

YOUR BACKGROUND

How would you personally define psycholinguistics, and which specific aspects of your perspective differ from those of your colleagues?

What first got you interested in wanting to pursue psycholinguistics as a professional career? Specific mentor/hero?

Out of all three of your degrees, which subject interests you the most?

As a college student, I have found it hard to see that one field that interests me enough to follow a career – is there a point in your life or an influence that made you decide to do what you've done?

I see you worked at the Central Institute for the Deaf. How did you become interested in this area of study? What did your job there involve? Could you tell us something about the differences or similarities between sign language and spoken language?

What was the most influential experience you had as an undergraduate student?

YOUR RESEARCH

Considering everyone you have published with, who has been the most influential and why?

What would you consider to be the overarching questions or organizing principles that have directed your research throughout your career?

How do you see your research fitting into the larger context of cognitive science?

What effect(s) do you hope your research will have on society? or What is the practical application of your research?

How is the research done in cognitive science useful to your area of study?

Are there any specific research questions that you might be interested in investigating but that don't fit well within the context of your professional work?

In general, what kind of real life improvements can be gained as a result of linguistic research and experimentation?

I'm sure it is different from project to project, but in general, what kind of things are you trying to accomplish with each of your cognitive experiments?

Have you ever done an experiment on a subject, of which there has been no previous research on? If so, what resources did you use to map your way through an appropriate experiment concerning that subject?

How much time does the typical linguistic experiment take, from determining a hypothesis to translating the results of the experiment?

How do you determine which language to test with what cognitive processes? Are there certain languages

that are easier to use in experimentation than others? Or are there certain languages that can only be used to test specific types of linguistic processes?

What unique insights does a focus on second language acquisition provide into the brain's function that are distinct from those suggested by primary language acquisition?

In our class we have been exposed to discussion focused on the rewards and criticisms of computer analysis and its' potential for progression in research of brain processes. Your research site for psycholinguistics mentions work with brain imaging methods including electroencephalography (EEG), magnetoencephalography (MEG), and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), in what ways have you seen your study of psycholinguistics evolve in conjunction with the constant growth of technology?

Are computer simulations a significant part of your current/past research? If so, why? If not, how come?

What are you most challenged by in your pursuit to understand the processes of the brain in relation to language? What about your work makes you the most excited for the future of brain study?

What is the most interesting type of research that you have been a party of? Why?

Out of all your published articles which one has received the most attention? What made it so significant? Are there any well-respected psychologists that you have worked within these articles?

In regards to learning/acquiring a second language and distinguishing new lexical tones, is there any research suggesting a change in ability to pick up new lexical tones and languages in the future, such as learning a third language, fourth language, and so on? (Does it become easier, or does it remain just as difficult over time)

In light of the article about cortical modification (Wang, Sereno et. al) as a result of training to distinguish lexical tones, is it possible, or has it ever been the case that someone may lose the ability to distinguish lexical tones after an extended period of time? (Such as a child who may know a language while young but forgets it later) If so, is there any sign of cortical modification and/or degradation?

*I once read about the idea of language/cultural aspects in animals—birds in the wild tend to copy songs from other birds after hearing them, akin to the evolution of language. This question is geared a bit more at the evolution of language and lexical tones: Is there any research guided towards lexical tones among wildlife? (Such as chimpanzees and other animals with some less complex form of communication) If so, are there any indications of regional lexical tones (such as different languages among humans) from animals of the same species? Furthermore, are these animals less able to communicate with animals of differing lexical tones, despite their species being homogenetic? **(Simply put, do animals utilize lexical tones in communication?)***

Does the tone based language used in Mandarin Chinese provide a wider range of emotional expressions than our word based language?

On your website you state that your approach is seeking converging evidence from language comprehension and language production, with the ultimate goal of relating the data to specific brain

processes. What approaches have you taken to gather that evidence and how close have you come to reaching your goal?

What theories in cognitive science do you hold true today that you maybe didn't believe in when you first entered the field?

If funding and academic politics were not an issue, what would you most like to research?

Have you ever discovered something that ended up being completely opposite of what you were expecting ? And If so what were they?

Have you ever had to change your previous foundational of thought regarding the field of cognitive science because a good amount of evidence confirmed these assumptions as having no truth value?

How closely is linguistic research intertwined with research in the areas of psychology as well as with other departments? What are the strengths and weaknesses of approaching questions of cognitive science with depth from one research area or breadth from many research areas?

YOUR JOB

What would you consider to be your most and least favorite aspects of academia?

What could you imagine yourself doing if you were not in academia?

What specific advice would you have for someone on the undergraduate level interested in pursuing an academic career?

I understand that you teach many different courses here at KU is there one class you enjoy more than the others? And what about it do you like best?

What are the reasons that you ended up at the university of Kansas

As a women in the psychology major, do you have a family? If you do, how do you manage work and a family? If you don't, have you ever thought about having one and the repercussions it would have on the family? Do you have anything you would do differently when it comes to family if you did it over again?

What makes a respectable psychologist?

YOUR FIELD

Most of your papers have three or more authors. Is most linguistics research done in groups?

What long term trends do you foresee in the direction that cognitive science is taking?

How does the research of neurobiologists contribute to your research in the field of cognitive science?

Are there any aspects of language that are not expressible in a mechanistic or algorithmic manner, and if so, what are they?

Do you believe that it is possible—and if so, how likely would it be—for a complete, artificial implementation of language to be achieved?

What do you feel are the most formidable barriers facing artificial intelligence with regard to the ongoing research into natural language?

In the field of psycholinguistics, what role, if any, do computational models like Connectionism play in the description of language and how it works in the brain. Are computational models generally accepted?

Are there any areas of research in Linguistics that are 'dead?' In other words, are there parts that have been pretty much completely figured out and no new theories or data have been found in the past decade or two?

Do you have colleagues who refuse to accept the importance of evolution in their field of study? Is their research less useful and informed as a result? How do you deal with them?

Does Linguistics belong more in the social sciences or humanities? Why?

Next to Homo Sapiens, what is the next closest animal in line for audible speech? i.e. which animal is the most developed for language?

Over time, we have seen that languages change, but yet they are all really complex. However, are there any noticed changes in the linguistic processes that happen in the mind as time has gone on? For example, it is expected that humans will be able to process speech sounds faster than we can now?

It seems that many pithy words are de facto being removed from the English language because they simply are not being used any more? How would you describe the changing lexicon of the English language? Is it shrinking? If so, do you think this will constrain our thoughts and affect our ability to communicate?

Why is it so important to record languages, e.g. many Native American languages, before they are completely forgotten?

Assuming computers can develop in an appropriate manner, do you think we could use them (and an appropriate heuristic/algorithm) to create a 'perfect' language (one that is devoid of confusing elements, and is very simple to learn for any human)?

Are there any 'natural selectors' acting on populations today that deal directly with language? Or has language reached its peak biologically and is now mostly a matter of cognition?

In your opinion, what is the single biggest problem with language today?

Do you think that a psycholinguistic investigation of language should/could help change the way theoretical linguists analyze the structure of language? Or are the structure of language and the particular way we psychologically parse the language two separate domains of analysis?

What do you feel the most important advancement in cognitive science/psycholinguistics is in your lifetime and do you have any theories on what potential future discoveries/claims that have yet to be made might be?

What do you feel is the greatest flaw of cognitive science? Have you postulated any kind of solution?

What parts of linguistic-studies do you feel is still the least explored, or what area do you feel is the most important to us?

What do you imagine the evolutionary benefit is/would have been of having a critical period of language acquisition?

In your opinion, how has the area of linguistics changed since you began studying it?

What do you think are the most important contributions that have been made to the field in the last 5-10 years?