

Megan Kathryn Gotowski

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

BROAD Language Acquisition, Computational Linguistics, Syntax, Semantics, Learnability, Psycholinguistics
NARROW word learning, syntax-semantics mapping, statistical modeling, LLMs

EMPLOYMENT

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

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

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

Under Revision	Gotowski, Megan & Forrest Davis. The Gap Between Humans and Language Models: Analyzing Adjective Performance.
Under Revision	Aravind, Athulya & Megan Gotowski. Non-Canonical Agreement in Early Grammars. <i>Linguistic Inquiry</i> .
Under Revision	Gotowski, Megan & Athulya Aravind. No Referential Bias in Children's Interpretation of <i>It</i> and <i>There</i> . <i>Language Acquisition</i> .
2025	Gotowski, Megan. Adjectival Subcategorization in Child-Directed Speech. <i>Language Acquisition</i> . https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2025.2524593
2024	Gotowski, Megan & Kristen Syrett. Using Syntax and Semantics to Acquire Subjective Adjective Meanings. <i>Language Acquisition</i> . 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 ASIt* 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 44th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press. <http://www.lingref.com/buclld/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 39th 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

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

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

- 2025** Gotowski, Megan and Kate Harrigan. "Subcategorizing Adjectives with Multiple Frames," poster to be presented at BUCLD 50. November 6-9.
- 2025** Davis, Forrest and Megan Gotowski. "Being (an LM) and Nothingness: How Models Interpret Expletive Forms," poster to be presented at BUCLD 50. November 6-9.
- 2025** Deprez, Viviane, Megan Gotowski, and Troy Messick. "Testing Silent Structural Alternatives in French P-sluices," talk to be presented at the 55th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Linguistics (LSRL) in the Dominican Republic. September 2025.
- 2025** Gotowski, Megan, Galia Bar-Sever, and Amelia Lewis. "Not-So-Faultless Disagreement: How Gradient Subjectivity Influences Adjective Ordering," to be presented at the LSA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA, January, 9-12.
- 2025** Gotowski, Megan and Forrest Davis. "Humans vs. Machines: Comparing Adjective Learning Performance," to be presented 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," to be presented 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 16th 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 15th 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 44th 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 43rd 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^e 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 14th 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 14th 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 41st Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), U. of Pennsylvania, March 24-26th.
- 2017** Gotowski, Megan. "Raising or Control? Children's Early Get-Passives," poster presentation at the 91st 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 19th 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^e 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 3rd 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

(* = Teaching Assistant; otherwise = Instructor)

William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Baby Talk: Word Learning (First-Year Seminar)	Fall 2025
Computational Linguistics	Spring 2025
Language: Types and Universals	Spring 2025
Corpus Linguistics	Fall 2024, 2025
Study of Language	Fall 2024- Current

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

Undergraduate Thesis Committees (William & Mary)

2024-	Carolyn Bonafede / Title TBD/ Topic: Negation in Colloquial French Chloe Wright / Title TBD/ Topic: Adjective Ordering Preferences Emma Wilkie / Title TBD/ Topic: Adjective Ordering Preferences
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Formal Mentoring

2024-2025	Amelia Lewis (Scripps College) and Claire Selner (William & Mary); undergraduate research assistants
2023-2024	Amelia Lewis (Scripps College); Pine Netcharussaeng, Aditi Koul, Amelia Poor (Pomona College); undergraduate research assistants

2023 Benjamin Dever-Mendenhall;
MIT Summer Research Program advisee

SERVICE

2024- 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 NELS52 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

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

Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

OTHER SKILLS

Statistical Software/Data Analysis: R, Python/Pandas

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

REFERENCES

Professor Anya Hogoboom

William & Mary
 Department of English
 350 James Blair Drive
 Williamsburg, VA 23186
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Professor Lise Abrams

Pomona College
 Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
 185 E. 6th Street
 Claremont, CA 91711
 lise.abrams (at) pomona.edu

Professor Athulya Aravind

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
 77 Massachusetts Avenue
 Cambridge, MA 02139
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Professor Suzanne Flynn

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 77 Massachusetts Avenue
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Professor Barbara Lust

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 77 Massachusetts Avenue
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Professor Kristen Syrett

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 18 Seminary Place
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Professor Viviane Déprez

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Professor Adam Jardine

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Professor Troy Messick

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