

# Megan Figueroa, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Updated: March 1, 2021

Department of Psychology  
University of Arizona  
1503 E. University Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0068

[megan@arizona.edu](mailto:megan@arizona.edu)  
[www.meganfigueroa.com](http://www.meganfigueroa.com)

## EDUCATION

- 2018                    Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Arizona  
Minor: Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences  
Dissertation: “Who broke the rule?” Rethinking English Past Tense  
Overregularizations  
Advisor: LouAnn Gerken, Ph.D.
- 2015                    M.A. Linguistics, University of Arizona
- 2012                    M.A. English (Linguistics), Arizona State University  
Master’s Thesis: Spanish accusative clitics: Latino dual language learners  
in an English-only environment  
Advisor: M. Adelaida Restrepo, Ph.D.
- 2010                    B.A. English (Linguistics), Arizona State University, Summa Cum Laude

## EMPLOYMENT

- 2020 – Present            Research Scientist, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona
- 2018 – 2020              Project Manager, *Tweety Language Development Lab*, Department of  
Psychology, University of Arizona
- 2017 – Present            Co-host, *The Vocal Fries*, Podcast  
<https://vocalfriespod.com/>

## RESEARCH TRAINING

- 2014 – 2018              *Tweety Language Development Lab*  
Department of Psychology, University of Arizona  
LouAnn Gerken, Director
- 2014 - 2018              *Bilingual Phonology Lab*  
Department of Speech, Hearing and Language Sciences, University of  
Arizona  
Leah Fabiano-Smith, Director

2009 - 2012

*Bilingual Language and Literacy Lab*

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Arizona State University

María Adelaida Restrepo, Director

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Paula Menyuk Travel Award, Boston University  
2017 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Ford Foundation, *Honorable Mention*  
2017 Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award, University of Arizona,  
*Honorable Mention*  
2016 Dr. Maria Teresa Velez Diversity Leadership Scholarship, Graduate College,  
University of Arizona  
2016 Xican@ Institute for Teaching and Organizing Scholarship  
2016 SRCLD Student Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2015 2015 Linguistic Institute Fellowship, Linguistic Society of America  
2013 – 2014 Graduate Access Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Arizona  
2013 – 2014 Tuition Award, University of Arizona  
2011 SRCLD Student Travel Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. **Figueroa, M.** (commissioned, in prep) Language Development, Linguistic Input, and Social Power: Rethinking the 30 Million Word Gap. *WIREs Cognitive Science*.
2. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, L.A. (2019) Experience with Morphosyntactic Paradigms Allows Toddlers to Tacitly Anticipate Overregularized Verb Forms Months Before They Produce Them. *Cognition*, 191.
3. **Figueroa, M.** & Restrepo, M.A. (under review) Object Clitic Production in Spanish-English Bilinguals in an English-Only School Environment.
4. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, L.A. (under review) English past tense overregularization: A new look.

## REFERRED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Figueroa, M.**, Nathan, M., & Gerken, L.A. (June, 2020). 16-month-olds comprehend "broke" better than "broke". *The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. (poster) (Conference canceled)
2. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, L.A. (June, 2018). 16-month-olds know the English past tense rule. *The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. (poster)
3. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, L.A. (November, 2017). English past tense learning: 16-month-olds know the rule. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Boston University, Boston, MA. (poster)
4. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, L.A. (June, 2016). Rethinking Past Tense Overregularization. *The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. (poster)

5. **Figueroa, M.** & Gerken, LA. (January, 2016). English Past Tense Learning: Infants Provide a New Look. *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*, Washington D.C. (poster)
6. **Figueroa, M.** (June, 2014). Spanish Accusative Clitics: Latino Dual Language Learners in an English Environment. *The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. (poster)
7. **Figueroa, M.** (April, 2014). Latino Dual Language Learners in an English Environment. *Sandrizona*, University of California – San Diego, San Diego, CA.
8. **Figueroa, M.,** Smyk, E., & Restrepo, M.A. (2011). English Grammatical Profiles of Typical, Sequential Spanish English Bilingual Children. *The Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders*, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, WI. (poster)

## INVITED TALKS

1. Judge what I have to say, not how I say it. (November, 2020). *Gonzaga University*, Intercultural Engagement Series. (panelist)
2. Rethinking English Past Tense Overregularizations: Who Broke the Rule? (February, 2021). *University of Oregon* Linguistics Spring 2021 Colloquia.
3. Language Development, Linguistic Input, and Social Power: Rethinking the 30 Million Word Gap. (February, 2021). *Newcastle University* Spring Colloquia.
4. Rethinking English Past Tense Overregularizations. (February, 2021). *Boston University* Emerging Scholars Series.

## GRANTS

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 2017 - 2019 | Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award: <i>Who broke the rule? Rethinking English Past Tense Overregularizations</i> (#1729862), Linguistics Program, National Science Foundation |
| 2016        | Travel Grant, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona  |
| 2016        | Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona  |
| 2015        | Travel Grant, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona  |
| 2015        | Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona  |
| 2015        | Travel Grant, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics 2015, Linguistic Society of America  |
| 2014        | Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona  |
| 2014        | Travel Grant, The Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona  |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2016: Linguistics Department, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ  
 Instructor of record  
*Structure and Meaning of English Words* (Summer 2016, Winter 2015-2016, Summer 2015, Winter 2014-2015)  
*Language Development* (Fall 2015)

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Associate  
*Structure and Meaning of English Words* (Spring 2016, Fall 2014, Spring, 2014)

*Language* (Spring 2015, Fall 2013)

2013: Upward Bound, South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ

Instructor

*Research* (Summer 2013)

*Seven Habits of Highly Successful Teens* (Spring 2013)

2012 – 2013: English Department, South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ

Instructor

*Basic Writing Skills* (Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012)

*Fundamentals of Writing* (Spring 2013 [2 sections], Fall 2012 [2 sections], Spring 2012 [2 sections])

## **SERVICE**

2019 – 2021	Co-Chair Communications/Outreach, <i>Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics</i> , Linguistic Society of America
2019, June	Judge, National Engineering Design Competition, <i>Arizona Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement</i>
2015 – 2019	Travel Grant Reviewer, <i>Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics</i> , Linguistic Society of America
2015 – Present	Member, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics, Linguistic Society of America
2016 – 2018	Organized Sessions Reviewer, <i>Program Committee</i> , Linguistic Society of America
2015 – 2018	Student Member, <i>Program Committee</i> , Linguistic Society of America
2015 – 2018	Member, Commission on the Status of Women, University of Arizona
2016	Diversity Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona
2016	Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona
2015	Hiring Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona
2015	Co-organizer, ALC Conference, LingCircle, University of Arizona
2016	Abstract Reviewer, LingCircle, University of Arizona
2015	Travel Grant Reviewer, Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona
2015	Organizer, Department of Linguistics Booth, Tucson Festival of Books
2014 – 2015	Outreach Committee, Department of Linguistics, University of Arizona
2014	Abstract Reviewer, LingCircle, University of Arizona
2014	Travel Grant Reviewer, Graduate and Professional Student Council, University of Arizona
2014 – 2015	Faculty Representative, LingCircle, University of Arizona
2013	Volunteer, ALC Conference, LingCircle, University of Arizona

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

## **OUTREACH**

*LSA Webinar on NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants (DDRIG)*, Linguistic Society of America, February 2, 2018

A two-hour webinar with a presentation focusing on the general elements common for DDRIG proposals, with a discussion on program-specific considerations like deadlines or solicitation-specific criteria used by reviewers. The webinar was designed for dissertation advisors (who must act as the Principal Investigator on a DDRIG proposal submission) and doctoral students (the CoPI of the submission), so both faculty and students were present. There was also time for webinar participants to submit questions for a Q&A session at the end of the webinar.

*How to LSA: The Annual Meeting for First-timers* Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, January 4, 2018; Austin, TX, January 5, 2017

I presented strategies to help first-time attendees maximize the use of their time at the LSA. This was an opportunity for first-timers to connect with other first-timers and with senior linguists. There was a participant driven Q&A at the end.

*Linguistic Discrimination in the Workplace*, Atlassian, Mountain View, CA., 2018

A panel discussion + Q&A focused on linguistic discrimination. The goal is to help women and allies understand the range of issues around language and gender and what we can all do to combat this kind of discrimination in the workplace.

## **PODCAST INTERVIEWS**

- Motherfoclóir – (<https://audioboom.com/posts/7767155-159-swear-it-all-over-again-megan-figueroa-the-politics-of-expletives>)
- Distributed Morphs (<https://anchor.fm/jeffrey-punske8/episodes/Dr--Megan-Figueroa-Morphology-and-Child-Language-Development-ecko89>)
- The Endless Knot (<http://www.alliterative.net/podcast/2018/4/11/episode-56-linguistic-discrimination-with-the-vocal-fries>)
- The Troublesome Terps (<http://www.troubleterps.com/21>)
- Best Forevers Pod (<https://www.bestforeverspod.com/podcast/2018/8/10/e40-friend-fries>)
- The Lou Capetta Show (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/spreaker-25/the-lou-cappetta-show/e/56600344>)
- Get your Wit (Women in Tech) Together (<https://www.podbean.com/media/share/dir-f44sx-5832bbb>)
- Limited Engagement (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/le-117-carrie-gillon-and-megan-figueroa/id1163029224?i=1000441036198>)

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH LECTURES**

2015, April

*Bilingualism*, Tohono O’Odham Community College, Sells, AZ

2015, February

*Constructed Languages*, Basis High School, Oro Valley, AZ

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

2016 – 2019 Board of directors, *Child and Family Resources*, Tucson, AZ  
2017 – 2018 Literacy volunteer, *Primavera Foundation*, Tucson, AZ  
2016 – 2017 AmeriCorps State Member, *Primavera Foundation*, Tucson, AZ  
2014 – 2016 Reading tutor, *Literacy Connects*, Tucson, AZ

## **LANGUAGES**

English: native

Spanish: reading (intermediate), speaking (conversational), writing (beginning)

## **SOFTWARE**

Praat, R, R Studio, SPSS, PsychoPy, CLAN, Microsoft Office (Excel, Access, Word, Power Point), D2L, Blackboard, Slack