementation, movement, reflexives and reciprocals.

## Awards, Fellowships & Grants

- 2016 David Michaels Teaching Award, UConn Department of Linguistics.  
2016-2017 UCHI Dissertation Fellow, UConn Humanities Institute. [declined]

- 2013-2015 Bernard and Julia Bloch Memorial Fellow, Linguistic Society of America.  
 2013 & 2016 Provost Commendation for Teaching Excellence, UConn.  
 2013 Graduate Student Travel Grant, Ling Club at UConn.  
 2012 Paula Menyuk Travel Award to present at BUCLD 37, Boston University.  
 2012 Travel Grant to present at GLOW in Asia IX, Mie University.  
 2012 Full Scholarship and travel grant to Attend NASSLLI 5, National Science Foundation.  
 2011-2015 Predoctoral fellowship, University of Connecticut Graduate School

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- accepted  
w/ revs **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. On case copying reflexives. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*.
- 2023 **Messick, Troy** & Gísli Rúnar Harðarson. E-raising reconsidered: Constituency, coordination and case-matching reciprocals. *Linguistic Inquiry* Just Accepted.
- 2023 Messick, Troy. 3/4 of a monster: On mixed shifty agreement in Telugu. *Linguistic Inquiry* Just Accepted.
- 2023 Messick, Troy. Hybrid agreement with English quantifier partitives. *Glossa: A journal of general linguistics* 8(1). 1-37.
- 2023 Messick, Troy. On apparent pronominal feature contradictions: Shifty agreement in Telugu. *Syntax*. 26(2). 137-182.
- 2022 Sprouse, Jon, **Troy Messick** & Jonathan Bobaljik. Gender asymmetries in ellipsis: An experimental comparison of markedness and frequency accounts in English. *Journal of Linguistics* 58(2). 345-379.
- 2021 Luis Vicente, Matt Barros, **Troy Messick** & Andrès Saab. On a non-argument for a cleft source in sluicing. *Linguistic Inquiry* 52(4). 867-880.
- 2020 Messick, Troy. Highest subject questions and the nature of the EPP. *Glossa: A journal of general linguistics* 5(1). 1-12.
- 2016 **Messick, Troy** & Gary Thoms. Ellipsis, economy and the (non)uniformity of traces. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47(2). 306-332.

### Other Peer-reviewed Publications

- 2021 **Messick, Troy** & Deepak Alok. Stripping in Hindi: Does clause size matter?. In Sabine Laszakovits and Zheng Shen (eds.) *The size of things I: Structure building*. 247-263. Berlin: Language Science Press.

2017 Bošković, Željko & **Troy Messick**. Derivational economy in syntax and semantics. In Mark Arnoff (ed.), *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2016 Messick, Troy. Pronoun-agreement mismatches in Telugu. In S. Sundaresan and R. Balusu (eds.), *Proceedings of FASAL 5*. 143-161

#### Abstract Reviewed Proceedings Papers

submitted **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. The locality of cross-clausal A-operations: A view from Telugu. *Proceedings of CLS 59*.

2022 **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. Morphosyntax values itself. In Samir Alam, Yash Sinha and Sadhwi Srinivas (eds.) *Proceedings of (Formal) approaches to South Asian Languages 11*.

2016 Messick, Troy. Pronouns and agreement in Telugu embedded contexts. In K. Kim et al (eds.). *Proceedings of WCCFL 33*. 309-319. Cascadilla Press.

2015 Messick, Troy. Assessing the role of competition in MaxElide. *Proceedings of CLS 49*.

2013 Messick, Troy. Ellipsis and reconstruction in *tough* infinitives. In Nobu Goto, Koichi Otaki, Atsushi Sato, and Kensuke Takita (eds.), *Proceedings of GLOW in Asia IX*. 174-185. Mie University.

#### Manuscripts & Work in progress

in prep Sreekar Raghotham & **Troy Messick**. Pseudo-ABA and the (non)universality of anaphoric structure.

in prep **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. Long distance agreement and ECM in Telugu.

in prep Déprez, Viviane, Meg Gotowski, & **Troy Messick**. P-omission in French Sluicing.

2016 Shen, Zheng, **Troy Messick** & Heidi Harley. Syncretism repair in English Nominal right node raising. Ms., UConn/UMass/UA.

2014 Messick, Troy. Split antecedents and sluicing. Ms., University of Connecticut.

## Presentations

### Invited

- 2023 P-stranding, evasion, and what they (might) mean for ellipsis identity. Current Issues in Comparative Syntax 2: Boundaries of Ellipsis Mismatch. *English Linguistics Society of Japan*. Tsuda University, Japan (virtual). 1-3 September.
- 2023 The locality of cross-clausal A-operations: A view from Telugu. Keynote at the 59th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 59). University of Chicago. 28-30 April.
- 2022 Case-copying reflexives and reciprocals. Colloquium talk at UMass-Amherst.
- 2018 A property of deep and surface anaphora. Colloquium talk at Stony Brook.
- 2018 A property of deep and surface anaphora. UConn Linguistics 50 year celebration.
- 2018 Contextual restrictions in sluicing. Workshop in honor of Luis Vicente. Leiden University. Leiden, Netherlands. 6 July (with Matt Barros)
- 2017 Contextual restrictions in sluicing. Multiple questions about sluicing. Yale University, New Haven, CT. 22 April.
- 2017 A generative typology of embedded of pronouns and agreement morphology . Invited Talk. Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. 23 February.

### Peer Reviewed

- 2023 (with Sreekar Raghotham) On the universality of anaphoric structure. *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 45* (ACAL 45). University of Connecticut. June 12-14.
- 2023 (with Sreekar Raghotham) Pseudo-ABA in Dravidian and the containment hypothesis. Short Talk Presented at *(Formal) Approaches to South Asian Linguistics 13* ((F)ASAL-13). University of Michigan. 31 March - 2 April.
- 2021 (with Sreekar Raghotham) Hyper-ECM and Hyperagreement in Telugu. Talk presented at *Crossing boundaries: Empirical and theoretical aspects of A-dependencies in complementation*. OELT (Online). 11-12 December.
- 2021 (with Sreekar Raghotham) Morphosyntax values itself. Talk presented at *Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society 57* (CLS 57). University of Chicago (Online). 6-8 May.
- 2021 (with Sreekar Raghotham) Morphosyntax values itself. Talk presented at *(Formal) approaches to South Asian Languages 11* ((F)ASAL 11). University of Minnesota (Online). 26-28 March.

- 2021 3/4 agreement patterns beyond hybrid nouns. Poster presented at *The annual meeting of the Linguistics Society of America*. Online 7-10 January .
- 2018 (with Jon Sprouse & Jonathan Bobaljik) Gender mismatches under ellipsis: An experimental investigation. Theoretical and experimental approaches to gender. ZAS, Berlin. 14-15 June.
- 2016 (with Irina Monich) Agreement in Nuer speech reports. Talk presented at *47th Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 47)*. University of California, Berkeley. 23-26 March.
- 2015 (with Jon Sprouse) How Gradient are island effects? Poster presented at *Northeastern Linguistic Society (NELS 46)*. Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. 16-18 October.
- 2015 Embedded Pronoun-agreement mismatches at the syntax-semantics interface. Talk given at *Agreement Across Borders Conference*. University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia. 15-16 June.
- 2015 Split antecedents and sluicing. Talk accepted at *Grasping ellipsis*. Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. 4-5 May. [declined]
- 2015 Pronoun-agreement mismatches in Telugu. Talk given at *Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages Workshop 5 (FASAL 5)*. Yale University. New Haven, Connecticut. 11-12 April.
- 2015 Pronouns and agreement in Telugu embedded contexts. Talk given at *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 33 (WCCFL 33)*. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. 27-29 March.
- 2015 First Person agreement with third person pronouns in Telugu embedded contexts. Talk given at the *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*. Portland, Oregon. 8-11 January.
- 2013 (with Lyn Tieu) Children are all like adults. Talk given at *Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA 2013)*. University of Oldenburg. Oldenburg, Germany. 5-7 September.
- 2013 Does competition play a role in MaxElide? Talk given at *Cambridge Comparative Syntax 2 (CamCos 2)*, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England. 10-11 May.
- 2013 Assessing the role of competition in MaxElide. Talk given at the forty-ninth meeting of the *Chicago Linguistics Society 49 (CLS 49)*, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. 18-20 April.

2012 Floating quantification in child grammar. Poster presented at the thirty seventh *Boston University Conference on Language Development 37* (BUCLD 37), Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts. 2-4 November.

2012 Ellipsis and reconstruction in *tough* infinitives. Talk given at *Generative Linguistics in the Old World in Asia IX* (GLOW in Asia IX). Mie University, Tzu City, Japan. 4-6 September.

#### Workshops and other presentations

2015 Shifty agreement in Dravidian (and beyond). Guest presentation given in Syntax Proseminar, UMass Amherst. 19 November.

2015 Expressing *de se* attitudes cross-linguistically. Guest lecture given in LING 6798 *The features and monsters of binding*, Graduate Seminar, UConn. 26 February.

2013 What do syntacticians do all day? Introductory linguistics talk given at UConn IGERT Talk Shop. 7 October.

2013 MaxElide: Ellipsis, focus and deaccenting. Poster presented at UConn Language Fest. 27 April.

2013 On so-called MaxElide effects. ECO5 2013, UConn, 30 March.

2012 (with Lyn Tieu) Which reading of both both's do adults prefer? UConn-UMass-Smith Language Acquisition Workshop, UMass-Amherst. 10 November.

2012 The binding theory and the distribution of NPs. Guest Lecture given to LING 1010 Honors section, undergraduate course, UConn. 26 October.

#### Teaching and work experience

##### Teaching (as instructor)

###### *At Rutgers*

Fall 2023 LING 201 Intro to Linguistic Theory  
Spring 2023 LING 497 Advanced Undergraduate Seminar  
LING 511 Syntax II  
Fall 2022 LING 411 Morphology  
LING 515 Seminar in Syntax  
Spring 2022 LING 411 Morphology  
LING 511 Syntax II  
Fall 2021 LING 305 Introduction to Syntax (Asynchronous)  
LING 201H Intro to Linguistic Theory (Honors)  
Spring 2021 LING 305 Introduction to Syntax (Asynchronous)

Ling 515 Seminar in Syntax  
 Spring 2020 LING 305 Introduction to Syntax  
 LING 512 Syntax II  
 Fall 2019 LING 201 Intro to Linguistic Theory  
 Spring 2019 LING 101 Exploring Language  
 LING 511 Syntax II  
 Fall 2018 LING 512 Syntax III  
 LING 691 Qualifying Paper Workshop  
 Spring 2018 LING 515 Seminar in Syntax  
 LING 691 Qualifying Paper Workshop  
 Fall 2017 LING 101 Honors Introduction to Linguistics  
 LING 305 Introduction to Syntax

*At UMass*

Spring 2017 LING 201 Introduction to Linguistic Theory  
 Spring 2017 LING 796 Independent Study  
 Fall 2016 LING 750 Syntax Proseminar  
 Topic: (un)interpretable features on (pro)nouns and verbs

*At UConn*

May 2016 LING 2010Q The Science of Linguistics  
 Student evaluations: 4.2/5  
 Fall 2015 LING 2010Q The Science of Linguistics  
 Student evaluations: 4.3/5

Teaching (as TA)

Fall 2014 LING 1010 Language and Mind  
 Instructor: Jon Sprouse  
 Student evaluations: 4.5/5  
 Spring 2014 LING 1010 Language and Mind  
 Instructor: William Snyder and Stefan Kaufmann  
 Student evaluations: 4.5/5  
 Fall 2013 LING 1010 Language and Mind  
 Instructor: Jon Sprouse and Magdalena Kaufmann  
 Student evaluations: 4.5/5  
 Spring 2013 LING 1010 Language and Mind  
 Instructor: Harry van Der Hulst  
 Student evaluations: 4.33/5  
 Fall 2012 LING 1010 Language and Mind  
 Instructor: Jon Gajewski and Magdalena Kaufmann  
 Student evaluations: 9.1/10

Research

Fall 2015-  
 Spring 2016

EEG Technician  
PI: Jon Sprouse  
Spring 2015/  
Spring 2016 Research Assistant  
PI: Jonathan Bobaljik  
2013-2015 Research Assistant  
PI: Željko Bošković

### Other work

2011-2012 Graduate Writing Tutor  
University of Connecticut Writing Center

### Supervising

#### Dissertation Committee

ongoing Indira Das (Chair)  
ongoing Jiaxing Yu  
ongoing Sreekar Raghotham  
ongoing Akshay Aitha (UChicago)  
2023 Hazel Mitchley  
2022 Meg Gotowski  
2022 Ang Li  
2022 Lydia Newkirk  
2022 Shiori Ikawa (Co-Chair with Mark Baker)  
2020 Deepak Alok

#### Qualifying Paper Committee

ongoing Ying Zhang  
ongoing Gerard Avelino (Chair)  
ongoing Vincent Czarnecki  
ongoing Beryl Bui  
2024 Ariela Lu Ye (Chair)  
2024 Jiaxing Yu  
2024 Indira Das  
2023 Ying Zhang (Chair)  
2023 Jiayuan Chen (Chair)  
2022 Sreekar Raghotham  
2022 Tatevik Yolyan (Chair)  
2021 Chaoyi Chen  
2020 Jill Harper  
2020 Meg Gotowski (Co-chair with Viviane Deprez)  
2020 Chen Zhou  
2019 Akane Ohtaka (Chair)  
2019 Shiori Ikawa (Chair)  
2019 Meg Gotowski  
2018 Hazel Mitchley  
2018 Ang Li



2018 Nate Koser  
2018 Yu Cao  
2017 Petr Kusliy, Generals Paper advisor (UMass)

### Undergraduate Advising

2024 Alexandria Minetti (Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis co-advised w/ Prof. Cori Anderson)  
2022 Paola Apolinario (Independent study on number, gender, and ellipsis in Spanish)

### Service to the profession

#### Reviewing

Ad hoc reviewer for:

**Books/Book Proposals:** *Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press*

**Papers in edited volumes:** *The Size of Things (Open Generative Syntax), The timing of ellipsis (OUP)*

**Journal Articles:** *Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, Canadian Journal of Linguistics, Syntax, Glossa, Journal of Linguistics, Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics, The Linguistic Review, Acta Linguistica Hungarica*

**Conference Proceedings:** *Proceedings of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 23, Proceedings of Formal Approaches to South Asian Linguistics 5, Selected Papers from the 54th Conference on African Linguistics*

**Conference Abstracts:** *NELS 47, NELS 48, NELS 49, NELS 50, NELS 51, NELS 54, ACAL 51, CLS 57, CLS 58, CLS 59, CLS 60, WCCFL 40, WCCFL 41, WCCFL 42, (f)ASAL 13, FASAL 14, IGG49, LSA Annual Meeting 2019, 2020, 2021*

#### Conference/Workshop Organization

2023 Program Committee (f)ASAL-13  
2021 Program Committee NELS 52  
2018-present Faculty organizer of syntax at Rutgers reading group  
2015 Organizer of student workshops at the LSA Summer Institute  
2015 Co-organizer (with Greg Carlson) of a panel on publications at LSA Annual Meeting  
2014-2015 UConn Coordinator for ECO5  
2013-2015 Organizer for COSIAC panel at LSA Annual Meetings  
2013 Organizer of student workshops at the LSA Summer Institute  
2013 Co-organizer (with Peter Smith) of ECO5 2013 at UConn  
2012-2013 Organizing committee for NELS 44  
2012 Co-organizer of UConn Linguistics Graduate Student Roundtable  
2012 UConn coordinator for UConn-UMass-Smith Language Acquisition Workshop

#### Departmental Service

Search Committee for TT Syntax position: 2022-2023  
Search Committee for Non-TT Syntax position: 2022  
Graduate Admissions Committee: 2019, 2022  
Open House Committee: 2020  
Honors Thesis Reader: 2019, 2020, 2022  
Senior Projects Evaluation Committee: 2018

## Linguistic Society of America

- 2022- Member of the Committee on the Future of the Annual Meeting
- 2022- Member of the Committee on Linguistic Institutes and Fellowships
- 2013-2015 Member of the LSA Executive Committee
- 2013-2015 Chair of the LSA Committee on Student Issues and Concerns
- 2013-2017 Member of the LSA Committee on Student Issues and Concerns

## Memberships

- 2012-present Linguistic Society of America
- 2015-present Association of Contemporary African Linguistics

Last updated: May 1, 2024