

# Kaitlyn A. Litcofsky

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## Education

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**The Pennsylvania State University**, College of Liberal Arts State College, PA  
Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy – Psychology and Language Science Est. 2017  
Doctoral Minor Specialization in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience  
Thesis: “Effect of dialogue context on the interaction between language production and comprehension”  
Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell

Master of Science – Psychology Dec 2013  
Thesis: “Sentential codeswitching and cognate triggering: A behavioral and neurocognitive study”  
Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell

**Tufts University**, College of Liberal Arts Medford, MA  
Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude May 2009  
Major: Biology-Psychology  
Cumulative GPA: 3.63/4.00

## Research Experience

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**The Pennsylvania State University** State College, PA  
Bilingualism and Language Development Lab Aug 2011 – present  
Graduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Dr. Janet G. van Hell

- Completing dissertation project on the influence of dialogue context on the relationship between production and comprehension within an individual
- Developed and carried out behavioral and ERP experiments on intrasentential codeswitching and cognate triggering in highly proficient Spanish-English bilinguals
- Co-managed ERP lab: maintained system, ordered supplies, trained new undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral researchers on testing participants and analyzing data
- Mentored undergraduate research assistants who helped with participant recruitment, testing, and data cleaning as well as completed independent projects

Brain, Language, and Computation Lab Jan 2015 - present  
Graduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Dr. Ping Li

- Completing breadth project using voxel-based morphometry to examine gray matter differences between bilinguals and monolinguals, and to relate gray matter volume to functional MRI data on mathematical processing and individual difference measures

Social, Life, and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center (SLEIC) Jan 2016 - present  
Internship in Functional Imaging – Supervisor: Dr. Michele Diaz

- Managing Human Electrophysiological Facility: maintained system, ordered supplies, trained new facility users, helping in purchase of and transition to new EEG system
- Aiding in administrative support of center: help with billing, managing website and listservs, maintaining center records of ongoing and completed projects, tracking center usage, helping with transition to new scheduling system

**University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon University**

Pittsburgh PA

Multimodal Neuroimaging Training Program

Jun-Jul 2012

Student – Directors: Dr. Seong-gi Kim, Dr. William Eddy; Advisor: Dr. Kevin C. Chan

- Participated in an intensive course on the diffusion tensor imaging methodology

**Georgetown University**

Washington, DC

Brain and Language Lab

Jun 2009 – Aug 2011

Research Assistant/Lab Manager – Advisor: Dr. Michael Ullman

- Created and developed behavioral and ERP tasks; ran behavioral and ERP experiments; managed research collaborations investigating language and memory processing in healthy adults, bilinguals, and children with developmental disorders
- Managed administrative, financial, and technological needs of lab (i.e., grants, IRBs, personnel, server maintenance)

**Tufts University**

Medford, MA

NeuroCognition Lab

Sep 2006 – May 2009

Undergraduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Dr. Phillip J. Holcomb

- Developed and carried out senior honors thesis investigating ERP correlates of intrasentential codeswitching in English learners of French
- Tested behavioral subjects in behavioral experiments examining anaphor resolution; assisted with ERP participants and stimuli creation

**Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)**

Marseille, France

Laboratoire de Psychologie Cognitive

Spring 2008

Undergraduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Dr. Katherine J. Midgley

- Tested ERP subjects for a study of language switching in English-French bilinguals

**Tufts University**

Medford, MA

Psychopharmacology Lab

Spring 2006

Undergraduate Research Assistant – Advisor: Dr. Klaus A. Miczek

- Assisted in the feeding of mice, care of mouse cages, experimental drug administration, and maintenance of operant boxes for a study on the effects of social defeat stress and amphetamine sensitization on cocaine addiction in male mice

**Grants and Awards**

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**National**

Language Learning Dissertation Grant Program

2016

- \$2,000 Research Costs

Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2013

Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

2012

## The Pennsylvania State University

Research and Graduate Studies Office Dissertation Support	Fall 2015
• Release from assistantship duties	
NSF Partnerships for International Research and Education	Summer 2013
• Graduate Student Travel Award, 8-week data collection in Granada, Spain	
University Graduate Fellowship	2011-2012
• Release from assistantship duties	

## Tufts University

Undergraduate Research Grant	Spring 2009
Summer Scholars Research Grant	Summer 2008

## Manuscripts

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Van Hell, J. G., Fernandez, C. B., Kootstra, G. J., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Ting, C. Y. (under review). Electrophysiological and experimental-behavioral approaches to the study of intra-sentential code-switching. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*.

Van Hell, J. G., Kootstra, G. J., & **Litcofsky, K. A.** (under review). What triggers intra-sentential code-switching in bilinguals? Bridging psychological and linguistic approaches. *Invited paper, Language and Linguistic Compass*.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2017). Neural correlates of intra-sentential codeswitching: Switching direction affects switching costs, *Neuropsychologia*, 97, 112-139.

**Litcofsky, K. A.**, Tanner, D., & Van Hell, J. G. (2016). Effects of language experience, use, and cognitive functioning on bilingual word production and comprehension. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 20(6), 666-683.

Li, P., Legault, J., & **Litcofsky, K. A.** (2014). Neuroplasticity as a function of second language learning: Anatomical changes in the human brain. *Cortex*, 58, 301-324.

Hershcovitch, L., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, Pelster, M., Gelfand, M., Ullman, M. T., & Charles, P. D. (2012) Subthalamic Nucleus Deep Brain Stimulation Impacts Language in Early Parkinson's Disease. *PLoS ONE* 7(8): e42829.

## Book Chapters

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Van Hell, J. G., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, Ting, C. Y. (2015). Sentential code-switching: Cognitive and neural approaches. In Schwieter, John W. (Ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Bilingual Processing*.

## Invited Talks

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**Litcofsky, K. A.** (2013). Sentential codeswitching and cognate triggering in Spanish-English bilinguals. *Memory and Language Research Group, University of Granada, Granada, Spain, May 29.*

**Litcofsky, K. A.** (2012). A behavioral and neurocognitive approach to sentential codeswitching and cognate triggering. Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, July 10.

### **Conference Proceedings – Paper Presentations**

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Elinsky, P. E., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, Bajo, M. T., & Van Hell, J. G. (2015). Self-paced reading of intra-sentential codeswitches in Spanish-English bilinguals. *Tenth International Symposium on Bilingualism*, New Brunswick, NJ, May 20-24.

Van Hell, J. G., Kootstra, G. J., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Fernandez, C. B. Neural and cognitive correlates of intra-sentential code-switching: Evidence from electrophysiological and confederate-scripted dialogue studies. *The Tenth International Symposium on Bilingualism*, New Brunswick, NJ, May 20-24. Fernandez, C. B., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Van Hell, J. G. (2015). Electrophysiological correlates of intra-sentential code-switching in Spanish-English bilinguals. *The International Conference on Bilingualism*, Valetta, Malta, March 23-25.

Van Hell, J. G., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Ting, C. Y. (2014). Neural and cognitive correlates of sentential code-switching in Spanish-English habitual and non-habitual code-switchers. *Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics*, Washington, DC, March 14-16.

Van Hell, J. G., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Ting, C. Y. (2014). Sentential codeswitching in Spanish-English bilinguals: Neural and cognitive mechanisms. *Second International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages*, Los Angeles, CA, March 7-8.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2013). A neurocognitive study of sentential codeswitching in low and high proficient bilinguals. *International Conference on Multilingualism*, Montreal, CA. October 24-25.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2012); Effect of cognate triggering on processing of sentential codeswitches in Spanish-English bilinguals. *Second Language Research Forum*, Pittsburgh, PA, October 19-21.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2012). Sentential codeswitching and the impact of cognate triggering in Spanish-English bilinguals. *Third Workshop on Immigrant Languages in America*, State College, PA, September 27-29.

### **Conference Proceedings – Poster Presentations**

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**Litcofsky, K. A.**, & Van Hell, J. G. (2016). How Speaking and Listening Relate to Each Other in a Dialogue: An Electrophysiological Study. *The Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Boston, MA, November 17-20.

Legault, J., **Litcofsky, K. A.**, Fang, S.-Y., & Li, P. (2016). Structural brain correlates of mathematical processing in bilinguals and monolinguals. *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, New York, NY. April 2-5.

**Litcofsky, K. A.,** & Van Hell, J. G. (2015). ERP and time-frequency analysis of intra-sentential codeswitching in bilinguals. *The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language*, Chicago, IL, October 15-17.

**Litcofsky, K. A.,** & Van Hell, J. G. (2015). Cross-language activation is context-dependent: Cognate effects emerge in reading code-switched, but not single-language sentences. *The Tenth International Symposium on Bilingualism*, New Brunswick, NJ, May 20-24.

**Litcofsky, K. A.,** & Van Hell, J. G. (2015). Oscillatory dynamics of intra-sentential codeswitching. *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, San Francisco, March 28-31.

Fernandez, C. B., **Litcofsky, K. A.,** & Van Hell, J. G. (2014). Electrophysiological correlates of intra-sentential code-switching in Spanish-English bilinguals: Comparing auditory and visual processing. *The Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Long Beach, CA. November 20-23.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2014). An ERP study of sentential codeswitching in low and high proficient Spanish-English Bilinguals. *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, Boston, MA. April 5-8.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2013). Sentential codeswitching in low and high proficient Spanish-English bilinguals: A behavioral and neurocognitive study. *The Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Toronto, CA. November 14-17.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2013). Sentential codeswitching in highly proficient Spanish-English bilinguals. *Workshop on Infant Language Development*, San Sebastian, Spain, June 20-22.  
Also presented at the *Jornada Doctoral en Psicología*, Escuela Doctoral de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Granada, June 28, 2013.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2012). Behavioral and ERP evidence of sentential codeswitching in highly proficient Spanish-English bilinguals. *The Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Minneapolis, MN. November 15-18.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2012). A behavioral and neurocognitive approach to cognate triggering in sentential codeswitching. *Mental Lexicon*, Montreal, CA, October 23-26.

**Litcofsky, K. A.** & Van Hell, J. G. (2012). Individual differences in bilingual picture naming. *International Workshop on Language Production*, NY, NY, July 18-20.

**Litcofsky, K. A.,** Hershcovitch, L., Pelster, M., Gelfand, M., Charles, P. David, & Ullman, M. T. (2011). Effects of subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation on language in Parkinson's disease. *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, San Francisco, CA, April 1-6.  
Also presented at the *Neurobiology of Language Conference*, Annapolis, MD, November 10-11, 2011.

Midgley, K. J., **Litcofsky, K. A.,** Ditman-Brunyé, T., & Holcomb, P. J. (2009). Using Event-Related Potentials to Explore Sentential Code-Switching in English-French Bilinguals. *The Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Boston, MA, November 19-22.

**Litcofsky, K. A.**, Midgley, K. J., Holcomb, P. J., & Grainger, J. (2009). Exploring Language Switching with Lexical Decision and Event Related Potentials. *The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society*, San Francisco, CA, March 19-24

## Teaching Experience

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### The Pennsylvania State University

State College, PA

#### Instructor

PSYCH/LING 457 Psychology of Language

Spring 2015

LING 497A EEG/ERP Methods and Experimental Research

Summer 2014 & 2015

#### Teaching Assistant

PSYCH 301W Research Methods, Lab Instructor

Fall & Spring 2014

PSYCH 441 Health Psychology

Fall 2013

PSYCH 253 Introduction to Psychology of Perception

Spring 2013

PSYCH 269 Evolutionary Psychology

Fall 2012

#### Guest Lecturer

LING 429 Language and Thought

Fall 2016

- Topic: Gender and Language

LING 525 Experimental Methods

Spring 2016

- Topic: E-prime demonstration

PSYCH 457 Psychology of Language

Spring 2016

- Topic: Aphasia

LING 429 Language and Thought

Fall 2015

- Topic: Linguistic Relativity – Cognition of Color

LING 447 Bilingualism

Fall 2014

- Topic: ERP Methods

PSYCH 253 Introduction to Psychology of Perception

Spring 2013

- Topic: Speech Perception

PSYCH 269 Evolutionary Psychology

Fall 2012

- Topic: Evolution of Language

## Skills

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### Computer Programs

- Task presentation: StimPres, E-Prime
- EEG software: Neuroscan, EEGLAB/ERPLab, Netstation
- Statistical analysis: SPSS, R (beginner)
- Programming: Visual Basic/Excel macros, Matlab (basic proficiency)
- Other: Basic Linux/Server maintenance and HTML; EndNote; Papers

### Languages

- English: Native speaker
- French: Verbal and written proficiency
- Spanish: Beginning learner

## Professional Society Membership

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Women in Cognitive Science	<i>Fall 2012-pres</i>
Cognitive Neuroscience Society	<i>Fall 2009-pres</i>
Psi Chi – Member, Tufts Chapter	<i>Spring 2009-pres</i>

## Academic Service

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### Outreach Events Participated In:

Exploration-U Family Science Night, Bald Eagle High School, *Feb 2017*; Exploration-U Family Science Night, Bellefonte High School, *Nov 2016*; Bilingualism Matters booth, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, *Jul 2016*; Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania Grades K+1, *Feb 2016*; Exploration-U Family Science Night, Bald Eagle Area High School, *Feb 2016*; STEM Fair, Park Forest Middle School, *Apr 2015*; Young Scholars of Central Pennsylvania Grades K+1, *Feb 2015*; State College Area School District World Languages Department, *Oct 2014*

Organizer, SLEIC Brain Awareness Week	<i>Mar 2017</i>
Member, Penn State Center for Language Science Bilingualism Matters Committee on Science Fairs and Children's Festivals	<i>Spring 2017 - present</i>
Member, SLEIC Student Advisory Committee	<i>Fall 2015 - present</i>
Judge, Penn State Psy Chi Undergraduate Research Conference	<i>Apr 2016</i>
Student Organizer, CLS Young Scholar Speaker Series	<i>Jan 2015</i>
Judge, Penn State Graduate Exhibition	<i>Mar 2013</i>
Abstract Reviewer, Workshop on Bilingualism and Cognitive Control	<i>Feb 2013</i>

### Ad hoc reviewer:

Applied Psycholinguistics; Brain Research; Journal of Neurolinguistics; Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology