Troy G. Messick

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Employment

2025-	Associate Professor in Linguistics, Rutgers University.
2017-2025	Assistant Professor in Linguistics, Rutgers University.

- Undergraduate Program Director (July 2024-)

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

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

2025 **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. On case copying reflexives. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* Online Early..

2024 **Messick, Troy** & Gísli Rúnar Harðarson. E-raising reconsidered: Constituency, co-ordination and case-matching reciprocals. *Linguistic Inquiry* Early Access 1-22.

2023 Messick, Troy. 3/4 of a monster: On mixed shifty agreement in Telugu. *Linguistic Inquiry* Early Access 1-15.

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 David Bobaljik. Gender asymmetries in ellipsis: An experimental comparison of markedness and frequency accounts in English . *Journal of Linguistics* 58(2). 345-379.

2021 Vicente, Luis, 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 S. Laszakovits and Z. 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 M. 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

2024   **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. The locality of cross-clausal A-operations: A view from Telugu. In Kutay Serova and M.k. Snigaroff (eds.) *The proceedings of CLS 59.* 275-296. The Chicago Linguistics Society: Chicago, IL.

2022   **Messick, Troy** & Sreekar Raghotham. Morphosyntax values itself. In S. Alam, Y. Sinha and S. 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. In H. Aparicio, K. Gallaagher Flinn, K. Franich, J. Pietraszko, and T. Vardomskaya (eds.), *Proceedings of CLS 49.* 269-282. The Chicago Linguistic Society.

2013   Messick, Troy. Ellipsis and reconstruction in *tough* infintives. 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

2024   The mechanics of reciprocal shift. Colloquium talk at University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. 11 October.

2024   The mechanics of reciprocal shift. Invited speaker series at Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. 19 September.

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 University of Massachusetts - Amherst. Amherst, MA. 1 April.

2018 A property of deep and surface anaphora. Colloquium talk at Stony Brook University. Stony Brook, NY. 26 October.

2018 A property of deep and surface anaphora. UConn Linguistics 50 year celebration. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. 8 September.

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

2025 (with Viviane Déprez and Meg Gotowski) Testing silent structural alternatives to French P-sluices. *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Linguistics 55*. Pontificia Universidad Catóica Madre y Maestra, Santo Domingo, DR. September 10-12.

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.

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

Teaching and work experience

Teaching (as instructor)

At Rutgers

Fall 2024	Ling 515 Seminar in Syntax
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 Syntax (Asynchronous)
	LING 201H Intro to Linguistic Theory (Honors)
Spring 2021	LING 305 Syntax (Asynchronous)
	Ling 515 Seminar in Syntax
Spring 2020	LING 305 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 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   Gerard Avelino
ongoing   Ying Zhang (Chair)
ongoing   Sreekar Raghotham
2025   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

2025	Fahad Almaki
2025	Merlin Balihaxi
2025	Beryl Bui
2025	Utku Zobarlar
2025	Ying Zhang
2024	Gerard Avelino (Chair)
2024	Vincent Czarnecki
2024	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)
2020	Isabelle Tseng (Independent study on Mandarin NP structure)

Service to the profession

Reviewing

Ad hoc reviewer for:
Grant Proposals: *National Science Foundation, Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft*
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, Natural Language Semantics, 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 Chair for part-time lectures in linguistics: 2024
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: July 3, 2025