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Brandon Waldon

Education

2017–present **PhD Candidate, Linguistics**, *Stanford University*, Stanford, CA.
Dissertation title: *Probabilistic language understanding and formal linguistic theory*
Committee: Cleo Condoravdi and Judith Degen (co-chairs); Beth Levin; Guillermo Del Pinal

2015 **Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics**, *University of Chicago*, Chicago, IL.

Fellowships & Awards

2022–present **Seed Research Grant**, *Stanford Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)*.
Title: *Towards Clear, Transparent, and Scalable Computational Contract Technology*
(Co-authored with Megan Ma, Stanford Law School; Lead PI: Judith Degen)

2023 **Student Travel Grant**, *Cognitive Science Society*.

2019–2022 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, *National Science Foundation*.

2019 **Community Impact Award**, *Stanford Alumni Association*.

2018 **Summer Language Intensive Grant**, *Stanford School of Humanities & Sciences*.

2016–2017 **Fulbright Student Research Grant**, *U.S. Department of State*.
Host institution: Das Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS), Berlin, Germany.

Publications

(Note: * denotes multiple first authors.)

In Preparation

Brandon Waldon, Madigan Brodsky, and Judith Degen. Predicting linguistic interpretive consensus with humans and machines.

Brandon Waldon. Incorporating evidentiality in a probabilistic semantics for epistemic modals.

Dean Manko, Brandon Waldon, Katherine Hilton, and Judith Degen. Look who's talking: Examining the role of racialized beliefs in subjective evaluations of overlapping speech.

Judith Degen* and Brandon Waldon* *et al.* Evaluating computational models of referring expression production on cross-linguistic interactive experimental data.

Journal Articles

2019 Stephanie Solt and Brandon Waldon. Numerals under negation: Empirical findings. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*.

2019 Masoud Jasbi, Brandon Waldon, and Judith Degen. Linking hypothesis and number of response options modulate inferred scalar implicature rate. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

2019 Guillermo Del Pinal* and Brandon Waldon*. Modals under epistemic tension. *Natural Language Semantics*.

Refereed Conference Proceedings and Book Chapters

to appear Neel Guha, Julian Nyarko, Daniel E Ho, Christopher Ré, Adam Chilton, Aditya Narayana, Alex Chohlas-Wood, Austin Peters, Brandon Waldon, Daniel N Rockmore, et al. Legalbench: A collaboratively built benchmark for measuring legal reasoning in large language models. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 36 (NeurIPS 2023) Datasets and Benchmarks Track*.

2023 Dhara Yu, Brandon Waldon, and Judith Degen. Cross-linguistic variability in adjective-noun order may be the result of pragmatic pressures on referential communication. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2023 Brandon Waldon, Cleo Condoravdi, Beth Levin, and Judith Degen. On the context dependence of artifact noun interpretation. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 27*.

2023 Brandon Waldon, Madigan Brodsky, Megan Ma, and Judith Degen. Predicting consensus in legal document interpretation. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2023 Megan Ma, Brandon Waldon, and Julian Nyarko. Conceptual questions in developing expert-annotated data. In *Proceedings of the Nineteenth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law*.

2022 Brandon Waldon. A novel probabilistic approach to linguistic imprecision. In Nicole Gotzner and Uli Sauerland, editors, *Measurements, Numerals and Scales: Essays in Honour of Stephanie Solt*.

2022 Brandon Waldon. Epistemic must and might: evidence that argumentation is semantically encoded. In *Proceedings of the Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*.

2022 Leyla Kursat, Brandon Waldon, Rabia Ergin, and Judith Degen. Evaluating models of referring expression production on an emerging sign language. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2021 Brandon Waldon and Judith Degen. Modeling cross-linguistic production of referring expressions. *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*.

2020 Brandon Waldon and Judith Degen. Symmetric alternatives and semantic uncertainty modulate scalar inference. In *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2020 Brandon Waldon and Judith Degen. Modeling Behavior in Truth Value Judgment Task Experiments. In *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics*.

2020 Brandon Waldon. Linguistic interpretation as inference under argument system uncertainty: the case of epistemic must. In *Proceedings of the Probability and Meaning Conference (PaM 2020)*.

2020 Austin Van Loon*, Sheridan Stewart*, Brandon Waldon*, Shrinidhi K Lakshmikanth, Ishan Shah, Sharath Chandra Guntuku, Garrick Sherman, James Zou, and Johannes Eichstaedt. Explaining the 'Trump Gap' in Social Distancing Using COVID Discourse. In *Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on NLP for COVID-19 (Part 2) at EMNLP 2020*.

2017 Hadil Karawani* and Brandon Waldon*. May or might? strength, duality, and social meaning. In *Proceedings of Amsterdam Colloquium 21*.

Volumes Edited

2019 Vera Gribanova, Sabrina Grimberg, Erika Petersen O'Farrill, Eva Portelance, and Brandon Waldon, editors. *Proceedings of the 27th Meeting of Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics*. Michigan Slavic Press.

Selected Recent Presentations

2023 Brandon Waldon, Madigan Brodsky, Megan Ma, and Judith Degen. Predicting consensus in legal document interpretation. Talk presented at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

2022 Brandon Waldon*, Judith Degen*, Leyla Kursat, Adolfo Hermosillo, Anthony Velasquez, and Rabia Ergin. The color/size asymmetry in redundant modification replicates cross-linguistically. Lightning talk presented at *Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM) 2*, Philadelphia, PA.

2022 Brandon Waldon, Cleo Condoravdi, Beth Levin, and Judith Degen. Modeling the context dependence of artifact noun interpretation. Talk presented at the *9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPrag)*, Pavia, Italy.

2022 Brandon Waldon, Cleo Condoravdi, Beth Levin, and Judith Degen. Context dependence of artifact noun interpretation. Poster presented at *Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, Prague, Czechia.

2022 Brandon Waldon. Modeling the context dependence of artifact noun interpretation. Invited colloquium talk at Georgia Institute of Technology.

2022 Stefan Pophristic, Brandon Waldon, and Judith Degen. Pragmatic use of morphological information in Serbo-Croatian redundant referring expression production. Poster presented by S. Pophristic at the *9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPrag)*, Pavia, Italy.

2022 Judith Degen*, Brandon Waldon*, Adolfo Hermosillo, Anthony Velasquez, and Zeinab Kachakeche. Spanish exhibits a color/size asymmetry and scene variation effects in redundant modification. (Just like English). Talk presented at the *9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPrag)*, Pavia, Italy.

Academic & Departmental Service

Reviewing **Journals**: Semantics & Pragmatics (2020, 2022, 2023); Mind & Language (2021); Discourse Processes (2022); Journal of Memory & Language (2022). **Conferences**: California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP, 2019); CogSci (2021, 2022, 2023).

Committee service **Conference organizing:** Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL, 2018); Stanford Semantics Fest (SemFest, 2019); West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL, 2022). **Admissions and hiring:** Stanford Center for Study of Language and Information (CSLI) Summer Internship Program (2021); IDEAL Provostial Fellowship Program (Department of Linguistics nominating committee, 2021).

Other service Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member, Stanford Department of Linguistics (2020-2021); Student Coordinator, Stanford Words With Friends reading group (2019-2021); Linguistics Representative, Stanford Wellness Information Network for Graduate Students (WINGS, 2018-2021); Graduate Student Coordinator, Stanford Cognition & Language Workshop (2018-2021); Graduate Student Representative to the Department of Linguistics (2019-2020); Social Committee Member, Stanford Department of Linguistics (2017-2018).

Teaching Assistantship Experience

Fall 2022	**LINGUIST 116A: Introduction to Word-Formation**, Stanford, (grading only).
Winter 2022	**LINGUIST 30N: Linguistic Meaning and the Law**, Stanford, (grading only).
Spring 2021	**LINGUIST 130B: Introduction to Lexical Semantics**, Stanford.
Winter 2021	**LINGUIST 116A: Introduction to Word-Formation**, Stanford, (grading only).
Fall 2019	**PSYCH 140: Introduction to Psycholinguistics**, Stanford.
2018–2019	**Lab TA**, Stanford Linguistics.
Fall 2018	**PSYCH 140: Introduction to Psycholinguistics**, Stanford, (grading only).

Selected Tutorials and Workshops

Fall 2021	**Bayesian Power Analysis in R**, Stanford ALPS Lab.
Spring 2019	**Introduction to Unix Systems**, Stanford Linguistics.
Spring 2019	**Introduction to Web-Based Experimentation**, Stanford Linguistics.
Spring 2019	**Introduction to Remote Computing**, Stanford Linguistics.

Invited Guest Lectures

Winter 2022	**LINGUIST 30N: Linguistic Meaning and the Law**, Stanford University.
Fall 2021	**LINGUIST 196: Undergraduate Research Seminar**, Stanford University.
Winter 2021	**LINGUIST 30N: Linguistic Meaning and the Law**, Stanford University.
Winter 2020	**LINGUIST 30N: Linguistic Meaning and the Law**, Stanford University.

Mentorship Experience

Summer 2023	**Madigan Brodsky**, Stanford BA '24, VPUE Summer Internship Program.
Summer 2022	**Angelique Charles-Davis and Manh Dao**, Stanford BA '24, VPUE Summer Internship Program.
2020-2021	**Dean Manko**, Stanford BA '20 MS '22, Mentor for undergraduate honors and master's thesis projects and through the VPUE Summer Internship Program (Summer 2020).
Fall 2021	**Stefan Pophristic**, ALPS Lab Manager, Directed study through ALPS Lab.
Fall 2021	**Leyla Kursat**, Stanford MS '22, Directed study through ALPS Lab.
Spring 2021	**Qi Han**, Stanford BA '22, ALPS Lab Internship Program.
Spring 2021	**Andrew Yang**, Stanford BS '22, ALPS Lab Internship Program.
Summer 2019	**Leyla Kursat**, Stanford MS '22, Directed study through ALPS Lab.
Summer 2019	**Francesca Vera**, Stanford BS/MS '20, VPUE Summer Internship Program.

Skills

Natural languages	English (native), German (advanced/C2 proficiency), Arabic (intermediate/B1 proficiency), French (beginner/A2 proficiency), Spanish (fieldwork), Vietnamese (fieldwork)
Programming	R, Python, LaTeX, PyTorch, Unix shell, Javascript, WebPPL, NodeJS, PHP, HTML

References

Cleo Condoravdi, *Professor of Linguistics*, Stanford University.
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Judith Degen, *Assistant Professor of Linguistics*, Stanford University.
`jdegen@stanford.edu`

Guillermo Del Pinal, *Assistant Professor of Philosophy*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
`jdegen@stanford.edu`

Beth Levin, *William H. Bonsall Professor in the Humanities*, Stanford University.
`bclevin@stanford.edu`