

Thomas Hikaru Clark — *Curriculum Vitae*

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Education

2021 – Present: Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Brain and Cognitive Sciences*

2020 – 2021: M.Phil., University of Cambridge, *Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*

2018 – 2020: M.Ed., University of Notre Dame (concurrent with teaching experience)

2014 – 2018: B.A., Princeton University, *Computer Science*

Teaching Experience

2018 – 2020: High School Teacher at Bishop Kenny HS, Jacksonville FL

Fall 2022: Teaching Assistant for 9.66 (Computational Cognitive Science)

Fall 2023: Teaching Assistant for 9.19 (Computational Psycholinguistics)

Spring 2023, 2024, 2025: 2 Guest Lectures per year in “Introduction to the Human Mind and Brain”, Howard University (Topic: Language and Artificial Intelligence)

Fall 2025: Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program

Awards

2022 BCS Teach-Off, 1st Place

2023 BCS Angus MacDonald Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

2024 BCS Walle Nauta Award for Continuing Dedication to Teaching

Service

2021 – 2022: First Year Peer Lectures Organizer, MIT BCS

2022: Instructor at Computer Science Playground, Cambridge Public Schools

2022: Instructor at McGovern Institute Aspire outreach event for children with autism

2022 – 2023: Cog Lunch Organizer, MIT BCS

2023: Guest lesson on AI at St. Paul’s Choir School, Cambridge, MA

2024: Facilitator at MIT Museum for Cambridge Public Schools field trip

2025 – 2026: Teaching Development Fellow, MIT BCS

Publications

Clark, T. H., Tuckute, G., Medina, B., & Fedorenko, E. (2026). A distinctive meaning makes a sentence memorable. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 146, 104700.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2025.104700>

Clark, T. H., Vigly, J. H., Gibson, E., & Levy, R. P. (2025). Resource-Rational Noisy-Channel Language Processing: Testing the Effect of Algorithmic Constraints on Inferences. In C. Christodoulopoulos, T. Chakraborty, C. Rose, & V. Peng (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (pp. 23659–23672). Association for Computational Linguistics. <https://aclanthology.org/2025.emnlp-main.1207/>

Clark, T. H., Poliak, M., Regev, T., Haskins, A. J., Robertson, C., & Gibson, E. (2025). The Relationship Between Surprisal and Prosodic Prominence in Conversation Reflects Intelligibility-Oriented Pressures. *Cognitive Science*, 49(10), e70134.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.70134>

Conde, J., Grandury, M., Fu, T., Arriaga, C., Martínez, G., **Clark, T.**, Trott, S., Green, C. G., Reviriego, P., & Brysbaert, M. (2025). Adding LLMs to the psycholinguistic norming toolbox: A practical guide to getting the most out of human ratings (No. arXiv:2509.14405). arXiv.

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2509.14405>

Clark, T.H., Vigly, J.H., Gibson, E., Levy, R. (2025). A Model of Approximate and Incremental Noisy-Channel Language Processing. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9kr1b1gm>

Clark, T.H., Poliak, M., Regev, T., Haskins, A., Gibson, R., Robertson, C. (2025, preprint) The relationship between surprisal, prosody, and backchannels in conversation reflects intelligibility-oriented pressures. PsyArXiv. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/uydmx_v1

Ivanova, A. A., Sathe, A., Lipkin, B., Kumar, U., Radkani, S., **Clark, T. H.**, Kauf, C., Hu, J., Pramod, R. T., Grand, G., Paulun, V., Ryskina, M., Akyürek, E., Wilcox, E., Rashid, N., Choshen, L., Levy, R., Fedorenko, E., Tenenbaum, J., & Andreas, J. (2024). Elements of World Knowledge (EWOK): A cognition-inspired framework for evaluating basic world knowledge in language models. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*.

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2405.09605>

Clark, T., Meister, C., Pimentel, T., Hahn, M., Cotterell, R., Futrell, R., Levy, R. (2023). A Cross-Linguistic Pressure for Uniform Information Density in Word Order. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.1162/tacl_a_00589

Clark, T., Wilcox, E. G., Gibson, E., & Levy, R. (2022). Evidence for Availability Effects on Speaker Choice in the Russian Comparative Alternation. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1q19f8vt>

Meister, C., Pimentel, T., **Clark, T. H.**, Cotterell, R., & Levy, R. (2022). Analyzing Wrap-Up Effects through an Information-Theoretic Lens. *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2022.acl-short.3>

Clark, T., Conforti, C., Liu, F., Meng, Z., Shareghi, E., & Collier, N. (2021). Integrating Transformers and Knowledge Graphs for Twitter Stance Detection. *Proceedings of the Seventh Workshop on Noisy User-Generated Text (W-NUT 2021)*.

<https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2021.wnut-1.34>

Katsos, N., Banerjee, E., Chang, Y. J., **Clark, T.**, Cowan, J., Williamson, T. R., & Witkowska, Z. (2021). [Review] Experimental Pragmatics: The Making of a Cognitive Science. *Journal of Pragmatics*.

Meng, Z., Liu, F., **Clark, T. H.**, Shareghi, E., & Collier, N. (2021). Mixture-of-partitions: Infusing large biomedical knowledge graphs into BERT. *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*.
<https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2021.emnlp-main.383>

Conference presentations

Oral

“Resource-Rational Noisy-Channel Language Processing: Testing the Effect of Algorithmic Constraints on Inferences”, 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing.

“A Model of Approximate and Incremental Noisy-Channel Language Processing”, 47th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

“Evidence for an Availability-Based Production Account of the Russian Comparative Alternation via Corpus Analysis”, 35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

Poster

“Modeling Noisy-Channel Language Processing with Incremental and Approximate Probabilistic Inference”, 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

“Meaning distinctiveness predicts sentence memorability”, 38th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

“Inferring Errors and Intended Meanings with a Generative Model of Language Production in Aphasia”, 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

“A Cross-Linguistic Pressure for Uniform Information Density in Word Order”, EMNLP 2023.

“Context-sensitive features predict sentence memorability in the absence of memorable words”, 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

“Word Frequency Predicts Word Errors in Stroke-Induced Aphasia”, 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

“Evidence for Syntax-Lexicon Trade-off in Stroke-Induced Aphasia Patients”, 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

“A Cross-Linguistic Pressure for Uniform Information Density in Word Order”, 36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

“Evidence for Availability Effects on Speaker Choice in the Russian Comparative Alternation”, 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Last Updated: November 2025