

KRISTEN SYRETT

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http://ruccs.rutgers.edu/~k-syrett

Academic Position

Fall 2011-present Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS)
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – New Brunswick
Director, Laboratory for Developmental Language Studies
ruccs.rutgers.edu/languagestudies/

Research Interests

Language Acquisition and Experimental Research
Word learning, form-meaning correspondence, grammatical mechanisms, processing
Semantics and the Relationship between Syntax and Semantics
Measurement, quantification, comparison, numerals, plurals, adjectives, adverbs
Prosody, Information Structure, and Meaning

Education

2008-2011 Post-doctoral Fellow (NIH NRSA Award), Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science and Department of Psychology, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ
2007-2008 Post-doctoral Associate, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science
2001-2007 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Thesis: *Learning about the structure of scales: Adverbial modification and the acquisition of the semantics of gradable adjectives*
Committee: Jeffrey Lidz (chair), Christopher Kennedy, Stefan Kaufmann, Sandra R. Waxman
Interdisciplinary Specializations: Cognitive Science, Language and Cognition
1998-1999 Masters in Education, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD
1993-1997 Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, Minor in Second Language Education and Cultural Diversity, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, *Magna cum laude*, Honors College

Additional Education

2005 (Summer) Linguistic Summer Institute, Linguistic Society of America
MIT, Cambridge, MA
2004 (Fall) Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
2004 (Summer) Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Traveling Scholar
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2003 (Summer) Linguistic Summer Institute, Linguistic Society of America
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
1998-1999 Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) certification (Ages 3-6)
Ohio Montessori Training Institute, Cleveland, OH
1997-1998 Cours de civilisation française, niveau supérieur
La Sorbonne, Paris, France

Publications

Journals

under review Syrett, K. The role of cardinality in the interpretation of measurement expressions.

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- under review* **Syrett, K.**, & Musolino, J. Collectivity, distributivity, and the interpretation of numerical expressions in child and adult language.
- under revis.* Arunachalam, S., **Syrett, K.**, & Waxman, S. R. Taking it nice and slow: Adverbial modification and the acquisition of verbs by 2-year-olds.
- in prep.* **Syrett, K.**, Kawahara, S., Greenberg, L., & Kelliher, M. Perception and production of children's clear speech.
- in press* Déprez, V., **Syrett, K.**, & Kawahara, S. The interaction of syntax, prosody, and discourse in licensing French *wh-in-situ* questions. *Lingua (Special issue: Prosody at the Grammatical Crossroad)*.
- 2012 **Syrett, K.**, Musolino, J., & Gelman, R. How can syntax support number word acquisition? *Language Learning and Development*.
- 2012 **Syrett, K.**, Musolino, J., & Gelman, R. Number word acquisition: Bootstrapping, cardinality and beyond. (reply to commentaries). *Language Learning and Development*.
- 2011 **Syrett, K.**, & Lidz, J. Competence, performance and the locality of Quantifier Raising: Evidence from 4-year-old children. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 42, 305-337.
- 2010 **Syrett, K.**, Kennedy, C., & Lidz, J. Meaning and context in children's understanding of gradable adjectives. *Journal of Semantics*, 27, 1-35.
- 2010 **Syrett, K.**, & Lidz, J. 30-month-olds use the distribution and meaning of adverbs to interpret novel adjectives. *Language Learning and Development*, 6, 258-282.
- 2009 **Syrett, K.**, & Lidz, J. QR in child grammar: Evidence from Antecedent-Contained Deletion. *Language Acquisition: A Journal of Developmental Linguistics*, 16, 67-81.

Edited Volumes

- to appear* **Syrett, K.** Comparatives and degree constructions. *Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics*.
- to appear* Déprez, V., **Syrett, K.**, & Kawahara, S. Interfacing information and prosody: French *in situ* questions. *Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory* (selected papers from *Going Romance 24*). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Conference Proceedings

- 2012 Arunachalam, S., **Syrett, K.**, & Waxman, S. R. Can adverbs call attention to manner of motion for 2-year-olds learning verbs? In *Proceedings of the 36th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2010 **Syrett, K.** The representation and processing of measure phrases by four-year-olds. In K. Franich, K. Iserman, & L. Keil (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 34th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development* (pp. 421-432). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2006 **Syrett, K.**, & Lidz, J. Learning scope economy: Why children will QR out of a tensed embedded clause but adults won't. In C. Davis, A. R. Deal, & Y. Zabbal (Eds.), *Proceedings of 36th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)* (pp. 575-586). UMass, Amherst: GLSA.
- 2006 **Syrett, K.**, Bradley, E., Kennedy, C., & Lidz, J. Shifting standards: Children's understanding of gradable adjectives. In K. Ud Deen, J. Nomura, B. Schulz, & B. D. Schwartz (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference on Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America, Honolulu, HI* (pp. 353-364). Cambridge, Mass: UConn Occasional Papers in Linguistics 4.
- 2005 **Syrett, K.**, & Lidz, J. Children want to access every interpretation adults do. v1. In L. Bateman, & C. Ussery (Eds.), *Proceedings of 35th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*. Charleston, SC: Booksurge Publishing, pp. 591-602. v2. In L. Brugos, M. R. Clark-Cotton, & S. Ha (Eds.), *Proceedings Supplement of the 29th*

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- 2004 *Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development.*
Lidz, J., McMahon, E., **Syrett, K.**, Viau, J., Anggoro, F., Peterson-Hicks, J., Sneed, E.,
Bunger, A., Flevaris, T., Graham, A., Grohne, K., Lee, Y., & Strid, J. E. Quantifier Raising
in 4-year-olds. In A. Brugos, L. Micciulla, & C. E. Smith (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 28th
Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development* (pp. 340-349).
Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Other Publications

- 2012 Macaulay, M., & **Syrett, K.** Why major in linguistics...and what does a linguist do?
FAQ for the Linguistic Society of America. (Previous version: 2005)
(distributed by many Linguistics Departments to attract and educate undergraduate
students as prospective majors and minors)
- 2011 **Syrett, K.** LSA Annual Meeting Poster FAQs. (Previous version, 2005: **Syrett, K.** How
to design and present a successful poster. (online resource drafted at the request of
the Linguistic Society of America)
- 1996 **Syrett, K.**, & Rudner, L. Authorship ethics. ERIC Digest, ED410318 ERIC
Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation.

Fellowships and Awards

- 2008-2011 NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Post-Doctoral
Fellowship (Sponsor: Rochel Gelman, Co-Sponsor: Julien Musolino)
(NIH funding level: < 20%)
- 2007 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University
- 2007 Linguistic Service Award, Linguistic Society of America (the first such award
presented to a student by the LSA: honorary lifetime membership)
- 2007 Cognitive Science Travel Grant, Northwestern University
- 2005-2007 Presidential Fellowship, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
(the most prestigious honor bestowed to a graduate student at Northwestern
University: full tuition, stipend, appointment to the Society of Fellows)
- 2005 Department of Linguistics nomination for the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders
Award, Association of American Colleges and Universities
- 2005 Fellowship, LSA Summer Institute hosted by MIT and Harvard University
(second-time recipient of an Institute fellowship; full tuition)
- 2003-2005 Bernard and Julia Bloch Memorial Fellowship, Linguistic Society of America
(the most prestigious Institute fellowship presented by the LSA): full tuition, stipend
to the 2003 LSA Summer Institute hosted by Michigan State University, appointment
as the student representative to the Executive Committee
- 2004 NSF Travel Grant, Awarded for travel to the Inaugural Conference on Generative
Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America, Honolulu, HI.
- 2004 One of ten best posters (of approximately 60 entries) at the Inaugural Conference on
Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America, Dec. 17th-20th,
University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI.
- 2002-2007 Annual Conference Travel Grants, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2001-2002 Language and Cognition Fellowship, Northwestern University (full tuition, stipend)
- 1993-1997 Archdiocesan Scholarship, The Catholic University of America (the most prestigious
scholarship presenting to an incoming student, < 25 awarded: four years of full
tuition)

Conference Presentations

- 2012 Angelides, N., Koev, T., & Kramer, M. An experimental investigation of the semantic
contribution of appositives. Poster presented at the Second Annual Mid-Atlantic

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- Colloquium of Studies in Meaning (MACSIM), University of Maryland, February 18.
(Faculty advisor)
- 2011 **Syrett, K.**, Baker, H., Kalkstein, A., & Musolino, J. Let's disambiguate sentences together: What children know about the semantics of *together*, and where pragmatics steps in. Paper presented at the *36th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 4-6, Boston, MA.
- 2011 Arunachalam, S., **Syrett, K.**, & Waxman, S. R. Can adverbs call attention to manner of motion for 2-year-olds learning verbs? Paper presented at the *36th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 4-6, Boston, MA.
- 2011 **Syrett, K.**, Nisula, K., Simon, G., Klimashousky, S. The contribution of information structure and prosody in sentence disambiguation in English. Poster presented at *Experimental and Theoretical Advances in Prosody (ETAP) 2*, September 23-25. McGill University, Montréal, Canada.
- 2011 **Syrett, K.**, Greenberg, L., Kelliher, M., & Kawahara, S. The acoustic features and perception of children's clear speech. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 6-9, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2011 **Syrett, K.**, & Musolino, J. Collective and distributive interpretations of number pluralities in child language. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 6-9, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2010 Déprez, V., **Syrett, K.**, Kawahara, S. Licensing questions with intonation: The case of French *wh- in situ*. Paper presented at *Going Romance*, December 9-11, Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2010 Greenberg, L., Kelliher, M., **Syrett, K.**, & Kawahara, S. Perception and production of children's clear speech. Paper presented at *RUMMIT*, December 4, MIT, Boston, MA.
- 2010 **Syrett, K.**, & Musolino, J. Children's collective and distributive interpretations of pluralities with number. Paper presented at the *35th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 5-7, Boston, MA.
- 2010 Déprez, V., **Syrett, K.**, Kawahara, S., Blanc, N., Lew, K., & Mustafayev, M. Interrogative licensing with intonation: The case of French *wh- in situ*. Poster presented at *Workshop on Prosody, Syntax, and Information IV*, September 17-18, University of Delaware.
- 2010 **Syrett, K.**, & Musolino, J. When the whole is not greater than the sum of its parts: Collectivity, distributivity, and number in language development. Paper presented at *Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America 4*, September 1-3, Toronto, Canada.
- 2009 **Syrett, K.**, & Schwarzschild, R. The representation and processing of measure phrases by four-year-olds. Paper presented at the *34th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 6-8, Boston, MA.
- 2009 **Syrett, K.**, & Schwarzschild, R. The representation and processing of measure phrases in four-year-olds. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 8-11, San Francisco, CA.
- 2008 **Syrett, K.**, Musolino, J., & Gelman, R. Using syntax to learn about number word meaning: Successes and challenges of a bootstrapping approach. Paper presented at the *33rd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, October 31-November 2, Boston, MA.
- 2008 Lidz, J., Conroy, A., Musolino, J., & **Syrett, K.** When revision is difficult and when it isn't: The role of the parser in ambiguity resolution. Paper presented at *Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America 3*, September 4-6, Storrs, CT.
- 2008 **Syrett, K.** Syntactic bootstrapping in the adjectival domain: Adverbs help infants classify gradable adjectives. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 3-6, Chicago, IL.

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- 2007 **Syrett, K.** Adverbs provide infants with cues to differences between object properties and the semantics of gradable adjectives. Paper presented at the *32th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, November 2-4, Boston, MA.
- 2007 **Syrett, K., & Lidz, J.** Not all adjectives are the same: Children's (and adults') knowledge of semantic differences among gradable adjectives. Paper presented as part of the Symposium 'Constraining the range of adjective meanings and their discourse referents: How young children learn and process adjectives' (chairs **K. Syrett** and J. Lidz) at the *Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development*, March 30-April 1, Boston, MA.
- 2007 **Syrett, K.** Can infants use adverbs to learn about adjectives? Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 4-7, Anaheim, CA.
- 2006 **Syrett, K.** Acquiring the semantics of adjectives: Can infants use adverbs to learn about adjectives? Paper presented at the *Midwest Workshop on Semantics*, October 7, University of Chicago, Hyde Park, IL.
- 2006 **Syrett, K., Lidz, J., & Kennedy, C.** Scalar structure and the semantic representations of gradable adjectives in child language. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (Main Session)*, April 6-8, University of Chicago, Hyde Park, IL.
- 2006 **Syrett, K., Lidz, J., & Kennedy, C.** The semantic typology of gradable adjectives: Experimental evidence from adult and child language. Poster presented at the *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, March 23-25, CUNY, New York, NY.
- 2005 **Syrett, K., Bradley, E., Kennedy, C., & Lidz, J.** Shifting standards: Children's understanding of gradable adjectives. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 6-9, Oakland, CA.
- 2004 **Syrett, K., & Lidz, J.** Children want to access every interpretation adults do. Paper presented at the Inaugural Conference on *Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition - North America* Conference, December 17-20, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI.
- 2003 **Syrett, K.** Factors affecting stress shift: rhythmic parallelism and early accent placement. Paper presented at the *Spring Linguistics Colloquium*, June 9th, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2002 **Syrett, K.** Local context structure in stress shift. Paper presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, January 2-5, Atlanta, GA.
- 2002 **Syrett, K.** The role of information structure and parallelism in stress shift. Paper presented at the *Midwest Continental Workshop on Phonology (McWOP-8)*, October 25, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Invited Talks

- 2012 Researching perception and language: Insights from experimental and computational linguistics (coordinated talk with Bruce Tesar). Rutgers University IGERT Perceptual Science Group, April 16.
- 2012 *On the collective/distributive ambiguity of pluralities in children and adults.* Northwestern University Department of Linguistics, April 6.
- 2012 *Collectivity, distributivity, and pluralities: A view from language acquisition.* Columbia Linguistics Society, Columbia University, March 30.
- 2011 *Assessing semantic knowledge in language acquisition.* Reference Workshop. Rutgers University, August 13.
- 2011 *Insights into linguistic theory from language acquisition.* Stanford University Department of Linguistics, February 8.
- 2011 *Insights into linguistic theory from language acquisition.* Rutgers University

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- Department of Linguistics, February 4.
- 2009 *Four-year-olds' interpretation of measure phrases*. Princeton University Language Acquisition Workshop, Nov. 4.
- 2009 *Grammatical constraints or extragrammatical processing demands: What children's interpretations of ACD sentences might tell us about the locality of QR*. Rutgers University Department of Linguistics Colloquium Series, April 24.
- 2008 *Syntax, Semantics, and the Acquisition of Number Words*. Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science 'What is Cognitive Science' Series, December 4.
- 2008 *'Very' informative adverbs in adjective learning*. Princeton University Language Acquisition Workshop, April 11.
- 2008 *Recruiting form-meaning correspondences in adjective learning*. CUNY Psycholinguistics Supper, April 8.

Teaching Experience

Rutgers University

- 2011 (Fall) Syntax III: Experimental Syntax (co-taught with Viviane Déprez)
Qualifying Paper Workshop
- 2008 (Fall) Cognitive Science: A multi-disciplinary introduction

Northwestern University

- 2005 (Fall) Instructor, Mentor New Teaching Assistant workshop
- 2005-2006 Fellow Teaching Assistant Fellows Program,
Searle Center for Teaching Excellence
- 2004 (Spring) Teaching Assistant Cognitive Science 210, Brain and Language
Instructors: Matthew Goldrick (Linguistics),
Kenneth Paller (Psychology)
- 2004 (Winter) Instructor Linguistics 380, Spoken English for Non-Native
Speakers: Conversation and Fluency
- 2003 (Fall) Grader Linguistics 260, Formal Analysis of Words and
Sentences; Instructor: Tonia Bleam
- 2003 (Winter) Teaching Assistant Linguistics 260, Formal Analysis of Words and
Sentences; Instructor: Tonia Bleam
Guest Lecture on Universal Grammar
- 2002-2005 Private Tutor, ESL Northwestern University
- 2002 (Fall) ESL Tutor Department of Linguistics, Northwestern University
- 2001 (Fall) Tutor Academic Services, Northwestern University

Research Experience

- 2005 (Spring) Research Assistant Jeffrey Lidz, Northwestern University
- 2004 (Fall) Research Assistant Christopher Kennedy, Northwestern University
- 2002 (Summer) Summer Intern Christopher Kennedy, Jeffrey Lidz, Northwestern
University
- 1996 (Fall) Research Assistant ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation,
Washington, D.C.

Student Advising (Rutgers University)

Dissertation Committees

- 2011-2012 Aaron Braver

Qualifying Paper Committees

- 2011-2012 Vandana Bajaj

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Honors Theses and Capstone Projects

2011-2012 Kirsten Nisula (Psychology, chair): *Perception of prosodic and acoustic cues for sentence disambiguation*

Undergraduate Research Assistants

2011-2012 Nicholas Angelides (Aresty RA), Maxwell Kramer (Aresty small grant recipients): *An experimental investigation of the semantic contribution of appositives*
Hannah Baker, Kristen Starcher (Aresty small grant recipients); Stephanie Buco: *Beyond exact readings: Deriving upper and lower bounds for number words with modals*

2010-2011 Hannah Baker, Ariana Kalkstein (Aresty RAs and Aresty small grant recipients): *An experimental investigation of the semantics and pragmatics of together in child and adult language*
Stephen Klimashousky, Kirsten Nisula (Aresty RA), Georgia Simon: *Disentangling the link between scope and prosody*

2009-2010 Lara Greenberg (Aresty RA): *Preschoolers vary the production of their vowels with the discourse context*
Natalie Blanc, Kristen Lew, Yevgen Mustafayev (Aresty small grant recipients): *The intonation of French questions*

Reviews

Ad-Hoc Reviews for Peer-Reviewed Journals and Edited Volumes

2012 *Language Acquisition, Journal of Semantics*

2011 *Cognition, GALANA, Journal of Semantics, Language Acquisition, Language and Cognitive Processes, Language Learning and Development, Mind & Language, Syntax & Semantics series: Experiments at the Interfaces*

2010 *Language Acquisition, Linguistics, Vagueness and Communication* (Springer)

2009 *Cognition, Journal of Semantics, Language Acquisition*

2008 *Perspectives on Psychological Science*

2007 *Child Development, Developmental Science*

2006 *Child Development*

2003 *Journal of Phonetics, Speech Communication*

Conference and Workshop Abstract Reviews

2008-present *Boston University Conference on Language Development, Society for Research in Child Development*

2010-present *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*

2010 *Psycholinguistics across the Borders Workshop*

Professional Service

Field of Linguistics

2012-present Member, Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics

2011 Chair, Acquisition of Syntax Session, Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting

2007-2010 Member, Committee on Membership Services and Information Technology (COMSIT), Linguistic Society of America

2006 Co-Organizer, Midwest Semantics Workshop

2005-2006 Member, Information Technology Advisory Group (ITAG) Committee, Linguistic Society of America (website design and development)

Kristen Syrett

2004-2005 Member, Membership and Services Committee, Linguistic Society of America
2003-2005 Student Representative and Voting Member, Executive Committee, Linguistic Society of America

Rutgers University

Spring 2012 Aresty Research Center Faculty Review Board
2011-2012 Chair, Website Committee, Department of Linguistics
2010-2011 Member, Organizing Committee, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 21)*
2007-2008 Mentor to an Undergraduate Research Assistant, Introduction to Scientific Research Program and Project SUPER, Douglass College

Northwestern University

University

2005-2007 Society of Fellows
2006 (Spring) Member, Clarence Ver Steeg Graduate Staff Award Committee
2005 (Fall) Junior Fellow Representative, Presidential Fellowship Selection Committee
2005 Website development (with Rhiannon Stephens), Society of Fellows
2005 Intern Sponsor, Evanston Township High School Biology Internship Program
2003 (Summer) Volunteer, International Student Summer Institute
2002-2007 French Interdisciplinary Group (FIG)

Department of Linguistics

2005-2007 Organizer, Graduate Student Syntax-Semantics Reading Group
2006 Noon Colloquium Co-Coordinator
2006 Student-Faculty Liaison for Faculty Search
2005-2006 Co-Organizer Quarterly Chicago Syntax-Semantics Circle (CSC), Northwestern University-University of Chicago
2004-2005 Colloquium Coordinator
2004 Member, Organizing Committee, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 14)*
2002-2004 Member, Colloquium Reception Committee

Professional Affiliations

2002-present Linguistic Society of America (lifetime member)
2008-2011 Society for Research in Child Development
2008-2011 International Association for the Study of Child Language

Languages

English (native speaker)
French (fluent in reading, writing, and conversation)
American Sign Language (beginning conversational ability)

References

Available upon request