

# Timothy James Leffel

updated apr30/2017

NORC at the University of Chicago  
Academic Research Centers  
1155 E. 60th St., 2nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60637

+1 (773) 256-6091 📞  
tjleffel@gmail.com ✉  
github.com/lefft 🌐  
lefft.xyz 🌐

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2016– Research Scientist, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago
- 2014–16 Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Linguistics. University of Chicago

## EDUCATION

- 2014 PhD, Linguistics. New York University  
thesis *The semantics of modification: Adjectives, nouns, and order* [lingbuzz]  
advisor Chris Barker
- 2012 Visiting PhD student, Linguistics. Universität Potsdam and SFB 632, Berlin
- 2011 MA, Linguistics. New York University
- 2009 BA with honors, *magna cum laude*, Linguistics/Philosophy. The Ohio State University

## RESEARCH

### Publications and recent submissions, with [links] for open access items and drafts

- in prep. Interpreting gradable adjectives in context: Domain distribution vs. scalar representation (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang).
- subm'ed Vagueness and the derivation of structural implicatures (w/ Alexandre Cremers, Jacopo Romoli, Nicole Gotzner). [draft]
- 2016 Imprecision is pragmatic: Evidence from referential processing (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *The Proceedings of SALT 26*. [link]
- 2014 Restrictive versus non-restrictive composition: An MEG study (w/ Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pylkkänen). *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience* 29(10):1191–1204. [link]
- 2014 Pronominal F-markers in Basaá (w/ Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). In Huang, Poole, and Rysling (eds), *Proceedings of NELS 43*, 265–276.
- 2012 Modality and future reference in Masalit. In Marlo et al. (eds), *Selected Proceedings of ACAL 42*, 221–230. [link]
- 2011 English proximal/distal non-deictic demonstratives align with hearer-new/hearer-old information status. *Snippets* 23:9–10. [link]

## Manuscripts

- in prep. Positional contrasts in the grammar and pragmatics of adjective-noun modification.
- 2011 Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. Semantics qualifying paper, New York University.
- 2011 Focus constructions in Masalit. Syntax qualifying paper, New York University.

## Conference presentations (peer-reviewed abstracts)

- 2017 Low-SES Parent Perspectives on Early Childhood Care and Education: Direct Reports on Experiences, Expectations, Beliefs and Values (w/ Marc W. Hernandez, Susan True, Eileen Graf, Lekha Venkataraman). *Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development*, Austin, TX. (SRCD 2017, poster)
- 2016 Imprecision is pragmatic: Evidence from referential processing (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. (SALT 26, talk)
- 2016 'Not very' Adj: Vagueness and implicature calculation (w/ Alexandre Cremers, Jacopo Romoli, Nicole Gotzner). *The 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC. (LSA 90, talk)
- 2016 Context and world knowledge in gradable adjective interpretation (w/ Chris Kennedy, Ming Xiang). *The 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, DC. (LSA 90, talk)
- 2014 Restrictive versus non-restrictive composition: An MEG study (w/ Miriam Lauter, Masha Westerlund, Liina Pylkkänen). *The 27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. (CUNY 27, poster)
- 2012 Information structure and pronominal morphology in Basaá (w/ Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). *North East Linguistic Society 43*, City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY. (NELS 43, poster)
- 2012 Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World 35*, Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany. (GLOW 35, poster)
- 2012 Nonrestrictive adjectives and blind implicatures. *Workshop on Semantic and Pragmatic Properties of (Non) restrictivity*. Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany. (SPPNR, talk)
- 2011 Epistemic modality in Masalit. *Annual Conference on African Linguistics 42*. University of Maryland, College Park, MD. (ACAL 42, talk)
- 2010 Term focus in Masalit. *SUNY/Yale/NYU/CUNY Mini-Conference 12*, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY. (SYNC 12, talk)

## Workshops, invited talks, other presentations

- 2015 Meaning alternations and kind reference in modified nouns. Michigan State University Linguistics Colloquium, East Lansing, MI. (invited colloquium)
- 2013 A syntactically conservative approach to Bolinger effects. Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 3, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. (non-refereed workshop)

- 2012 Information structure-related fronting and pronominal morphology in Basaá (w/ Paul Roger Bassong, Radek Šimík, Marta Wierzba). 15th Internal Workshop of the SFB 632. Wandlitz, Germany. (internal workshop)
- 2012 ‘Single’ as anti-plural. Universität Potsdam Semantics Colloquium. Potsdam, Germany.
- 2011 Nonrestrictive adjectives and the theory of scalar implicature. Yale University Department of Linguistics Lunch Talk, New Haven, CT. (invited)
- 2010 Continuation semantics for expressives and epithets. Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 1, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. (non-refereed workshop, poster)

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2015–16 Some Institutes for Advanced Study (SIAS) Summer Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2015) and National Humanities Center, Chapel Hill (2016).
- 2009–14 MacCracken Graduate Fellowship (tuition/fees/stipend), New York University.
- 2012 Research grant for temporary PhD position in the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 632. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Six months of full financial support.
- 2009 Bingham Award for Best Undergraduate Essay in Philosophy, The Ohio State University. Paper: “Should an Intuitionist Accept Church’s Thesis?” (cash prize)
- 2009 ASC Excellence in Scholarship Award, The Ohio State University.
- 2004–05 Ohio Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program. Scholarship to enroll in courses at Columbus State Community College during final year of high school. (tuition, fees, textbooks paid)

#### TEACHING

##### at University of Chicago or NORC

- 2017 Instructor for introductory programming with R. four-week mini-course, Spring.
- 2016 Instructor for Psycholinguistics. Fall quarter.

##### at New York University

- 2013 TA for Linguistics as Cognitive Science. Spring semester. Primary instructor: Alec Marantz.
- 2012 TA for Introduction to Semantics, with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructor: Chris Barker.
- 2011 TA for Grammatical Analysis (introductory syntax), with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructor: Mark Baltin.
- 2011 Instructor for Language (introduction to linguistics). Summer term. Co-instructor: Luiza Newlin-Lukowicz.
- 2010 TA for Language and Mind (introduction to (psycho)linguistics), with recitation. Fall semester. Primary instructors: Alec Marantz and Brian McElree.

## Elsewhere

- 2010 No Child Left Behind tutor in English and Mathematics for NYC Public Schools. Summer. New York, NY. (subcontracted through The Academic Advantage, Inc.)
- 2009 Instructor for Conversational ESL, University Settlement. Fall. New York, NY. (volunteer)
- 2007 Tutor for Language and Formal Reasoning (LING 280), The Ohio State University. Fall quarter. Columbus, OH.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010– Ad hoc referee for various publications and conferences  
journals: *Lingua*; *Journal of Sports Analytics*; *Journal of African Languages and Ling.*  
conferences etc.: Sinn und Bedeutung; XPRAG; CLS; SYNC; NYU WPL; ...
- 2017– Brownie Bag talk series co-organizer (w/ Stuart Michaels), NORC at U Chicago
- 2015–16 Data science intern (p/t), Vantage Sports Inc.  
> statistical analysis of proprietary NBA datasets; predictive modeling of DFS outcomes; other
- 2016 Research consultant (p/t contractor), National Opinion Research Center (NORC)  
> comprehensive reviews of scientific literature on child educational development
- 2015 Program committee member, Experimental Pragmatics 2015 (XPRAG), U Chicago
- 2014 Organizing committee member, Semantics and Linguistic Theory 24 (SALT), NYU
- 2013–15 Consulting Linguist (p/t contractor), Penguin Inc.  
> developed scientifically-informed reading difficulty metrics for English Language Learners
- 2012–13 NYU Semantics Group talk series coordinator
- 2012 Manuscript editor (p/t contractor), American Journal Experts
- 2011 Co-organizer (w/ Neil Myler), The 13th annual SYNC Linguistics Mini-Conference
- 2010–11 Semantics faculty search committee student representative, New York University
- 2010–11 Linguistics treasurer and representative to NYU Graduate Student Government

## MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

### Computing

- > strong: R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, (r)markdown, tidyverse, numpy/pandas, tikz, other packages/libraries
- > basics: HTML/CSS, Praat, E-Prime Studio, Matlab, Stata, Javascript

### Language proficiencies

- > English (native); German (basic verbal communication); French, Spanish (reading knowledge)
- > Basaa', Masalit (research knowledge)