Forrest Davis

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

2023- **Assistant Professor**, *Department of Computer Science, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY.*

2022-2023 **Postdoctoral Associate**, *Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.*

Education

2022 **PhD**, *Department of Linguistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*
Advisor: Marten van Schijndel
Committee Members: Dorit Abusch, Miloje Despić, John Whitman
Dissertation - *On the Limitations of Data: Mismatches between Neural Models of Language and Humans*

2020 **MA**, *Linguistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*

2017 **BA**, *Computer Science and Mathematics, Columbia University, New York, NY.*

Awards

2022 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2021 ACL 2021 Outstanding Reviewer

2020 President's Travel Fund for the Humanities, Cornell University

2019 Graduate School Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University

2019, 2018 Linguistics Department Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University

2018 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2017, 2016 Work Exemption Program Grant, Columbia University

Publications

Journal Articles

2021 Finding Event Structure in Time: What Recurrent Neural Networks can tell us about Event Structure in Mind

Forrest Davis and Gerry T.M. Altmann

In *Cognition*, 213. 2021.

Peer-Reviewed Proceedings

2023 Can Language Models Be Tricked by Language Illusions? Easier with Syntax, Harder with Semantics

Yuhan Zhang, Edward Gibson and **Forrest Davis**

Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL 2023)

2022   Incremental Processing of Principle B: Mismatches Between Neural Models and Humans

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Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL 2022; 26%)

2021   Uncovering Constraint-Based Behavior in Neural Models via Targeted Fine-Tuning

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2021; 21.3%)

2020   Discourse structure interacts with reference but not syntax in neural language models

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL; 23.3%)

2020   Interaction with Context During Recurrent Neural Network Sentence Processing

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci 2020)

2020   Recurrent Neural Network Language Models Always Learn English-Like Relative Clause Attachment

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2020; 22.7%)

2017   Linguistically Rich Vector Representations of Supertags for TAG Parsing

Dan Friedman, Jungo Kasai, R Thomas McCoy, Robert Frank, **Forrest Davis**, Owen Rambow

Proceedings of the 13th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms

Presentations (reviewed by abstract)

2024   What Language Models Can Tell Us About Learning Adjectives

Megan Gotowski and **Forrest Davis**

2024 Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting, New York, New York

2020   Recurrent neural networks use discourse context in human-like garden path alleviation

Forrest Davis and Marten van Schijndel

33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 2020), Amherst, Massachusetts

2020   Categorical and gradient dimensions of stress in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

2020 Workshop of the Berkeley Linguistics Society (BLSW 2020), Berkeley, California

2020   The relationship between lexical frequency, compositionality, and phonological reduction in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2020), New Orleans, Lousianna

2019   Effects of lexical frequency and compositionality on phonological reduction in English compounds

Forrest Davis and Abigail C. Cohn

The 25th Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing Conference (AMLaP 2019), Moscow, Russia

2019   The pragmatics of single wh-in situ questions in English

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93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2019), New York, NY

Invited Talks

2023   Neural Language Models are not Modeling Human Linguistic Behavior

FALCoN Lab, University of Georgia

2023   Principle B, Processing, and Neural Models of Language

UMass Amherst

2023   Principle B, Processing, and Neural Models of Language

Language and Cognition Group, Harvard University

2022   What do Neural Models of Language Actually Model?

University of Sheffield

2021   Investigating Competing Training Signals in Language

Stanford University

2019   Recurrent Neural Network Syntactic Representations in Linguistic Contexts

University of Connecticut

2019   Language as a science

Peddie School

Teaching

Spring 2024	COSC 101 - Introduction to Computing I	Colgate
Spring 2024	COSC 410 - Applied Machine Learning	Colgate
Fall 2023	COSC 101 - Introduction to Computing I	Colgate
Fall 2023	COSC 480 - Topics in Computer Science: Natural Language Processing	Colgate
Spring 2023	Special Seminar: Topics in Computational Linguistics	MIT
Fall 2022	Special Seminar: Methods in Computational Linguistics	MIT
Spring 2022	Superlinguistics: Comics, Signs and Other Sequential Images	Cornell University
Spring 2021	Introduction to Cognitive Science	Cornell University
Spring 2021	Pragmatics	Cornell University
Fall 2020	Language and Law	Cornell University
Spring 2020	Computational Linguistics	Cornell University
Fall 2019	Guest Lecture, Phonology I: Prosodic representation of English compounds	Cornell University
Fall 2019	Introduction to Syntax and Semantics	Cornell University
Spring 2019	Pragmatics	Cornell University
Spring 2019	Computational Linguistics	Cornell University
Fall 2018	Introduction to Linguistics	Cornell University

Service

2023-	Department Tea Coordinator (with Prof. Grusha Prasad), Colgate University
2023-	Academic Liaison for Women and Men's Swimming and Diving, Colgate University
2019	Senior Editor of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 29)
2018–2019	Graduate Student Representative on New Faculty Hiring Committee
2018	Junior Editor of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 28)
2018	Annual Meeting for the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 49) Committee Member
2017–2019	Cornell Linguistics Circle web admin

Reviewing

Conferences	**ACL** 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 **CoNLL** 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 **EMNLP** 2021, 2022, 2023 **HSP** 2023 **Penn Linguistics Conference** 2023, **LSA** 2023
Journals	Cognition, Glossa Psycholinguistics

Technical Skills

Programming Languages	Python, C, C++, Matlab, R, Java, AWK, HTML
Human Languages	English, French (Intermediate), Hindi/Urdu (Intermediate)

Updated

Last Updated November 19, 2023