

## Megan Kathryn Gotowski

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### CONTACT/PERSONAL INFORMATION

Address: William & Mary  
350 James Blair Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23186  
E-mail: mkgotowski (at) wm.edu  
Web: <https://megangotowski.wixsite.com/linguistics>

Languages: English, French (fluent); Spanish (intermediate); Arabic, ASL, Polish (beginner)  
Citizenship: US Citizen

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**BROAD** Language Acquisition, Computational Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Syntax, Semantics

**NARROW** word learning, syntax-semantics mapping, statistical modeling, language models (LMs)

### EMPLOYMENT

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**2024-** William & Mary  
**Department of English—Linguistics Program**  
Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor

**2023-2024** Pomona College  
**Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science**  
Visiting Assistant Professor

**2022-2023** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
**Department of Philosophy and Linguistics**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Language Acquisition Lab

**2020-2022** Rutgers Laboratory for Developmental Language Studies  
Lab Coordinator for Prof. Kristen Syrett (PI)

### EDUCATION

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#### GRADUATE:

**2017-2022** Rutgers University  
PhD in Linguistics  
**Dissertation:** Syntactic Bootstrapping in the Adjectival Domain: Learning Subjective Adjectives (directed by Dr. Kristen Syrett)

**2014-2016** University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Master of Arts in Linguistics

**2012-2014**      **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
 Master of Arts in Linguistics  
**Thesis:** Subject Clitics in Child French (directed by Dr. Misha Becker)

UNDERGRADUATE:

**2008-2012**      **Juniata College**, *magna cum laude*, Bachelor of Arts in French (with Honors),  
 Secondary Emphasis in Education (K-12) and English

**2010-2011**      **Université Catholique de Lille (France)**- License en Langues, Littératures et  
 Civilisations Étrangères (LLCE)- Anglais  
 [Degree in Foreign Language, Literature, and Civilization- English]

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION (NON-DEGREE):

**2016**              NASSLLI, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
**2007**              Arabic Language Program, Concordia Language Villages, Bemidji, MN

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (NOT OTHERWISE LISTED):

**Fall 2015**        Visiting Researcher, CNRS-ENS, Paris, France  
**2013-2014**       Research Assistant, UNC Language Development Lab

OTHER CERTIFICATES:

**2019**              Teaching with Technology— Rutgers Teaching Assistant Project (TAP)

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)**

**Under Review**      Aravind, Athulya & Megan Gotowski. Non-Canonical Agreement in Early  
 Grammars. *Linguistic Inquiry*.

**Accepted**            Gotowski, Megan & Forrest Davis. The Gap Between Humans and Language Models:  
 Analyzing Adjective Performance. *Language Acquisition*.

**2025**      Gotowski, Megan & Athulya Aravind. No Referential Bias in Children's Interpretation of *It* and  
*There*. *Language Acquisition*.

**2025**      Gotowski, Megan. Adjectival Subcategorization in Child-Directed Speech. *Language Acquisition*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2025.2524593>

**2024**      Gotowski, Megan & Kristen Syrett. Using Syntax and Semantics to Acquire Subjective  
 Adjective Meanings. *Language Acquisition*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2024.2384556>

**2022**      Déprez, Viviane & Megan Gotowski. Probing the impact of register, familiarity, and information  
 state on the form of French questions. *Quaderni di lavoro ASIIt* 24.

- 2022** Gotowski, Megan. Quoi-Sluices in French. *Glossa*. 7.1.  
<https://www.glossa-journal.org/article/id/5793/>
- 2019** Gotowski, Megan. La règle du jeu: Verlan as an Example of Anti-Faithfulness.  
*Linguistica Atlantica* 37.2.  
<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/la/article/view/29638>
- 2019** Gotowski, Megan. The Acquisition of the Get-Passive. *Language Acquisition* 26.1.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10489223.2017.1391268>
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. Wh-In Situ Production in Child French. *Linguistica Atlantica* 36.2.  
<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/la/article/view/25999>

#### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2024** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. What Language Models Can Tell Us about Learning Adjectives. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*: Vol. 9.  
<https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v9i1.5693>
- 2020** Gotowski, Megan and Kristen Syrett. Investigating the Hypothesis Space for Children's Interpretations of Comparatives. In Megan Brown & Alexandra Kohut (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. <http://www.lingref.com/buclid/44/BUCLD44-13.pdf>
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. Invisible Structure: Sluicing in Child Grammar. In Misty Kabasa & David Natvig (Eds.) *UW-Madison LSO Working Papers in Linguistics, Volume 10*.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. Secondary Agents in Get-Passives: Syntax or Pragmatics? In Michael Olsen (Ed.), *Linguistics Society of the University of Georgia (LSUGA) Conference Proceedings, Vol. 2*.  
<https://hdl.handle.net/10724/38034>
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. Raising or Control? Children's Early Get-Passives. In the *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA)*: Vol. 2.  
<http://journals.linguisticsociety.org/proceedings/index.php/PLSA/article/view/4027>
- 2016** Gotowski, Megan and Misha Becker. An information structural account of children's wh-in situ questions in French. In Laurel Perkins, Rachel Dudley, Juliana Gerard & Kasia Hitczenko (Eds.), *Proceedings of GALANA 6*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.  
<http://www.lingref.com/cpp/galana/6/paper3203.pdf>
- 2015** Becker, Misha and Megan Gotowski. Explaining children's wh-in situ questions: Against economy. In Elizabeth Grillo and Kyle Jepson (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 39<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.
- 2015** Gotowski, Megan. Subject doubling in child French. *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics, Vol. 21.1 (Proceedings from PLC 38)*.  
<https://repository.upenn.edu/pwpl/vol21/iss1/12/>

## OTHER (MA THESIS)

**2014** Gotowski, Megan. Subject clitics in child French. MA Thesis. UNC Chapel Hill.

## GRANTS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

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### GRANTS

**2023** Teaching Innovation Grant—Pomona College  
Project: *Using CLAN for Corpus Research* (workbook in development with PressBooks)

**2023** Jacobs Research Funds Grant (with Iara Mantenuto, CSU-Dominguez Hills) (\$3,968)  
Project: *Forming comparisons in child language in Yucuquimi de Ocampo Mixtec*.

**2015** UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM) Program Fellowship Grant (\$20,000)

**2015** UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM) Grant (\$6,000)

### AWARDS

**2009** William L. Hofelt Freshman Writing Award for Best Freshman Writer (Juniata College)

### SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

**2022** University and Louis Bevier Fellowship (\$25,000) [declined to accept MIT postdoctoral position]

**2008** Juniata College Eagles Abroad Scholarship

**2007** Global Citizens Scholarship (full tuition and expenses to attend the Concordia Language Villages Arabic Immersion Program)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### INVITED TALKS (LINGUISTICS)

**2025** *Mind the Gap: Comparing Human and Model Performance with Adjectives*. Invited talk. George Mason University. April 14.

**2023** Déprez, Viviane, Meg Gotowski and Troy Messick. *P-stranding, evasion, and what they (might) mean for ellipsis identity*. Invited talk at Current Issues in Comparative Syntax 2: Boundaries of Ellipsis Mismatch [talk delivered by Troy Messick]. September 1-4.

**2023** *Word Learning in the Adjectival Domain: Categorizing Subjective Adjectives*. Invited talk. Harvard Language and Cognition Talk Series, Harvard University. March 7.

**2023** *Mapping Form to Meaning: Interpreting Adjectives in Context*. William & Mary. February 10.

**2020** *Children's Interpretations of Comparatives*. UNC Colloquium (Online). October 30.

**2019** *The Rules of the Game: Formalizing Anti-Faithfulness in Verlan*. UNC Colloquium. April 12.

**2018** *Get-Passives in Child Grammar*. NYU Invited Lecture. November 12.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. "What is *It*? Language Models and Expletive Forms," talk to be presented at the LSA Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. January 10.
- 2025** Gotowski, Megan and Kate Harrigan. "Subcategorizing Adjectives with Multiple Frames," poster presented at BUCLD 50. November 6-9.
- 2025** Davis, Forrest and Megan Gotowski. "Being (an LM) and Nothingness: How Models Interpret Expletive Forms," poster presented at BUCLD 50. November 6-9.
- 2025** Deprez, Viviane, Megan Gotowski, and Troy Messick. "Testing Silent Structural Alternatives in French P-sluices," talk presented at the 55th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Linguistics (LSRL) in the Dominican Republic. September 10, 2025.
- 2025** Gotowski, Megan, Galia Bar-Sever, and Amelia Lewis. "Not-So-Faultless Disagreement: How Gradient Subjectivity Influences Adjective Ordering," poster presentation at the LSA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, January, 9-12.
- 2025** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. "Humans vs. Machines: Comparing Adjective Learning Performance," poster presentation at the LSA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, January, 9-12.
- 2024** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. "Rage Against the Machine: Comparing Human and Model Performance with Adjective Learning," poster presentation at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston, MA, November 7-10.
- 2024** Gotowski, Megan. "Mapping For-Phrases in Degree Constructions," presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress for the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL). Prague, July 15-19.
- 2024** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. "What Language Models Can Tell Us About Learning Adjectives," talk presented at the LSA Annual Meeting. NYC, January 4-7.
- 2023** Gotowski, Megan and Athulya Aravind. "Non-Canonical Agreement in Early Grammar," talk presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston, MA, November 2-5.
- 2023** Aravind, Athulya and Megan Gotowski. "Children's Interpretations of Referential and Expletive *It*," talk presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston, MA, November 2-5.
- 2023** Gotowski, Megan and Athulya Aravind. "Agreement and Expletive *There* in Acquisition," talk presented at the Language Acquisition Workshop of New England (LAWNE), University of Connecticut, April 15.
- 2022** Gotowski, Megan and Kristen Syrett. "It is DAXY to learn adjectives, and learning adjectives is DAXY for everyone: Syntactic Frames Support the Acquisition of Adjective Meaning," talk presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston, MA, November 3-6.
- 2021** Syrett, Kristen and Megan Gotowski. "Gradable Adjectives as a Window into Comparative Constructions," talk presented as part of the symposium "Adjective Meanings are Not Easy to

- Learn" at the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress for the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Philadelphia, PA, July 15-23.
- 2020** Gotowski, Megan. "Revisiting Why-Questions in Child French," poster presented at the Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA), London, Ontario, May 30-June 1.
- 2020** Gotowski, Megan and Viviane Déprez. "Wh-In Situ in French as a Function of Discourse Factors," poster presented at the CLA, London, Ontario, May 30-June 1.
- 2020** Gotowski, Megan and Troy Messick. "What Quoi-Sluices Reveal about Ellipsis and Wh-Clitics in French," poster presented at ConSOLE. Barcelona, Spain, January 29-31.
- 2019** Gotowski, Megan and Kristen Syrett. "Investigating the hypothesis space of children's interpretation of comparatives," talk presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD). Boston, MA, Nov. 7-10.
- 2019** Gotowski, Megan and Kristen Syrett. "Probing Children's Early Comprehension of Comparative Constructions," poster presentation at MACSIM 8, NYU, April 6.
- 2019** Gotowski, Megan. "Sluicing in French," poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), March 22-24.
- 2018** Gotowski, Megan. "La règle du jeu: le Verlan comme un exemple d'anti-fidélité," talk presented at the 42<sup>e</sup> colloque annuel de l'association de linguistique des provinces atlantiques (ALPA), Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 2-3.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. "Get-Passives in Child English: Raising or Control?" poster presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Association for the Study of Child Language. Lyon, France, July 17-21.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. "Invisible Structure: Sluicing in Child Grammar," talk presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Workshop in General Linguistics (WIGL). UW-Madison, April 1-2.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. "The Role of Animacy in Children's Early Get-Passives," talk presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), U. of Pennsylvania, March 24-26<sup>th</sup>.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. "Raising or Control? Children's Early Get-Passives," poster presentation at the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). Austin, TX, Jan. 5-8.
- 2016** Gotowski, Megan. "Wh-In Situ Production in Child French," talk at the 19<sup>th</sup> Bilingual Workshop in Theoretical Linguistics (Atelier Bilingue en Linguistique Théorique). Concordia University, Montréal, December 12-13.
- 2016** Gotowski, Megan. "La Production des questions en français chez les enfants," talk at the 40<sup>e</sup> colloque annuel de l'Association de linguistique des provinces atlantiques (ALPA), Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, October 27-28.
- 2016** Gotowski, Megan. "Psycholinguistic Evidence for Secondary Agents in Get-Passives," talk at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Linguistics Conference at the U. of Georgia, Athens, GA, October 7-9.
- 2016** Gotowski, Megan. "Children's Comprehension of the Get-Passive," poster presentation at GALANA 7, U. Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 8-10.

- 2015** Gotowski, Megan. "Null Subjects in Child and Adult French," talk presented at the UNC Spring Linguistics Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC, March 28.
- 2015** Gotowski, Megan and Misha Becker. "An Information Structural Account of Children's Wh-In Situ Questions in French," talk presented at GALANA 6, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Feb. 19-21.
- 2014** Gotowski, Megan. "Subject Clitics in Child French," talk presented at Going Romance 28, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, December 4-6.
- 2014** Becker, Misha and Megan Gotowski. "Explaining Children's Wh-In Situ Questions: Against Economy," talk presented at BUCLD 39, Boston, MA, November 7-9.
- 2014** Becker, Misha and Megan Gotowski. "Explaining Children's Wh-In Situ Questions: Against Economy," poster presentation at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Linguistics Society (NELS), MIT, Cambridge, MA, October 31- November 2.
- 2014** Gotowski, Megan. "Subject Doubling in Child French," talk presented at the 38th Annual Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), Philadelphia, PA, March 28-30.
- 2014** Gotowski, Megan. "Subject Doubling in Child French: A Corpus-Based Analysis," talk presented at the UNC Spring Linguistics Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC, March 22.
- 2012** Gotowski, Megan. "First Language Acquisition: Differences Between Francophone and Anglophone Children (Senior Honors Capstone)," talk presented at the Juniata College Liberal Arts Symposium (LAS), Huntingdon, PA, April 18.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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(\* = Teaching Assistant; otherwise = Instructor)

### *William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA*

Word Learning (Acquisition Seminar)	Fall 2025
Computational Linguistics	Spring 2025
Language: Types and Universals	Spring 2025
Corpus Linguistics	Fall 2024, Fall 2025
Study of Language	Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025

### *Pomona College, Claremont, CA*

Language Acquisition	Spring 2024
Acquisition of Semantics	Spring 2024

Corpus Linguistics	Fall 2023
Introduction to Linguistics	Fall 2023, Spring 2024

***Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA***

Language Acquisition (for graduate and undergraduate students)	Spring 2023
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***Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ***

Introduction to Linguistic Theory	Summer 2019, Fall 2019*, Spring 2020, Summer 2021, Spring 2022
Exploring Language	Fall 2021

***University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA***

Introduction to the Study of Language	Summer 2016, Fall 2016*
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***University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC***

Introduction to Language	Fall 2013*, Spring & Summer 2014
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***Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA***

College Writing Seminar	Fall 2009*, Fall 2011*
Visiting French Language Instructor (K-12) via the Language in Motion Program	Fall 2008

**ADVISING/MENTORING**

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**Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees (William & Mary)**

<b>2023-2024</b>	Carolyn Bonafede: <i>Negation Patterns in the Conversational French of Tours, France: A Next-Generation Update</i>
<b>2023-2024</b>	Chloe Wright: <i>An Exploration of Principled Mappings between English Adjective Order and Subjectivity</i>
<b>2023-2024</b>	Emma Wilkie: <i>Flexibility in English Adjective Order and the Connection to Perceived Changeability</i>

**Formal Mentoring (Research Assistants)**

<b>2025-</b>	Grace Kulawiak (William & Mary)
<b>2024-2025</b>	Amelia Lewis (Scripps College) and Claire Selner (William & Mary)
<b>2023-2024</b>	Amelia Lewis (Scripps College); Pine Netcharussaeng, Aditi Koul, Amelia Poor (Pomona College)



**2022** Benjamin Dever-Mendenhall (MIT Summer Research Program)

## SERVICE

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**2024-2025** DEI Faculty Committee, William & Mary Linguistics

**2023-2024** DEI Faculty Cohort at Pomona College (Fall semester),  
DEI Faculty Project Pairs Committee,  
Pomona Acquisition Workshop (PAW; Founder and Co-Organizer)

**2022-2023** MIT Summer Research Program (Advisor),  
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (Mentor),  
Experimental and Computational Linguistics Group at MIT (Co-Organizer)

**2021-2022** NEL52 Organizing Committee,  
Syntactic Theory @ Rutgers (ST@R) Organizing Committee

**2020-2021** President for the Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Students Association (LGSA)

**2019-2020** Vice President for Rutgers LGSA

**2018-2019** Rutgers Linguistics Colloquium Committee

**2017-2018** Semantics Reading Group at Rutgers University (Co-Organizer),  
Secretary for Rutgers LGSA

**Fall 2016** Vice President for UCLA Graduate Linguistics Circle,  
UCLA Colloquium Committee (Chair)

## REVIEWING

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Journals: *Language Acquisition*, *Linguistica Atlantica*, *Language Learning and Development*,  
*Glossa*

Conferences: International Association on the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Linguistic Society of  
America (LSA), Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

## OTHER SKILLS

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**Statistical Software/Data Analysis:** R, Python/Pandas

**Experimental Software and Platforms:** CLAN, ELAN, Ibex Farm (Penn Controller), Praat, Amazon  
Mechanical Turk, Prolific, Qualtrics