

Brian W. Dillon

Curriculum Vitae: 01/2014

Department of Linguistics
226 South College Building
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
150 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003

brian@linguist.umass.edu
<http://people.umass.edu/bwdillon>
Office: (413) 477-5792
Home: (202) 302-2191
Citizenship: USA

Education

2007 - 2011 University of Maryland, Ph.D. in Linguistics
2009 Beijing Normal University, Visiting Scholar
2007 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute
2000-2004 State University of New York at Buffalo, BA in Linguistics

Academic Positions Held

2011 - Assistant Professor, Linguistics
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Grants, Scholarships, and Awards

2011 Mellon Mutual Mentoring Team Grant, \$9,660. (Co-PIs Lisa Sanders and Alexandra Jesse).
2011 UMass Institute for the Computational and Experimental Study of Language Seed Grant, \$2,000.
2011 UMass Tenure Stream Research Funds, \$2,000.
2009 National Science Foundation #091387 (EAPSI): Memory Dynamics in the Processing of Chinese Anaphors, \$5,000.
2008 University of Maryland IGERT Training Fellowship (2 years)
2007 University of Maryland Flagship Fellowship (5 years)

Refereed Publications

Dillon, B., Chow, WY., Wagers, M., Guo, TM., Liu, FQ., & Phillips, C. (under revision). The structure-sensitivity of memory access: Evidence from Mandarin long distance reflexives.

Dillon, B. (in press). Syntactic memory in the comprehension of reflexive dependencies: an overview. To appear in *Language and Linguistics Compass*.

Dillon, B., Clifton, C. Jr., & Frazier, L. (in press). Pushed aside: Parentheticals, memory and processing. To appear in *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*.

Xiang, M., **Dillon, B.**, Wagers, M., Liu, FQ., & Guo, TM. (in press) Processing Covert Dependencies: An SAT Study on Mandarin Wh-in-situ Questions. To appear in *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*.

Dillon, B., Mishler, A., Sloggett, S., & Phillips, C. (2013). Contrasting interference profiles for agreement and anaphora: Experimental and modeling evidence. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 69(2), 85-103.

Dunbar, E., **Dillon, B.**, & Idsardi, W. (2013) A Bayesian evaluation of the cost of abstractness. In Sanz, Laka, & Tanenhaus (eds), *Language down the garden path: The cognitive and biological basis for linguistic structure*, pp. 360-383.

Dillon, B., Dunbar, E., & Idsardi, W. (2013). A single-stage approach to learning phonological categories: Insights from Inuktitut. Draft available upon request; comments welcome. *Cognitive Science*, 37, 344-377.

Dillon, B. & Hornstein, N. (2013). On the structural nature of island constraints. In Sprouse & Hornstein (eds), *Experimental Syntax and Island Effects*., pp 208-222.

Dillon, B., Nevins, A., Austin, A., & Phillips, C. (2012). Syntactic and semantic predictors of tense in Hindi: an ERP investigation. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, 27, 313-344.

Xiang, M., **Dillon, B.**, & Phillips, C. (2009). Illusory licensing across dependency types: ERP evidence. *Brain and Language*, 108, 40-55.

Nevins, A., **Dillon, B.**, Malhotra, S., & Phillips, C. (2007). The role of feature-number and feature-type in processing Hindi verb agreement violations. *Brain Research*, 1164, 81-94.

Invited Courses and Presentations

Dillon, B. Processing Agreement in Comprehension: Experimental and Computational Evidence. Invited presentation, MIT. December 2013.

Dillon, B. Memory Search in Syntactic Comprehension. Linguistics Colloquium, Yale University. October 2013.

Dillon, B. Locality and processing long-distance reflexives: evidence from Mandarin and Korean. Invited presentation, Language Universals and Linguistic Diversity series, Harvard University, March 2013.

Dillon, B. Linguistic Structure in Memory Search. Cognitive Science Colloquium, University of Buffalo. October 2012.

Dillon, B. Structured access in sentence comprehension. UMass Amherst, Department of Psychology Cognitive Brown Bag Series. October 2011.

Dillon, B. Structured access in sentence comprehension. UMass Amherst, Department of Psychology Cognitive Brown Bag Series. October 2011.

Dillon, B. The role of morphological features in comprehension: experimental and computational evidence. UMass Amherst, ICESL Opening Reception. April 2011.

Dillon, B. Introduction to data manipulation in R. Université de Genève. January 2011.

Dillon, B. Linear models and you. Université de Genève. January 2011.

Dillon, B. Linguistic structure and linguistic working memory. University of Michigan, Department of Linguistics Colloquium. October 2010.

Dillon, B. Process and structure in linguistic memory. UMass Amherst, Department of Linguistics Colloquium. March 2010.

Refereed Conference Presentations

Dillon, B., Levy, J., Staub, A., & Clifton, C. Linear order effects in agreement: Evidence from English *wh*-questions. Talk to be presented at the 27rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2014.

Dillon, B. Locality in filler-gap dependencies: Evidence from extraposition. Poster to be presented at the 27rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2014.

Omaki, A., **Dillon, B.,** Kubo, T., Sato, M., & Sakai, H. Anti-locality preference in the processing of Japanese reflexive binding. Poster to be presented at the 27rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2014.

Dillon, B., Mishler, A., Sloggett, S., & Phillips, C. Contrasting cues to subjecthood: Comparing verbal agreement and reflexive anaphors. Poster presented at the Context and Episodic Memory Symposium, 2012.

Dunbar, E., **Dillon, B.,** & Idsardi, W. Learning phonetic categories by learning allophony and vice versa. Talk presented at Generative Linguistics in the Old World, 2012.

Dillon, B. Ungrammatical interpretations of reflexive anaphors: online or offline interference? Poster presented at the 25th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2012.

Dillon, B., Mishler, A., Sloggett, S., & Phillips, C. Contrasting interference profiles for agreement and anaphora: Experimental and modeling evidence. Poster presented at the 24th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2011.

Dunbar, E., **Dillon, B.**, & Idsardi, W. A Bayesian evaluation of the cost of abstractness. Talk presented at Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto phonology workshop, 2010.

Dillon, B., Chow, WY., Wagers, M., Guo, TM., Liu, FQ., & Phillips, C. The structure sensitivity of memory access: evidence from Mandarin Chinese. Talk presented at the 23rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2010.

Xiang, M., **Dillon, B.**, Wagers, M., Liu, FQ., & Guo, TM. Processing wh-movement dependencies in a language without wh-movement. Poster presented at the 23rd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference, 2010.

Dillon, B., Chow, WY., Guo, TM., Chen, P., Liu, FQ., & Phillips, C. The structure sensitivity of memory access: ERP evidence. Poster presented at the Cognitive Neuroscience Society meeting, April 2010.

Dillon, B., Dunbar, E., & Idsardi, W. A single-stage computational model of phoneme category acquisition: Results from Inuktitut. Presented at the Computational Modelling of Sound Pattern Acquisition Workshop. University of Alberta, February 2010.

Dillon, B., Dunbar, E., & Idsardi, W. Seeing through the surface: a model for direct acquisition of phoneme categories. Poster presented at the Boston University Conference on Language Development 2009, Boston, MA.

Alcocer, P., **Dillon, B.**, & Idsardi, W. MEG evidence for non-uniform perceptual sensitivity in vowel space. Poster given at the Neurobiology of Language Conference 2009, Chicago, IL.

Riley, J., Rhone, A., & **Dillon, B.** Language-specific phonological knowledge modulates early auditory MEG responses to transient consonants. Poster given at the Neurobiology of Language Conference 2009, Chicago, IL.

Dillon, B., Xiang, M., Chow, WY, & Phillips, C. The processing of long-distance and local anaphora in Mandarin Chinese. Poster given at the 22nd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference 2009, Davis, CA.

Kush, D., Omaki, A., **Dillon, B.**, Alcocer, P., Lidz, J. & Phillips, C. Bound-variable dependencies reveal the structure-sensitivity of search. Poster given at the 22nd annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference 2009, Davis, CA.

Dillon, B. & Idsardi, W. A computational investigation of Inuktitut allophony. Talk given at the Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Workshop 2009, Toronto, Canada.

Alcocer, P., **Dillon, B.**, & Idsardi, W. Auditory cortex sensitive to F1-F2 interaction: evidence from MEG. Poster given at the meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Dillon, B., Idsardi, W., & Phillips, C. Learning vowel categories: challenges from Turkish and Inuktitut. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society 2008, Washington, DC.

Xiang, M., **Dillon, B.**, & Phillips, C. Intrusive licensing effects: comparing negative polarity and reflexives. Poster given at the 20th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference 2007, San Diego, CA.

Xiang, M., **Dillon, B.**, & Phillips, C. Testing the strength of the spurious licensing effect for negative polarity items. Talk given at the 19th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference 2006, New York, NY.

Nevins, A., **Dillon, B.**, & Phillips, C. Dimensions of agreement in Hindi. Poster given at the 19th annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference 2006, New York, NY.

Student Supervision

Ph.D.: Angela Pazzaglia (Psychology), member.
Jason Overfelt (Linguistics), member.

Masters: Ashley Benatar (Psychology), member.
Aaron Schein (Linguistics), chair.

Generals papers: Stefan Keine (Linguistics), member of generals committee.
Jason Overfelt (Linguistics), member of generals committee.
Amanda Rysling (Linguistics), member of generals committee.
Shayne Sloggett (Linguistics), member of generals committee.
Brian Smith (Linguistics), member of generals committee.
Robert Staubs (Linguistics), member of generals committee.

Undergraduate: Jeremy Cahill (Linguistics)
Julianne Chaloux (Linguistics, Hampshire)
Ilia Kurenkov (Linguistics)

Research Assistants: Jason Overfelt (2011-2012), Linguistics
Yangsook Park (2012 - 2013), Linguistics
Shayne Sloggett (2013 – 2014), Linguistics

Teaching

UMass Amherst:

2011 Formal Foundations of Linguistic Theory (LINGUIST609; Fall)
2012 Proseminar in Adult Sentence Processing (LINGUIST792; Spring)
Language and Cognition (LINGUIST394B; Spring)
Formal Foundations of Linguistic Theory (LINGUIST609; Fall)

- 2013 Language and Cognition (LINGUIST394BI; Fall)
 Computational Linguistics: Use and Meaning (LINGUIST492B; Spring)
 Seminar in Adult Sentence Processing (LINGUIST792A; Spring).
 Co-taught with Kyle Johnson.
- 2014 Computational Linguistics: Use and Meaning (LINGUIST492B; Spring)
 Seminar in Phonology (LINGUIST751; Spring). Co-taught with Kristine Yu.

Professional Service

- 2012 Member, graduate admissions committee
 2011 Member, selection committee for acquisition hire in Linguistics
 2009 Student Representative, search committee for two Linguistics hires (UMD).
 2008 Student Representative, Linguistic Graduate Student Association
 2007 Co-organizer, Linguistics Colloquium Series for 2007-8
 2008- Member, Cognitive Science Society
 2008- Member, Cognitive Neuroscience Society
 2007- Member, Linguistic Society of America

Ad Hoc reviewer:

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience
European Journal of Neuroscience
Brain and Language
Journal of Language Acquisition
Journal of Memory and Language
Journal of South Asian Linguistics
Language and Cognitive Processes
Cognitive Psychology
WCCFL
NAACL-CMCL
NSF

Research Interests

- Psycholinguistics:* Processing of long-distance dependencies, interference and illusion effects in sentence processing, processing of agreement, computational models of linguistic memory.
- Acquisition:* Infant speech perception, computational models of category acquisition, acquisition of allophonic rules.

Lab Skills

Methodologies: EEG, MEG, self-paced reading, speed-accuracy tradeoff (response-signal) paradigm, survey methodologies, preferential looking task (infants), priming tasks, computational modeling

Software: R, Matlab, SPSS, Linger, E-Prime, Presentation, Psyscope, WebSPR, Praat

Programming: R, TCL/TK, Python, Perl