

Luke SMITH

BASIC INFO

MAIL: 1103 East University Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85721-0025
EMAIL: lukesmith@email.arizona.edu
WEBSITE: <http://www.lukesmith.xyz>

I'm interested in uncovering and formalizing the primitives of the human mind, primarily by investigating the structure and variance of human language, and how the human linguistic system may have come about evolutionarily. This can put us marginally closer to understanding humankind and how our brains process and make sense of the world around us, and may aid in crafting technologies that can analogue or interface with the mind.

More likely, however is that it will help us understand how disheveled and confused our mental life is, and will thus hopefully temper the human arrogance so overwhelming in some circles. My main field is linguistics, but I jump seamlessly from it to behavioral economics, psychology, Game Theory and related fields. I strongly believe in interdisciplinarity (so long as we can avoid the pretentiousness that too often accompanies it).

INSTITUTIONS

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| SINCE 2015 | Ph.D. in LINGUISTICS, University of Arizona , Tucson
→ Major in Syntax; minor in Human Language Techonology |
| MAY 2015 | M.A. in LINGUISTICS, University of Georgia , Athens, Georgia
→ Thesis entitled: "External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics," downloadable here .
→ Major in Syntax; minor in Romance Languages |
| DEC 2012 | B.A. in INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University , Atlanta
→ Specializations in Spanish and Chinese
→ Certificates in Economic History and International Trade |

PRESENTATIONS

Current projects and other information can be found [here](#).

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| 2015 | "Towards Biolinguistic Clarity in Generative Syntax" (video link)
<i>The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, 2015</i> |
| 2015 | "Syntax is for Real! – Parameterization of Head Movement in Korean and its Effects on Scope and Alternations"
<i>LSUGA Tiny Talks</i> |
| 2015 | "External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics"
<i>University of Georgia Linguistics Program Spring Colloquium</i> |
| 2013 | "The acquisition of <i>tú</i> and <i>usted</i> by English speakers: A study of non-native knowledge and usage of forms of address"
<i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i> |
| 2012 | "Theories of contraction: A survey of macroeconomic theories of depression"
<i>Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference</i> |

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 | “The Phonetics of Language”
Guest Lecture
For Amy Fountain’s class *Language*
- 2016 | “Constituent Structure—What is it and where does it come from?”
Guest Lecture (series of 3)
For Simin Karimi’s class *Introduction to Syntax*
- 2016 | “An Introduction to Minimalism” & “Optimizing Structure”
Guest Lectures
For Doug Merchant’s class *Generative Syntax*
- 2015 | “Syntactic Theory and Psycholinguistics”
Guest lecture
For Doug Merchant’s class *Psychology of Language*

TEACHING

More teaching information, along with my teaching evaluations and some materials can be found [here](#).

- 2016-Now | LING300 – “Introduction to Syntax” – Teaching Assistant
University of Arizona
Helped introduce undergraduates to the Gospel of Chomsky. Served as a substitute for main professor when gone, graded work and did administrivia.
- 2015-Now | LING150 – “Language” – Teaching Assistant
University of Arizona
I teach Friday sessions and conduct recitations for a break-out section of an auditorium classroom. I conduct my own activities and lectures off of my own syllabus.
- 2014-2015 | LING2100 – “Study of Language” – Instructor
University of Georgia
I worked through my own syllabus and class plan and focus mainly on how language relates to wider issues in cognitive science. Also focused on the philosophy of language and historical linguistics.
- FALL 2014 | LING3150 – “Generative Syntax” – Co-teacher
University of Georgia
Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course.
- FALL 2014 | Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant
University of Georgia
Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

SERVICE

SINCE 2015	Indo-European Reading Group Director <i>University of Arizona</i> Covering general historical linguistics, and the particulars of PIE morphology, phonology and development. Group materials located here .
2014-2016	LSUGA Website Manager <i>University of Georgia</i> Created and managed the LSUGA website, http://www.lsuga.com .
2014-2015	LSUGA Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics Committee Member <i>University of Georgia</i> Managed email and recording and audio and video for conference.
2014-2015	Graduate Student Mentor <i>University of Georgia</i> Took the new kids out on some hot dates.
FALL 2014	Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director <i>University of Georgia</i>
SPRING 2014	Typology Reading Group Director <i>University of Georgia</i>

LANGUAGES (HUMAN)

NATIVE:	English
FLUENT:	Spanish
ADVANCED:	Mandarin French
READING:	Latin Greek (Koiné) Most all Romance languages
SOME KNOWLEDGE:	All the other ones
NONE:	Just German, which I can't force myself to learn for some reason

LANGUAGES (MACHINE)

LANGUAGES:	Python, Common Lisp, L ^A T _E X, R, HTML/CSS/PHP, bash
PROGRAMS:	vim, E-Prime, RStudio, Praat, Audacity