

# Alex Warstadt

## Education

---

- 2017–*pres.* **PhD Linguistics, New York University**  
Thesis title: What Artificial Neural Networks Can Teach Us About Human Language Acquisition  
Advisor: Samuel R. Bowman; Committee members: Tal Linzen, Roger Levy  
Expected date of graduation: May 2022
- 2011–2015 **A.B. Linguistics, Brown University**  
magna cum laude, with honors, GPA 3.97  
Thesis title: Right-node Wrapping [pdf], Advisor: Pauline Jacobson
- A.B. Music, Brown University**  
magna cum laude, GPA 3.97

## Peer Reviewed Papers

---

*Note: Top-tier venues in NLP and computational linguistics are generally conference proceedings rather than journals.*  
{Author A, Author B} notation represents equal contribution between coauthors.

- 2021 **NOPE: A Corpus of Naturally-Occurring Presuppositions in English.** {Alicia Parrish, Sebastian Schuster, Alex Warstadt}, Omar Agha, Soo-Hwan Lee, Zhuoye Zhao, Samuel R. Bowman, Tal Linzen. *Proceedings of CoNLL*. [link]
- 2021 **What Ingredients Make for an Effective Crowdsourcing Protocol for Difficult NLU Data Collection Tasks?** Nikita Nangia, Saku Sugawara, Harsh Trivedi, Alex Warstadt, Clara Vania, Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of ACL*. [link]
- 2021 **Does Putting a Linguist in the Loop Improve NLU Data Collection?** Alicia Parrish, William Huang, Omar Agha, Soo-Hwan Lee, Nikita Nangia, Alex Warstadt, Karmanya Aggarwal, Emily Allaway, Tal Linzen, Samuel R. Bowman. *Findings of EMNLP*. [link]
- 2021 **CLiMP: A Benchmark for Chinese Language Model Evaluation.** Beilei Xiang, Changbing Yang, Yu Li, Alex Warstadt, Katharina Kann. *Proceedings of EACL*. [link]
- 2020 **When Do You Need Billions of Words of Pretraining Data?** {Yian Zhang, Alex Warstadt}, Xiaocheng Li, Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of ACL*. [link]
- 2020 **Learning which features matter: RoBERTa acquires a preference for linguistic generalizations (eventually).** Alex Warstadt, Yian Zhang, Xiaocheng Li, Haokun Liu, Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of EMNLP*. [link]
- 2020 **Can neural networks acquire a structural bias from raw linguistic data?** Alex Warstadt, Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. [link]
- 2020 **Are natural language inference models IMPPRESsive? Learning IMPLiCature and PRESupposition.** {Paloma Jeretič, Alex Warstadt}, Suvrat Bhooshan, Adina Williams. *Proceedings of ACL*. [link]
- 2020 **BLiMP: The Benchmark of Minimal Pairs for English.** Alex Warstadt, Alicia Parrish, Haokun Liu, Anhad Mohanane, Wei Peng, Sheng-Fu Wang, Samuel R. Bowman. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)*. [link]

- 2019 **Investigating BERT’s Knowledge of Language: Five Analysis Methods with NPIs.** {Alex Warstadt, Yu Cao, Ioana Grosu, Wei Peng, Hagen Blix, Yining Nie, Anna Alsop, Shikha Bordia, Haokun Liu, Alicia Parrish, Sheng-Fu Wang, Jason Phang, Anhad Mohananey, Phu Mon Htut, Paloma Jeretič}, and Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of EMNLP*. [link]
- 2019 **Neural Network Acceptability Judgments.** Alex Warstadt, Amanpreet Singh and Samuel R. Bowman. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL)*. [link]

## Papers Refereed (or Reviewed) as Abstracts

---

- 2021 **Testing gradient measures of relevance in discourse.** {Alex Warstadt, Omar Agha}. *To appear in Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26*. [link]
- 2020 **“Just” don’t ask: Exclusives and potential questions.** Alex Warstadt. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24*. [link]
- 2020 **Non-resolving responses to polar questions: A revision to the QUD theory of relevance.** {Omar Agha, Alex Warstadt}. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24*. [link]
- 2019 **Verb Argument Structure Alternations in Word and Sentence Embeddings.** {Katharina Kann, Alex Warstadt, Adina Williams}, Samuel R. Bowman. *Proceedings of SCiL 2*. [link]
- 2019 **Right-node wrapping: A combinatory account.** Alex Warstadt. *Proceedings for ESSLLI 2015 Workshop ‘Empirical Advances in Categorical Grammar’*. [link]

## Manuscripts

---

- 2019 **Linguistic Analysis of Pretrained Sentence Encoders with Acceptability Judgments.** Alex Warstadt, Samuel R. Bowman *ArXiv preprint* [link]
- 2015 **The Syntax of Coordination and Discontinuity in Categorical Grammar.** Alex Warstadt *Unpublished manuscript, presented at Tri-College Undergraduate Linguistics Conference* [link]

## Refereed Presentations without Proceedings Papers

---

- 2021 **The Dynamics of Refusal: A revision to the QUD theory of discourse structure.** *Talk given at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 31 (Brown University/Online)*.
- 2020 **BLiMP: The Benchmark of Minimal Pairs for English.** Co-presented with Alicia Parrish Work also with Haokun Liu, Anhad Mohananey, Wei Peng, Sheng-Fu Wang, Samuel R. Bowman. *Talk given at SCiL 3 (New Orleans)*.
- 2019 **Non-Resolving Responses to Polar Questions.** Co-presented with Omar Agha. *Talk given at SYNC (SUNY Stony Brook)*.
- 2018 **Acceptability Judgments from a Neural Network.** Work with Samuel R. Bowman. *Talk given at Annual Meeting of the LSA (Salt Lake City)*.
- 2015 **The Syntax of Coordination and Discontinuity in a Combinatory Categorical Grammar.** *Talk given at Tri-College Undergraduate Linguistics Conference (Haverford)*.

## Invited Talks

---

- 2021 **Testing the learnability of grammar for humans and machines: Investigations with artificial neural networks.** *New York University NLP and Text-as-Data Speaker Series*.
- 2020 **Learning Which Features Matter: RoBERTa Acquires a Preference for Linguistic Generalizations (Eventually).** *Bar-Ilan University NLP group seminar*.

- 2020 **Learning grammar from raw data: Case studies with acceptability judgments and neural networks.** *Indiana University ClingDing discussion group.*
- 2020 **Learning Acceptability Judgments from Text Alone.** *Max Planck–NYU Center for Language, Music, and Emotion (CLaME) workshop on Language.*  
(Stand-in for Samuel R. Bowman, who was the invited speaker and wrote the talk)
- 2019 **Discovering Structure: Can neural networks acquire a bias for structural generalization?** *New York University Syntax Brown Bag.*
- 2018 **Just Refuses to Answer the QUD.** *New York University Semantics Group.*

## Awards and Grants

---

- 2021 **Outstanding reviewer for ACL.**
- 2019 **NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Research Initiation Initiative.** \$175,000, 24 months Can Low-Bias Machine Learners Acquire English Grammar? Deep Learning and Linguistic Acceptability. Samuel R. Bowman (PI)  
*Note: A. Warstadt was an equal co-author on the proposal.*
- 2017-2022 **McCracken Fellowship.** 5 years, NYU internal
- 2015 **Outstanding work in the linguistics concentration.** Brown University
- 2015 **Sigma Xi scientific research society**
- 2014 **Phi Beta Kappa**
- 2014 **Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award.** \$3570, 3 months Brown University internal
- 2011 **Valedictorian** Sharon High School

## Teaching

---

- 2021 **Guest Lecturer** Natural Language Understanding and Computational Semantics. New York University. Professor Samuel R. Bowman.
- 2021 **Guest Lecturer** Machine Learning and Language Understanding. New York University. Professor Samuel R. Bowman.
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant** Patterns in Language. New York University. Professor Lucas Champollion.
- 2020 **Guest Lecturer** Machine Learning and Language Understanding. New York University. Professor Samuel R. Bowman.
- 2020 **Primary Instructor** Language. New York University. Co-taught with Paloma Jeretič.
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant, Guest Lecturer** Language. New York University. Professor Gary Thoms.

## Reviewing

---

- 2021 *Association for Computational Linguistics Rolling Review (ARR). October cycle.*
- 2021 *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR).*
- 2021 *The Joint Conference of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (ACL-IJCNLP).*
- 2021 *Frontiers in Psychology, section Language Sciences.*
- 2021 *Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL).*
- 2021 *The SIGNLL Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL).*

- 2020 *Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics - Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT)*.
- 2020 *Language and Cognition*.
- 2020 *The 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.
- 2020 *Society for Computation in Linguistics (SCiL)*.
- 2020 *The 24th Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL)*.
- 2020 *The 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- 2019 *Stony Brook/Yale/NYU/Columbia Linguistics Conference (SYNC)*

## Other Service

---

- 2018-2021 **Colloquium Committee** Department of linguistics. New York University.
- 2019 **Meal coordinator** ML<sup>2</sup> Lab Meeting. New York University.

## Research-Related Work

---

- 2018 **Java Developer** Lambda Calculator. Under Professor Lucas Champollion. New York University.
- 2014 **Research Assistant** Sentence and Discourse Processing Lab. Under Professor Laura Kertz. Brown University.

## Industry Work

---

- 2016-2017 **Research and Development Engineer** IPsoft, Inc. New York, NY.
- 2015-2016 **Java Developer** IBM Watson Health. Yorktown Heights, NY.

## Technologies

---

- Expert Python, Pandas, Matplotlib, LaTeX, Regex
- Proficient Java, NLTK, Pytorch, SpaCy, Git, Bash
- Novice R, Scala, WebPPL, HTML

## Natural Languages

---

- Native English
- Proficient Spanish
- Beginner German, Hebrew
- Fieldwork Q'anjob'al (Mayan)