

# Aaron Steven White

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## Positions

### *Full-time appointments*

Assistant Professor, [Department of Linguistics](#), University of Rochester, 2017–.

*Affiliations:* [Goergen Institute for Data Science](#), [Computer Science](#), [Brain and Cognitive Sciences](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, [Science of Learning Institute](#), Johns Hopkins University, 2015–2017.

*Advisors:* [Kyle Rawlins](#) (Cognitive Science), [Benjamin Van Durme](#) (Computer Science)

*Affiliations:* [Cognitive Science](#), [Center for Language and Speech Processing](#)

### *Temporary appointments*

Instructor, [European Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information](#), Summer 2017

## Education

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2015.

*Thesis:* [Information and incrementality in syntactic bootstrapping](#)

*Advisors:* [Valentine Hacquard](#), [Jeffrey Lidz](#)

*Other committee members:* [Philip Resnik](#), [Hal Daumé III](#), [Naomi Feldman](#)

B.A. Linguistics, University of California, Santa Cruz, 2009.

## Interests

Computational (psycho)linguistics, linguistic theory, syntax-semantics interface, first language acquisition

## Grants and fellowships

Co-Principal Investigator. NSF-BCS-DDRIG-1456013, [Doctoral Dissertation Research: Learning attitude verb meanings](#). \$18,112. (PI: Valentine Hacquard, Co-PI: Jeffrey Lidz)

*Description:* This DDRI grant was awarded to conduct several extremely large scale behavioral experiments on propositional attitude verbs.

[Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow](#), [Science of Learning Institute](#), Johns Hopkins University, 2015–2017.

*Description:* The Distinguished Science of Learning Fellowship is a competitive fellowship funding interdisciplinary work on learning that is housed in at least two distinct schools at JHU.

*Affiliations:* Cognitive Science, Center for Language and Speech Processing

Graduate Fellowship, NSF-DGE-IGERT-0801465, [Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity](#), University of Maryland, 2011–2013.

*Description:* The IGERT Fellowship is a competitive graduate fellowship funding interdisciplinary work on language, with a particular focus on computational approaches.

[Baggett Fellowship, Department of Linguistics](#), University of Maryland, 2009–2010.

*Description:* The Baggett Fellowship is a competitive year-long post-baccalaureate fellowship focused on developing fellows' laboratory research skills prior to graduate school.

## Papers

### *In press*

**White, A. S.**, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. (2017). [Semantic information and the syntax of propositional attitude verbs](#). In press at *Cognitive Science*.

**White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2017). [Question agnosticism and change of state](#). In press in the *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 21*.

**White, A. S.**, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz. (2017). [The labeling problem in syntactic bootstrapping: Main clause syntax in the acquisition of propositional attitude verbs](#). In press in *Semantics in Acquisition*, eds. K. Syrett and S. Arunachalam. Trends in Language Acquisition Research (TiLAR). Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Lidz, J., **A. S. White** & R. Baier. (2017). [The role of incremental parsing in syntactically conditioned word learning](#). In press at *Cognitive Psychology*.

### *Under revision*

**White, A. S.** (2016). [The interaction of implicativity with the form and scope of negation](#). Under revision for *Journal of Semantics*.

**White, A. S.**, V. Hacquard, P. Resnik & J. Lidz. (2016). [The contextual modulation of semantic information](#). Under revision for *Cognitive Science*.

### *Published*

**White, A. S.**, K. Rawlins, & B. Van Durme. (2017). [The Semantic Proto-Role Linking Model](#). *Proceedings of 15th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 92–98, Valencia, Spain, April 3-7, 2017.

**White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2016). [A computational model of S-selection](#). In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26*, eds. M. Moroney, C-R. Little, J. Collard, and D. Burgdorf, 641–663. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.

**A. S. White**, D. Reisinger, K. Sakaguchi, T. Vieira, S. Zhang, R. Rudinger, K. Rawlins, & B. Van Durme. (2016). [Universal decompositional semantics on universal dependencies](#). In *Proceedings of the 2016 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 1713–1723, Austin, Texas, November 1-5, 2016. [peer-reviewed proceedings]

Fetters, M. & **A. S. White** (2016). Pseudogapping does not involve heavy shift. In *Proceedings of the 34<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, ed. A. Kaplan et al., 205-213. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, T. Roberts, & **A. S. White** (2015). [On double access, cessation and parentheticality](#). In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 25*, eds. S. D’Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney, and M. Wiegand, 18–37. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.

**White, A. S.** (2014). [Factive-implicatives and modalized complements](#). In *Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, eds. J. Iyer, L. Kusmer, 267–278. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.

**White, A. S.** & Grano, T. (2014). [An experimental investigation of partial control](#). In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18*, eds. U. Etxeberria, A. Falaus, A. Irurtzun, B. Leferman, 469–486. Semantics Archive.

**White, A. S.**, Dudley, R., V. Hacquard, & Lidz, J. (2014). [Discovering classes of attitude verbs using subcategorization frame distributions](#). In *Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, eds. H-L. Huang, E. Poole, A. Rysling, 249–260. Amherst, MA: GLSA Publications.

Bonilla, C., Tare, M. & **White, A.** (2013). Homework and language learning at DLIFLC: An analysis of Dari, French, and Pashto learners. *Center for the Advanced Study of Language Technical Report*.

Bonilla, C., Tare, M., **White, A.**, Mullan, B. & Hughes, M. (2013). Analysis of self-study practices in language learning: Relationships among time spent, preferred activities, and outcomes. *Center for the Advanced Study of Language Technical Report*.

### Manuscripts

**White, A. S.**, D. Reisinger, R. Rudinger, K. Rawlins, & B. Van Durme. (2016). [Computational linking theory](#). arXiv:1610.1687806v1 [cs.CL]

### Presentations

#### Upcoming conference presentations

**White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2017). The role of veridicality and factivity in clause selection. To be presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society. University of Iceland. October 27-29, 2017.

Hirzel, M., **A. S. White**, & J. Lidz. (2017). Biased distributions in dialogs do not shape verb learning. To be presented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development. Boston University. November 3-5, 2017.

#### Past conference presentations

**White, A. S.**, K. Rawlins, & B. Van Durme. (2017). [The Semantic Proto-Role Linking Model](#). Presented at the 15th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics. Valencia, Spain. April 3-7, 2017.

- White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2017). [Entropy predicts uncertainty in subcategorization frame distributions](#). Presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society, AG1: Information-theory based modeling of linguistic variation in context, Saarland University. March 8-10, 2017.
- White, A. S.**, D. Reisinger, K. Sakaguchi, T. Vieira, S. Zhang, R. Rudinger, K. Rawlins, & B. Van Durme. (2016). Universal decompositional semantics on universal dependencies. Presented at Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing 2016, Austin, TX. November 1-5, 2016.
- White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2016). [Question agnosticism and change of state](#). Presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 21, University of Edinburgh. September 4-6, 2016.
- White, A. S.** & K. Rawlins. (2016). [A computational model of S-selection](#). Presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory 26, University of Texas, Austin. May 12-15, 2016.
- Fetters, M. & **A. S. White** (2016). [Pseudogapping does not involve heavy shift](#). Presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of Utah. April 29-May 1, 2016.
- White, A. S.** & J. Sprouse. (2016). [The trace of categorical structure in gradient judgments](#). Presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, University of Utah. April 29-May 1, 2016.
- White, A. S.**, V. Hacquard, P. Resnik, & J. Lidz. (2016). [Subcategorization frame entropy in online verb-learning](#). Presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Florida. March 3-5, 2016.
- Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, T. Roberts & **White, A. S.** (2015). [On double access, cessation and parentheticality](#). Presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory 25, Stanford University. May 15-17, 2015.
- White, A. S.** (2015). [Soft implicative entailments](#). Presented at the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Portland, OR. January 8-11, 2015.
- White, A. S.** (2014). [Contextually modulated syntactic variability in child-directed speech](#). Presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July 14-18, 2014.
- White, A. S.**, J. Lidz & V. Hacquard (2014). Syntactic sources of semantics and pragmatics. Presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. July 14-18, 2014.
- White, A. S.** (2013). [Factive-implicatives and modalized complements](#). Presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, University of Connecticut. October 18-20, 2013.
- White, A. S.** & T. Grano (2013). An experimental investigation of partial control. Presented at Sinn und Bedeutung 18, University of the Basque Country. September 11-13, 2013.
- Lidz, J., & **A. S. White** (2013). Predictive parsing and the acquisition of thematic structure. Presented at the SRCD Biennial Meeting, Seattle, WA. April 18-20, 2013.
- White, A. S.**, R. Dudley, V. Hacquard, & J. Lidz (2012). Discovering classes of attitude verbs using subcategorization frame distributions. Presented at the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, CUNY. October 19-21, 2012.
- White, A. S.**, R. Baier & J. Lidz (2011). Prediction and subcategorization frame frequency in the developing parser. Presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Stanford University. March 24-26, 2011.
- White, A. S.**, R. Baier & J. Lidz (2010). When knowledge causes failure: Effects of subcategorization frequency in novel word learning. Presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston University. November 5-7, 2010.

### *Invited Talks*

**White, A. S.** (2017). Computational approaches to selection and complementation. Invited talk to be given at *Selectionfest 2017*. Humboldt University of Berlin and ZAS Berlin. Berlin, Germany. November 10-11, 2017.

**White, A. S.** (2017). Factoring word knowledge. Goergen Institute for Data Science Seminar Series, University of Rochester. March 2, 2017.

**White, A. S.** (2015). Learner as lexical semanticist. Distinguished Alumnus Address, Linguistics Undergraduate Research Conference, University of California, Santa Cruz. May 29, 2015.

## Teaching

### *Upcoming courses*

Sole Instructor, Unsupervised methods for linguistic data. 29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information, University of Toulouse, Summer 2017.

Co-Instructor, Computational lexical semantics. 29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information, University of Toulouse, Summer 2017.

### *Past courses*

Co-Instructor, CS 766: Selected Topics in Computational Semantics, Fall 2015.

*Responsibilities:* assisted in syllabus design and delivered lectures

Sole Instructor, LING 419L: Topics in Syntax, Learning Meanings, Fall 2014.

*Responsibilities:* designed syllabus, designed and delivered lectures/tutorials on computational tools, designed assignments, graded assignments, held office hours

Teaching Assistant, LING 410: Grammar and Meaning, Spring 2014.

*Responsibilities:* graded assignments and held office hours

Teaching Assistant, LING 240: Introduction to Linguistics (for majors), Spring 2013.

*Responsibilities:* graded assignments and held office hours

Teaching Assistant, LING 200: Introduction to Linguistics (for nonmajors), Spring 2012.

*Responsibilities:* lead weekly section, graded assignments, and held office hours

Teaching Assistant, LING 240: Introduction to Linguistics (for majors), Fall 2011.

*Responsibilities:* graded assignments and held office hours

## Service

### *Journal reviewing*

Journal of Semantics

Language Acquisition

### Chapter reviewing

Semantics in Acquisition, Trends in Language Acquisition Research (John Benjamins series)

### Conference reviewing

Semantics and Linguistic Theory (2017)

Amsterdam Colloquium (2017)

Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (2017)

Cognitive Science Society annual conference (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Boston University Conference on Language Development (2017)

International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (2017)

### Authored resources

#### Software

##### [PredPatt \(v1.0\)](#)

*Description:* Software framework for constructing extensible, interpretable, language-neutral predicate-argument extraction patterns on Universal Dependencies parses ([White et al. 2016a](#)).

#### Data

##### [MegaAttitude dataset \(v1.0\)](#)

*Description:* Extremely large-scale acceptability judgment study (>5,000 participants) investigating the syntactic distribution of clause-embedding verbs ([White & Rawlins 2016](#)).

##### [Semantic Proto-Roles dataset \(v2.x\)](#)

*Description:* Large-scale corpus annotation of predicate arguments for Dowty's proto-role entailments atop the English Universal Dependencies corpus v1.2 ([White et al. 2016a](#)).

##### [It-Happened dataset \(v1.0\)](#)

*Description:* Large-scale corpus annotation of event realis atop the English Universal Dependencies corpus v1.2 ([White et al. 2016a](#)).

##### [Spatial Human Simulation Paradigm dataset](#)

*Description:* Extremely large-scale human simulation paradigm study (>5,000 participants) investigating how distributional and semantic information are affected by context ([White et al. 2016b](#)).

##### [Implicative verbs dataset](#)

*Description:* Set of large-scale contradiction detection, plausibility judgment, and likelihood judgment experiments (~900 participants) investigating implicative verbs ([White 2016](#)).

##### [Partial control dataset](#)

*Description:* Set of medium-scale acceptability judgment experiments (~300 participants) investigating partial control ([White & Grano 2014](#)).

## Proficiencies

*Programming languages:* Python, R, Java, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

*Operating systems:* Debian/Ubuntu Linux, Arch Linux, Mac OS X

*Platforms:* Amazon Mechanical Turk

*Software:* Emacs, RStudio, SciPy stack, IPython/Jupyter, Theano, TensorFlow, PyMC, IntelliJ, Ibex

## References

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### [Benjamin Van Durme](#)

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<http://aswhite.net/cv.pdf>