Cynthia A. C. Lukyanenko

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Department of English
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Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, George Mason University   Aug 2021–present

Term Assistant Professor of Linguistics, George Mason University   Jan 2019–Aug 2021

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Linguistics, George Mason University   Aug 2017–Dec 2018

Postdoctoral Scholar, Penn State University   Sep 2014–Aug 2017

Education

PhD Developmental Psychology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign   2014

MA Developmental Psychology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign   2011

BA Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park   2008

Publications

* indicates a student author

Edited Volumes

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** [Eds.] (in press). *Perspectives on Negation: Views from Across the Language Sciences*. Mouton de Gruyter.

Journal Articles

*Alalawi, H. & **Lukyanenko, C.** (under review). Acquisition of noun-adjective agreement in Modern Standard Arabic as an L2. *Journal of Arabic Linguistics*.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (2023). A corpus analysis of variable agreement in child and caregiver English. *Language Variation and Change*.

Sandberg, C. W., Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (2022). Comprehension of vernacular features in aphasia. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.

Lidz, J., **Lukyanenko, C.**, & Sutton, M. (2021). The hunt for structure-dependent interpretation: The case of Principle C. *Cognition*.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (2019). Learning the plural from variable input: An eye-tracking study of Chilean children's plural comprehension. *Journal of Monolingual and Bilingual Speech*.

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (2019). Asymmetries in the acceptability and felicity of English negative dependencies: Where Negative Concord and Negative Polarity (do not) overlap. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (2019). Unacceptable grammars? An eye-tracking study of English Negative Concord. *Language and Cognition*.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (2016). Where are the cookies? 2- and 3-year-olds use number-marked verbs to anticipate upcoming nouns. *Cognition*.

Lukyanenko, C., Conroy, A., & Lidz, J. (2014). Is she patting Katie? Constraints on pronominal reference in 30-month-olds. *Language Learning and Development*.

Book Chapters

Lukyanenko, C., & Blanchette, F. (in press). Perspectives on Negation: A View from Across the Language Sciences. In F. Blanchette & C. Lukyanenko [Eds.] *Perspectives on Negation: Views from Across the Language Sciences*. Mouton de Gruyter.

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (in press). The permeating syntax of negation: Insights from English negative dependencies. In F. Blanchette & C. Lukyanenko [Eds.] *Perspectives on Negation: Views from Across the Language Sciences*. Mouton de Gruyter.

Conference Proceedings

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (2018). Children's and adults' processing of variable agreement patterns: Agreement neutralization in English. *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development.*

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (2014). 30-month-olds use verb agreement features in online sentence processing. *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development.*

Sutton, M., **Lukyanenko, C.**, & Lidz, J. (2011). The onset of Principle C at 30 months: The role of vocabulary, syntactic development and processing efficiency. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development.*

Dissertation & Theses

Lukyanenko, C. (2014). *Coming to Agreement: Representation and processing of English subject-verb agreement.* Dissertation, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Lukyanenko, C. (2011). *Where are the cookies? 3-year-olds use number-marked verbs to anticipate upcoming nouns.* Masters Thesis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Lukyanenko, C. (2008). *Binding Principles B and C in 30-month-olds.* Undergraduate Honors Thesis, University of Maryland, College Park.

Research Funding

Research Grant, NSF Linguistics $380k – 2023-2026
    Blanchette, F., **Lukyanenko, C.**, Reed, P., & Grieser, J.
    "What's in a grammar?: A micro-comparative study of American Englishes"
PI Opportunity GRA Tuition Support Pilot Program, GMU Graduate Division $10k – 2024-2025
    Tuition support for GRA on Sponsored Research Award
Research Equipment, College of Humanities and Social Sciences $37k – 2021
    EyeLink Portable Duo eye-tracker, Linguistics Program.

Presentations

Conference Sessions Organized

Lukyanenko, C., & Blanchette, F. (January 2020). Perspectives on Negation: A cross-disciplinary discussion. Workshop at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America.

Invited Talks

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (March 2024). What's in a grammar? Microsyntactic variation in American English negative dependencies. REEDStalks Lecture Series. Re-examining dialect syntax: A scientific research network on dialect syntax.

Lukyanenko, C. (April 2022). Keynote Speaker, Virginia Area Linguistics Conference. Department of Linguistics, College of William & Mary.

Lukyanenko, C. (March 2022). Agreement variation in child and caregiver English. Applied Developmental Psychology Colloquium, Department of Psychology, George Mason University.

Miller, K., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (November 2021). Learning the plural from variable input: An eye-tracking study of Chilean children's plural comprehension. (Invited discussion). ProVar: Processamento e percepção de variação, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro.

Blanchette, F., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (October 2021). What's in a grammar? Variation in American English negation. Sociolinguistics Lab Meeting. Linguistics Department, New York University.

Lukyanenko, C. (March 2021). There's things to learn: Acquiring variable English subject-verb agreement. Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto.

Blanchette, F., Sandberg, C., & **Lukyanenko, C.** (March 2021). Acceptability and comprehension of a vernacular feature in aphasia. Center for Language Science, Pennsylvania State University.

Lukyanenko, C. (March 2020). English subject-verb agreement: Variability, representation and processing in acquisition. Integrative Language Sciences and Technology Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania.

Lukyanenko, C. (February 2020). English subject-verb agreement: Variability, representation and processing in acquisition. Linguistics Colloquium, University of Washington.

Lukyanenko, C. (June 2015). First language acquisition of morphosyntax: a proposal and cross-linguistic predictions. Memory and Language Research Group, University of Granada, Granada, Spain.

Lukyanenko, C. (May 2015). Acquiring agreement: First language acquisition of morphosyntax. Language Science Colloquium, Center for Language Science, Pennsylvania State University.

Lukyanenko, C. (January 2014). Coming to agreement: Representing subject-verb agreement in acquisition. Language Processing Brown Bag, Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Lukyanenko, C. (November 2013). Representing agreement: 3-year-olds' use of agreeing verb-forms in online sentence comprehension. Cognitive Psychology Brown Bag, Northwestern University.

Conference Presentations

* indicates a student author

*Alotaibi, A. & **Lukyanenko, C.** (May 2024). Perception of regional spoken Arabic by native speakers. Poster presented at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

*Alalawi, H. & **Lukyanenko, C.** (February 2024). Acquisition of noun-adjective agreement in Modern Standard Arabic as an L2. Poster presented at the 37th Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics.

*Aldakheelallah, H. & **Lukyanenko, C.** (March 2023). Native listeners' sensitivity to morphophonological cues on the Arabic definite article. Paper presented at the 36th Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics.

*Aldakheelallah, H. & **Lukyanenko, C.** (March 2023). Native listeners' sensitivity to morphophonological cues on the Arabic definite article. Poster presented at the 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (November 2021). Acquisition of stable variation: A corpus study of English subject-verb agreement. Paper presented at the 46th Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Lukyanenko, C., & Blanchette, F. (March 2020). What's in a grammar? Mainstream speakers' processing of English negative concord. Poster presented at the 33rd annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (online).

Blanchette, F., **Lukyanenko, C.**, & Muschler, K. (January 2019). Processing negative concord and double negation in context: An eye-tracking study. Paper presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (November 2017). Children's and adults' processing of variable agreement patterns: Agreement neutralization in English. Paper presented at the 42nd Boston University Conference on Language Development.

*Featherstone, M., **Lukyanenko, C.**, & Miller, K. (March 2017). Processing variable number agreement: Evaluating /s/-lenition in comprehension. Poster presented at the 30th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (September 2016). Learning the plural from variable input: An eye-tracking study. Paper presented at GALANA 7.

Lukyanenko, C., & Miller, K. (October 2015). Agreeing when to disagree: A corpus analysis of variable agreement neutralization in caregiver and child speech. Poster presented at New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (March 2015). Where are the scissors? Using verb agreement to anticipate grammatical and notional number. Paper presented at the 2015 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (March 2014). Abstract agreement: Children's sensitivity to subject-verb agreement in comprehension does not require knowledge of specific lexical co-occurrences. Poster at the 27th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (November 2013). 30-month-olds use verb agreement in online sentence processing. Paper presented at the 38th Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (March 2013). Here comes the subject! Listeners use number-marked verbs to predict subject number. Poster at the 26th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (November 2012) Agreeing with conjoined subjects: Three-year-olds know that one and one are (usually) two. Paper presented at the 37th Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (March 2012). Grammatical or notional number? Three-year-olds' production and comprehension of verb agreement. Poster at the 25th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Lukyanenko, C., & Fisher, C. (November 2010). Where are the cookies? Three-year-olds use number-marked verbs to anticipate noun number in online sentence interpretation. Paper presented at the 35th Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Sutton, M., **Lukyanenko, C.**, & Lidz, J. (November 2010). The onset of Principle C at 30 months: The role of vocabulary, syntactic development and processing efficiency. Paper presented at the 35th Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Lukyanenko, C. & Conroy, A. (November 2007). Principle C: Evidence from 30-month-olds. Paper presented at the 32nd Boston University Conference on Language Development.

Ongoing Research Collaborations

Subject-verb Agreement Processing in Adult Learners of English   2023-present
with Theres Grüter, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Microvariation in American English Negation Project   2018–present
with Frances Blanchette, Penn State, Paul Reed, University of Alabama & Jessi Grieser, University of Michigan

Mentorship and Research Supervision

Laboratory Supervision

Processing and Acquisition of Language at Mason (PALM), Director   2021–present
Language acquisition and psycholinguistics research laboratory with graduate and undergraduate research assistant employees, space and equipment for research data collection, regular lab meetings for current and prospective students, training sessions and mentoring.

Doctoral Dissertation Supervision

A. Alotaibi   PhD 2024
"Perception of regional spoken Arabic by native speakers"

H. Aldakheelallah   PhD 2023
"Use of morphophonological cues in noun processing: The case of the Arabic definite article"

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

M. Alrashed   PhD 2023
"Loanword adaptation and emphasis spread in Qassimi Arabic"

A. Pearlswig   PhD expected 2026
"Word order in Akuzipik"

N. Braccia   PhD expected 2026
"Comparing first and second language morphological acquisition"

S. Alghonaim   PhD expected 2026
"Mnemonics as a tool for teaching English prepositions to speakers of other languages"

S. Alfhadhil PhD expected 2026
  "A partial grammar of the 'white dialect' of Najdi Arabic"

Qualifying Paper Supervision

2024

A. Almulhim, "The acquisition of the dual in Saudi Arabic: A perception study" chair
L. Alnumair, "The perception of non-concord in there+BE constructions among L2 English learners" chair
O. Alghamdi, "Language attitude by content consumers: English in Saudi social media" chair
R. Alshikh, "Investigating children's perception of regional Arabic dialects in Saudi Arabia" chair
A. Alarabi, "The effects of unstressed vowel deletion on syllable structure in Urban Hijazi Arabic" reader
A. Aldukhayel, "The impact of massed and distributed learning on grammatical cross-association" reader
H. Alalawi, "Examining Voice Onset Time in bisyllabic English words among Saudi L2 learners" reader
J. Miklas, "Turkish causatives are not obligatorily recursive: The role of function" reader
K. Bryant, "Implicit vocabulary acquisition through video game play" reader

2023

H. Alalawi, "Acquisition of Noun-Adjective Agreement in Modern Standard Arabic as an L2" chair
A. Alarabi, "Using mnemonics to teach the English present tense paradigm to L1 Arabic speakers" reader
H. Todd, "An acoustic speech analysis of neurotypical actors in autistic roles in media" reader
J. Miklas, "Duration and CF0 as cues to the intervocalic flap's underlying stop in American English" reader
S. Alfadhil, "Investigation and documentation of Najdi Arabic compounds" reader
S. Alghonaim, "The spirantization of /dˤ/ and /ðˤ/ in Najdi Arabic" reader

2022

S. Alghonaim, "Teaching English time prepositions using mnemonics" reader
N. Braccia, "The effect of displaced foreign accent detection on foreign accentedness ratings" reader

Other Student Research Supervision

J. Miklas & Z. Suarez "L2 English speakers' use of agreement in comprehension" Spring 2023–present
  Independent Student Research, Linguistics Program, George Mason University
R. Chon, "Phonetic cues to plurality in Eastern Andalusian Spanish" Summer 2018
  Summer Internship, Linguistics Program, George Mason University
  New analyses of recorded audio. Rising HS senior gained acoustic analysis, data visualization, statistical skills.

Methods and Statistics Advising

Research Methods and Statistics Mentorship 2019–present
  Provide hands-on experimental design and statistics mentorship for linguistics PhD and MA students.

Teaching

Teaching Awards & Recognition

Nominee, George Mason University Teaching Excellence Award 2023

Certifications Earned

Online Course Development Fundamentals Summer 2020
  7-week online course. Adapted in-person curriculum for engaging, accessible distance-learning.

Linguistics Program, George Mason University

* fully online course

LING 100: Human Language Fall 2022
    Proposed, developed and taught. Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences.
    Introductory tour of language and linguistics for undergraduate students.
LING 480: First Language Acquisition Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021, 2022, 2024
    Redesigned and taught. Mason Core Apex. Research-intensive course.
    First Language Acquisition for upper-level undergraduate students.
LING 486: Syntax 1 Spring 2019, 2020, 2021*
    Introduction to generative syntax for undergraduate students.
LING 522: Modern English Grammar Spring 2018
    English syntax for Master's students in the TESOL certificate program.
LING 641/741: First Language Acquisition Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2022, 2024
    Redesigned and taught. First Language Acquisition for MA/PhD students.
LING 770: Research Methods Fall 2017, 2018, 2019, Spring 2021*, 2022, 2023, 2024
    Introduction to research methods and statistics for incoming PhD students.
LING 786: Syntax A Spring 2019
    Introduction to generative syntax for graduate students.
LING 800: Advanced Seminar in Linguistics Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, Fall 2024
    Fall 2024: The Psycholinguistics of Agreement
    Spring 2023: Cross-linguistic Effects in Bilingual Child Language Acquisition
    Spring 2022: Language Acquisition and Linguistic Variation
    Spring 2020: Development of Processing
    Spring 2019: The Syntax and Psycholinguistics of Negation.
    Spring 2018: Bilingual Child Language Acquisition.
LING 898: Qualifying Paper Seminar Spring 2024

Guest Lectures

PSYC 615: Language Development, "Finding the connections between words" Spring 2024
    Instructor: Adam Winsler
ENGH 301: Introduction to Linguistics, "Patterns in English negation" Fall 2022
    Instructor: Tamara Harvey
LING 306: Introduction to Linguistics, "Child language acquisition" Fall 2020
    Instructor: Sylvia Schreiner
PSYC 615: Language Development, "Preschoolers' acquisition of subject-verb agreement" Spring 2019
    Instructor: Adam Winsler
LING 686: Special Topics - Morphology, "Acquisition of morphology" Fall 2018
    Instructor: Sylvia Schreiner

Graduate Student Professional Development

Linguistics Lunchtime Seminar Sessions 2019–present
    February 2024: Introduction to R
    January 2024: Designing a Conference Poster
    March 2023: Citation Practices and Plagiarism
    March 2023: Choosing Where to Submit Your Work
    February 2021: Writing Conference Abstracts
    February 2020: CV Workshop
    February 2019: Designing your First Experiment
Eye-tracking Methods Training Seminar Spring 2022
    Session 1: Hands-on introduction
    Session 2: Experimental design and data analysis

Service

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Intellectual Life of the College Committee (interim) — Spring 2023
CHSS Classroom Spotlight for admitted students — February 2023

English Department

Advisory Committee to the Chair — 2024-2025
Adjunct Committee — 2022-2024
Faculty Search Committee, Phonetics/Laboratory Phonology — 2022-2023

Linguistics Program

Organizer, Linguistics Lunchtime Seminar — 2023–present
Curriculum and Program Development — 2019–present
Co-organizer, Linguistics Colloquium — 2017–present

Service to the Field

NSF Advisory Panel for Linguistics, October 30–November 1 — Fall 2024
Journal Reviewing

Applied Psycholinguistics	*Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*
Cognition	*J. of Exp. Psych.: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*
Cognitive Processing	*J. of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*
Developmental Psychology	*Language Acquisition*
Frontiers in Psychology	*Language Learning and Development*
Journal of Child Language	*Languages*
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology	*Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*

Conference and Funding Agency Reviewing

Boston University Conference on Language Development
Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting
International Congress of Infant Studies, Communication Panel
NSF Dissertation Completion Grant

Outreach & *Service to the Community*

GMU Child Learning Labs: Arts in the Parks, recruitment and outreach program — 2022–present
US Consulate General Chennai, "International Student Admissions & Success", panel discussion — July 2024
Judge, Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair — March 2019
Language and Linguistics Day, Center for Language Science — April 2017
Penn State Exploration U, hands-on language and cognitive science activities for all ages — November 2015
UIUC Developmental Psychology Labs recruitment and outreach program — 2008–2014

Skills

Research
General: Experimental design, Recruitment, Data collection, Data analysis, Communication.
Techniques: Eye-tracking (reading, visual world), Elicitation, Survey measures, Corpus analysis.
Analysis: Data visualization, Descriptive statistics, Linear modeling, Non-parametric statistics.
Languages
English (native), Italian (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate), Russian (intermediate), ASL (beginner)