

Annika Heuser

aheuser@sas.upenn.edu

Department of Linguistics, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104

Education

University of Pennsylvania

PhD Candidate in Linguistics

Advisor: Charles Yang

GPA: 3.97/4.0

Expected: May 2027

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MEng in Computation & Cognition (Computer Science & Brain and Cognitive Sciences; 6-9)

Thesis: [Transformer-Maze](#)

GPA: 5.0/5.0

2022

BS in in Computation & Cognition (Computer Science & Brain and Cognitive Sciences; 6-9)

MIT EECS | CS+HASS Undergraduate Research and Innovation Scholar

GPA: 4.7/5.0

Research and Teaching Interests

Child Language Acquisition, Computational Linguistics, Phonetics, Experimental and Corpus Linguistics, Phonology, Psycholinguistics, Natural Language Processing

Publications

Le Xuan Chan & **Annika Heuser** (2025). Relative cue weighting in multilingual stop voicing production. *Proceedings of Interspeech 2025*. [\[Link\]](#) **Nominated for Best Student Paper.*

Annika Heuser (2025). Discovering Phonological Representations: The Case of French Liaison. In *Proceedings of the 49th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 49)*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Héctor Javier Vázquez Martínez, **Annika Heuser**, Charles Yang, Jordan Kodner (Under review). Evaluating the existence proof. LLMs as cognitive models. In Jose-Luis Mendivil (Ed.), *Artificial Knowledge of Language: A Linguists' Perspective on its Nature, Origins and Use* (Chapter 7, pp. 110-135). Vernon Press.

Annika Heuser & Jianjing Kuang (2024). Information-theoretic hypothesis generation of relative cue weighting for the voicing contrast. *Proceedings of Interspeech 2024*. [\[Link\]](#)

Annika Heuser, Tyler Kendall, Migual Del Rio, Quinten McNamara, Nischal Bhandari, Corey Miller, & Migüel Jetté (2024). Quantification of stylistic differences in human- and ASR-produced transcripts of African American English. *Proceedings of Interspeech 2024*. [\[Link\]](#)

Héctor Javier Vázquez Martínez, **Annika Heuser**, Charles Yang, Jordan Kodner (2023). Evaluating Neural Language Models as Cognitive Models of Language Acquisition. In *Proceedings of the 1st GenBench Workshop on (Benchmarking) Generalisation in NLP*. [\[Link\]](#)

Annika Heuser & Edward Gibson (2023). Transformer-Maze: An Accessible Incremental Processing Measurement Tool. In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* (Vol. 45, No. 45). [\[Link\]](#)

Annika Heuser (2022). Transformer-Maze. *Master's of Engineering Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*. [\[Link\]](#)

Annika Heuser & Polina Tsvilodub (2021). Modeling German Word Order Acquisition via Bayesian Inference. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics 2021*. [\[Link\]](#)

Annika Heuser & Polina Tsvilodub (2021). Comparing Symbolic Models of Language via Bayesian Inference (Student Abstract). In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*. [\[Link\]](#)

Presentations

- 2025 **Annika Heuser**. Emergence of phonemic categories through the acquisition of a lexicon. Poster to be presented at the 50th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), 6-9 November, 2025, Boston, MA, USA.
- 2025 Le Xuan Chan and **Annika Heuser**. Relative cue weighting in multilingual stop voicing production. Poster presented at Interspeech 2025, 17-21 August, 2025, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2025 **Annika Heuser**. Discovering Phonological Representations: The Case of French Liaison. Paper presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2025), 9-12 January, 2025, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- 2024 **Annika Heuser** and Charles Yang. Discovering Phonological Representations: The Case of French Liaison. Poster presented at the 49th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), 7-10 November, 2024, Boston, MA, USA.
- 2024 **Annika Heuser** and Jianjing Kuang. Information-theoretic hypothesis generation of relative cue weighting for the voicing contrast. Poster presented at Interspeech 2024, 1-5 September, 2024. Kos Island, Greece.

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- 2024 **Annika Heuser**, Tyler Kendall, Migual Del Rio, Quinten McNamara, Nischal Bhandari, Corey Miller, & Migüel Jetté. Quantification of stylistic differences in human- and ASR-produced transcripts of African American English. Poster presented at Interspeech 2024, 1-5 September, 2024. Kos Island, Greece.
- 2024 **Annika Heuser**, Héctor Javier Vázquez Martínez, and Charles Yang. The Learnability of Syntactic Islands. Co-presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS), 26-27 January, 2024, Cambridge, MA, USA.
- 2023 Héctor Javier Vázquez Martínez, **Annika Heuser**, Charles Yang, and Jordan Kodner. Evaluating Neural Language Models as Cognitive Models of Language Acquisition. Paper co-presented at the 1st GenBench Workshop on (Benchmarking) Generalisation in NLP at the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP). 6-10 December 2023, Singapore.
- 2023 **Annika Heuser** and Edward Gibson. Transformer-Maze: An Accessible Incremental Processing Measurement Tool. Poster presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 26-29 July, 2023, Sydney, Australia. (Virtual)
- 2023 **Annika Heuser** and Edward Gibson. Transformer-Maze: An Accessible Incremental Processing Measurement Tool. Poster presented at 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, 9-11 March, 2023, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- 2021 **Annika Heuser** and Polina Tsvilodub. Modeling German Word Order Acquisition via Bayesian Inference. Paper presented at Society for Computation in Linguistics conference, 15 February 2021. (Virtual)
- 2021 **Annika Heuser** and Polina Tsvilodub. Comparing Symbolic Models of Language via Bayesian Inference. Poster presented at Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Conference Student Abstract and Poster Program, 4-7 February 2021. (Virtual)

Industry Experience

Speech Science Intern June, 2023 - March, 2024

Rev.com, *Research & Development Team, remote*

- Investigated sources of bias in ASR development
- Published and presented findings at Interspeech 2024

Natural Language Processing Intern June, 2021 - August, 2021

Virtualitics, *Research & Development Team, remote*

- Improved natural language querying system of data analytics and 3D visualization platform
- Customer-facing product updated with these changes in the next release cycle

Bioinformatics Intern

June, 2019 - August, 2019

Hummingbird Diagnostics, Heidelberg, Germany

- Built pipeline with cox survival regression, leave one-out cross validation, and parallel processing to determine whether patients' miRNA expression levels can predict medication efficacy

Siri Team Intern

June, 2018 - August, 2018

Apple, Inc., Cupertino, CA, USA

- Wrote engineering documentation for the Siri team
- Finalist in Apple's annual intern innovation contest, iContest

Awards, Scholarships, and Funding

2024	Interspeech 2024 ISCA Student Travel Grant
2024	President Gutmann Leadership Award , University of Pennsylvania
2023-2025	Language and Communication Sciences (LCS) Program , University of Pennsylvania
2023-2024	SAS Dean's Travel Subvention , University of Pennsylvania
2023	GAPSA Research Student Individual Grant for Fall 2022 , University of Pennsylvania
2022-2027	Benjamin Franklin Fellowship , University of Pennsylvania
2020	Walle Nauta Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching , Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2017-2021	CRCA Scholar Athlete & Patriot League Academic Honor Roll , Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Teaching Experience

Formal Linguistics (LING 0500) Teaching Assistant for Professor Florian Schwarz Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania	Spring 2025
Language Acquisition (LING 2700) Teaching Assistant for Dr. Aletheia Cui Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania	Fall 2024
Introduction to Linguistics (LING 0001) Teaching Assistant for Dr. Aletheia Cui Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania	Spring 2024
Tutorial in Linguistics (LING 4000) Teaching Assistant for Dr. Aletheia Cui Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania	Fall 2023

Mentor and Curriculum Team Executive Board Member

June, 2022 - August, 2023

Momentum

- Taught underserved high school students about AI and the college application process during summer capstone program
- Revised next summer's curriculum based on teaching experience

Introduction to EECS via Interconnected Embedded Systems (6.08)

Spring 2021, 2022

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Joe Steinmeyer

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

Artificial Intelligence (6.034/6.844)

Fall, 2021

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kimberle Koile

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

Computational Psycholinguistics (9.19/9.190)

Fall, 2020

Teaching Assistant for Professor Roger Levy

Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT

Other Research Experience

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Summer, 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Computational Linguistics Lab

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

PI: Professor Robert Berwick

SuperUROP (Advanced Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program)

Fall, 2019 - Spring, 2020

Title: Modeling German Language Acquisition

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Advisors: Professor Robert Berwick and Professor Suzanne Flynn

Service and Leadership Experience

University of Pennsylvania

2024 - Present	Penn Graduate Linguistics Society (GradLings) President
2024	Penn Linguistics Conference 48 – Invited Speakers Chair
2023 - 2025	Integrated Language Science and Technology (ILST) Seminar Organizer
2023 - 2025	Linguistics Department Representative to SASGov
2023 - Present	Penn Working Papers in Linguistics Copy Editor
2023	Penn Linguistics Conference 47 – Co-Chair & Content Committee Chair
2022 - 2024	GradLings Prospective Student Liaison
2022 - 2023	GradLings Social Chair

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2020 - 2022 MIT Casino Rueda (Cuban-style salsa) Club President
2019 - 2020 Captain of NCAA Division 1 Varsity Rowing Team

Other Organizations

2022 [Momentum](#) Ukraine Executive Board Member

Peer-Reviewer

2023 - Present Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci)
2023 - Present Penn Linguistics Conference

Skills

Languages: English (Native), German (Fluent/C1), Spanish (Fluent/C1), Japanese (Beginner/A1)

Programming Languages: Python, C#, C++, R