

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Ellen Lau  
ellenlau@nmr.mgh.harvard.edu  
901-568-2232

### Education

8/04-8/09 Ph.D., Linguistics; University of Maryland, College Park  
8/99-5/03 B.S., Psychology; Michigan State University

### Research Positions

9/09-present Research Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Psychiatry  
8/03-8/04 Research Assistant to Dr. Colin Phillips, University of Maryland  
8/00-8/03 Research Assistant to Dr. Fernanda Ferreira, Michigan State University

### Funded Research Grants

2004-2007 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship  
2002-2003 Dean's Assistantship (MSU College of Social Science)

### Publications

- Phillips, C., Wagers, M., & Lau, E. (submitted). Grammatical Illusions and Selective Fallibility in Real-Time Language Comprehension. *Language & Linguistics Compass*.
- Lau, E., Almeida, D., Hines, P., & Poeppel, D. (2009). A lexical basis for N400 context effects: Evidence from MEG. *Brain and Language*.
- Wagers, M., Lau, E.F., & Phillips, C. (2009). Agreement attraction in comprehension: representations and processes. *Journal of Memory and Language*.
- Lau, E.F., Poeppel, D., & Phillips, C. (2008). A cortical network for semantics: (de)constructing the N400. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*.
- Lau, E.F., Rozanova, K., & Phillips, C. (2007). Syntactic prediction and lexical surface frequency effects in sentence processing. *University of Maryland Working Papers in Linguistics*, 16, 163-200.
- Kazanina, N., Lau, E.F., Lieberman, M., Phillips, C., & Yoshida, M. (2007). Effect of syntactic constraints on long-distance dependency formation in backwards anaphora processing. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 56, 384-409.
- Lau, E. F., Stroud, C., Plesch, S., & Phillips, C. (2006). The role of prediction in rapid syntactic analysis. *Brain and Language*, 98, 74-88.
- Lau, E. F. & Ferreira, F. (2005). Lingering effects of disfluent material on the comprehension of garden path sentences. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 633-666.

- Resnik, P., Elkiss, A., Lau, E., & Taylor, H. (2005). The Web in Theoretical Linguistics Research: Two Case Studies Using the Linguist's Search Engine. *Proceedings of the 31st Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, February 2005*, 265-276.
- Ferreira, F., Lau, E. F., & Bailey, K. G. D. (2004). Disfluencies, Language Comprehension, and Tree Adjoining Grammars. *Cognitive Science*, 28(5), 721-749.
- Phillips, C. & Lau, E. F. (2004). Foundational Issues (review article for R. Jackendoff's *Foundations of Language*). *Journal of Linguistics*, 40, 571-591.

### **Manuscripts in preparation**

- Lau, E., Yeung, H.H., Hashimoto, R., Braun, A., & Phillips, C. Time-course and localization of syntactic and semantic anomaly: an fMRI/MEG study.
- Lau, E., Almeida, D., Abdulsabur, N., Braun, A., & Poeppel, D. Understanding the N400: concurrent EEG and MEG recordings.
- Shvartsman, M., Lau, E., & Phillips, C., in preparation. Top-down and bottom-up contributions to determiner-noun agreement processing.

### **Conference Presentations**

- Lau, E. (2009). The N400 effect as an index of facilitated lexical access. Paper presented as part of the symposium 'Levels of meaning: Current Neural Perspectives on the N400' at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Berlin, Germany.
- Lau, E.F., Wagers, M., & Phillips, C. (2009). The consequences of number agreement on number interpretation. Poster presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
- Wagers, M., Lau, E.F., Stroud, C., McElree, B., & Phillips, C. (2009). Encoding syntactic predictions: evidence from the dynamics of agreement. Paper presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Davis, CA.
- Lau, E.F., Almeida, D., Abdulsabur, N., Braun, A., & Poeppel, D. (2009). Fractionating the N400 effect with simultaneous MEG and EEG. Poster presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Lau, E.F., Almeida, D., Abdulsabur, N., Braun, A., & Poeppel, D. (2008). Insights on the N400 from concurrent EEG and MEG recordings. Poster presented at the 38<sup>th</sup> Society for Neuroscience Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Lau, E., Almeida, D., Hines, P., & Poeppel, D. (2008). A within-subjects comparison of word and sentence-level MEG responses. Poster presented at the 15th Cognitive Neuroscience Society Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Almeida, D., Lau, E., & Poeppel, D. (2008). An MEG study of semantic priming. Poster presented at the 15th Cognitive Neuroscience Society Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

- Xiang, M., Lau, E., & Poeppel, D. (2008). Reversing plausibility (or not): MEG evidence for processing semantic presupposition and scalarity. Poster presented at the 15th Cognitive Neuroscience Society Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Lau, E., Wagers, M., Stroud, C., & Phillips, C. (2008). Agreement and the subject of confusion. Talk presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Lau, E., Almeida, D., Hines, P., & Poeppel, D. (2008). An MEG comparison of word- and sentence-level effects on the N400. Poster presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Wagers, M., Lau, E., & Phillips, C. (2008). Early and late effects of agreement attraction in comprehension. Poster presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Chapel Hill, NC.
- Lau, E., Wagers, M., & Phillips, C. (2007). Agreement attraction in comprehension: representations and processes. Talk presented at the Mid-America Linguistics Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- Lau, E., Wagers, M. & Phillips, C. (2007). How (not) to get confused in comprehension: the case of agreement. Talk presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Turku, Finland.
- Lau, E.F., Yeung, H.H., Hashimoto, R., Braun, A., & Phillips, C. (2006) Time-course and localization of syntactic and semantic anomaly responses in sentence processing: a within-subjects fMRI/MEG design. Poster presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Wagers, M. & Lau E. (2006). Non-intervening attraction and the computation of agreement in comprehension. Poster presented at the the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- Lau, E., Rozanova, K., & Phillips, C. (2006). Differential effects of lexical surface frequency on reading times in syntactic context. Poster presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, New York, NY.
- Kazanina, N., Lau, E., Liberman, M., Phillips, C., & Yoshida, M. (2005). Constraints on Coreference in the Online Processing of Backwards Anaphora. Poster presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Tucson, AZ.
- Resnik, P., Elkiss, A., Taylor, H. & Lau, E. (2005). "The Web in Theoretical Linguistics Research: Two Case Studies Using the Linguist's Search Engine", 31st Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society.
- Kazanina, N., Lau, E., Liberman, M., Phillips, C., & Yoshida, M. (2004). Active Dependency Formation in the Processing of Backwards Anaphora. Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, College Park, MD.
- Ferreira, F., Lau, E. F., & Bailey, K. G. B. (2004). A model of disfluency processing based on Tree-Adjoining Grammar. Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, College Park, MD

Fodor, J.D., Ferreira, F. & Lau, E. (2003). Structure-building and Lexical Access during Garden-Path Recovery. Paper presented at the Annual Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing Meeting, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Fodor, J.D., Ferreira, F. & Lau, E. (2003). A Time-Course Study of Garden-Path Reanalysis. Poster presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Cambridge, MA.

### **Invited talks**

Lau, E. (2009). Unpacking the N400 with MEG. MEG and Language Workshop (MEGLANG), Saclay, France.

Lau, E. (2006). The role of syntactic prediction in sentence processing. Primeiro Encontro Maryland-UFRJ de Sintaxe e Neurociência de Linguagem, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### **Reviewing (ad-hoc)**

*Biological Psychology*

*Brain*

*Brain and Language*

*Cognitive Neuroscience*

*Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*

*Human Brain Mapping*

*Language and Cognitive Processes*

*PLoS ONE*

*NeuroReport*

### **Teaching**

Spring 2008	LING499 - Seminar in Psycholinguistics: Speech Perception; Co-instructor (self-designed course for advanced undergraduates)
Spring 2007	LING321 – Phonology II; TA
Spring 2006	LING320 – Phonology I; TA

### **Service**

Spring 2007	Co-organizer of memory reading group
Fall 2005-Spring 2006	Student Representative for Linguistics Graduate Student Association
Fall 2005-Spring 2006	Linguistics Department Colloquium Committee