

# Christian Muxica

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UCLA, Department of Linguistics, Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095

## Research interests

*Primary*     Semantics, Pragmatics, Processing

*Secondary*     L1 Acquisition, Intonation, Computational Linguistics

## Education

2023 –     University of California, Los Angeles  
PhD in Linguistics

2021 – 2023     University of California, Los Angeles  
MA in Linguistics

2016 – 2020     University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
BA in Linguistics

## Honors, grants, and awards

2024     Graduate Research Mentorship (UCLA)  
\$30,000 stipend + tuition and fees

2021     Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (UCLA)  
\$6,000 stipend

2019     Honors Research Grant (UMass)  
\$900 of research funds

## Publications

*To appear*     Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Constructing focus alternatives from context and the limits of semantic priming. In *the Proceedings of the 3rd meeting of Experiments in Linguistic Meaning at the University of Pennsylvania*.

*To appear*     Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Selecting alternatives: Evidence for the early availability of contextually relevant focus alternatives. In *Alternatives - Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives*, Palgrave.

- 2024 Kuan-Jung Huang, Suhas Arehalli, Mari Kugemoto, Christian Muxica, Grusha Prasad, Brian Dillon, and Tal Linzen. Large-scale benchmark yields no evidence that language model surprisal explains syntactic disambiguation difficulty. *Journal of Memory and Language*, Volume 137.

## Posters and presentations

- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Context rather than semantic priming drives the early availability of focus alternatives. *Poster presented at the 3rd meeting of Experiments in Linguistic Meaning at the University of Pennsylvania*.
- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Focus alternatives are available early: no influence from semantic priming or particle choice. *Poster presented at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*.
- 2024 Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Evaluating the role of semantic priming and particle choice in the early availability of focus alternatives. *Poster presented at the 6th Annual California Meeting on Psycholinguistics at Stanford University*.
- 2023 Christian Muxica and Jesse A. Harris. Selecting contextually relevant focus alternatives during comprehension. *Poster presented at the 10th biennial meeting of Experimental Pragmatics at Paris Cité University*.
- 2022 Kuan-Jung Huang, Suhas Arehalli, Maria Kugemoto, Christain Muxica, Grusha Prasad, Brian Dillon, and Tal Linzen. SPR mega-benchmark shows surprisal tracks construction but not item-level difficulty. *Talk presented at the 35th annual Human Sentence Processing Conference, University of California, Santa Cruz (virtual)*.

## Research experience

- Summer 2024 Research Assistant for Laurel Perkins  
*Developed infant eyetracking experiment*
- Fall 2023 Research Assistant for Jessica Rett  
*Performed annotation and statistical analysis*
- Winter 2023 Research Assistant for Carson Schutze  
*Digitized UCLA Speech Error Corpus*
- Fall 2022 Research Assistant for Jesse A. Harris  
*Developed pupillometry experiment*

*Fall 2019 –* Lab Manager for XLing Labs (UMass)  
*Summer 2021* Trained research assistants, developed experimental software, etc.

## Teaching experience

*Spring 2024* LING 165C: Semantics II  
Teaching Assistant for Dylan Bumford

*Winter 2024* LING 132: Processing  
Teaching Assistant for Jesse A. Harris

*Summer 2023* LING 132: Processing  
Primary Instructor

*Spring 2023* LING 132: Processing  
Teaching Assistant for Jesse A. Harris

## Skills

*Programming* R, Julia, Python, Haskell, JavaScript, Bash/Zsh, HTML/CSS

*Software* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Git, PC Ibex, Linger, Experiment Builder, Praat

*Languages* English (Native), Spanish (Basic), Bilen (Fieldwork)

*Methods* Eyetracking (while-reading, visual-world, and pupillometry)