

Sofia Rappe

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EDUCATION

2017 – 2018 **MSc with Distinction**, Mind, Language and Embodied Cognition, The University of Edinburgh
Thesis: *Now, Never, or Coming Soon? Prediction and Efficient Language Processing*
Supervisor: Dr. Andy Clark

2013 – 2017 **Hons BSc with Distinction**, Linguistics (major), Mathematics (major), Semiotics and Communication Studies (minor), Victoria College, University of Toronto (U of T)
• Vic One Program Member, Arthur Schawlow Stream for Physical and Mathematical Sciences

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

philosophy of mind | philosophy of language | philosophy of cognitive science | predictive processing | multi-domain processing | consciousness | metacognition | analogical reasoning | categorization | concept formation

HONOURS & AWARDS

2019 – PhD in Neurophilosophy Scholarship, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
2019 Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship, The University of Edinburgh
(declined to attend LMU Munich)
2019 College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award, The University of Edinburgh
(declined to attend LMU Munich)
2018 Highly Commended Dissertation Award, The University of Edinburgh

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 – 2018 **Graduate Student**, Department of Philosophy, The University of Edinburgh
• Master's project presented an argument for and a sketch of a predictive processing account of linguistic processing in the context of perceptuo-motor and memory limitations on human language

2017 **Laboratory Manager**, Consciousness and Wisdom Studies Lab (CWSL), Toronto
Laboratory Director: Dr. John Vervaeke, Primary Investigator: Dr. Michel Ferrari
• Conducted preliminary background research, summarized and presented the findings to the laboratory members, facilitated related discussions to bootstrap the research process
• Participated in designing a successful study (recently submitted for publication)
• Wrote and edited grant proposals and ethics applications
• Managed research projects (including time and resource allocation), organized administrative and research documents, structured meetings to maximize progress on prioritized laboratory initiatives
• Led bi-weekly status-update meetings and monitored progress
• Acted as a connection hub between the RAs and the lab director ensuring efficient communication of relevant information and responsibilities within the laboratory

2015 – 2017 **Senior Research Assistant**, CWSL, Toronto
• Theoretically explored higher cognitive processes and the relationship between mystical experiences and meaning in life
• Participated in experiment design, brainstorming sessions and questionnaire administration
• Progressed from an RA to a senior RA position within a year of joining the laboratory
• As a senior RA, supervised junior RAs in addition to the previous duties

- 2016 **Research Assistant**, Technologies for Aging Gracefully Lab (TAG Lab), Toronto
Laboratory Director (Emeritus): Dr. Ronald Baecker
- Developed prototypes of a mobile communication application for users with mild cognitive impairments, designed an intuitive built-in user help system
 - Conducted training sessions and semi-structured qualitative interviews with research participants at a retirement community
 - Conducted user observations, transcribed and organized participants' feedback, analysed data, and wrote usability test reports to enrich the product team's understanding of user experience
- 2016 **Independent Study in Linguistics** (LIN496H1F), University of Toronto
Project title: *Russian "ni" vs. English "-ever"*
Supervisor: Dr. Michela Ippolito
- Investigated the role of particle *ni* in free relative clauses in Russian language
 - Compared and contrasted the use of *ni* in Russian and *-ever* in English based on Von Stechow's (2000) two-interpretation analysis
 - Concluded that Russian *ni* and English *-ever* serve similar purposes, except that *ni* does not allow for ignorance interpretation
- 2016 **Independent Study in Cognitive Science** (COG499H1S), University of Toronto
Project title: *On Synergy or the rookie categorization of Schrödinger's cats*
Supervisor: Dr. John Vervaeke
- Investigated Apter's (2007) notion of synergy in concepts
 - Argued that in non-transitional synergies, the seemingly simultaneous experience of mutually exclusive properties is due to the repeated rapid salience alternation
 - Argued that for a subclass of non-transitional (generative) synergies forming higher-level gestalt concepts, the process, which is metasystematic in nature, is triggered by the failure to justify the conjunction of properties by balancing out the conflict dialectically
- 2015 **Independent Study in Cognitive Science** (COG498H1F), University of Toronto
Project title: *Double-scale metaphor processing model*
Supervisor: Dr. John Vervaeke
- Developed a metaphor processing model based on the integration and augmentation of the earlier salience imbalance, class inclusion, and synergy-based accounts
 - Proposed a new theoretical concept of *presence* aimed to act as a restrictive constraint on the property choice in the salience-based interpretation models

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – present **Academic Editor**, Editing Press Inc., Online
- Reviewed academic papers in various disciplines for logic, argumentation, and organization
 - Proofread texts for grammar, punctuation, formatting, verb tenses, phrasing, sentence construction, and word choice
- 2017 – 2018 **Private Tutor in Calculus**, Online
- Designed and developed a study plan for individual lessons
 - Explained difficult concepts in high-school mathematics clearly and concisely
 - Student satisfied the enrolment requirements for their program
- 2012 – 2015 **Freelance Technical Translator & Writer**, Gella Ltd., Mute Labs, Russia
- Wrote, translated and proofread technical documents, website content, business correspondence, and advertising materials (English-Russian, Russian-English, Russian-Hebrew)
 - Contributed to the successful presentation of the client's product at an international expo

PUBLICATIONS & WORK IN PROGRESS

- Under Review Rappe, S. Now, Never, or Coming Soon? Prediction and Efficient Language Processing.
- Under Review Vervaeke et al. [including **Rappe S.**]. Light on a Darkling Plain: Mystical Experience is Predictive of Meaning-in-Life.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS & SEMINAR TALKS

- 07/2019 *Prediction and Efficient Language Processing*. Invited talk for the York University Neurology Research Association
- 03/2019 *Predictive Processing and Conscious Thought*. Paper presented at the Modelling Consciousness Workshop, Dorfgastein, Austria
- 02/2019 *Predictive Processing 101: Implications and Applications*. Seminar talk for the University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students Association
- 02/2019 *Predictive Processing 101: Cognition*. Seminar talk for the University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students Association
- 01/2019 *Predictive Processing 101: Action*. Seminar talk for the University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students Association
- 01/2019 *Predictive Processing 101: Perception*. Seminar talk for the University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students Association
- 06/2018 *Predictive Language Processing and the Now-or-Never Bottleneck*. Poster presented at Language @ Edinburgh Lunch
- 01/2018 *Trouble with Metaphors*. Paper presented at the University of Edinburgh Mind and Cognition Group seminar
- 03/2017 *On Metaphor*. Paper presented at Confluence: Merging Streams, University of Toronto Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence Students Association undergraduate conference

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 02/2019 **Discussion Leader**, The Meta-Problem of Consciousness Discussion Session, University of Toronto
- 05/2018 **Assistant Organizer**, Online Pedagogy Conference, The University of Edinburgh
- 01/2016 – 06/2017 **Student Advisory Team Member**, Enterprise Applications & Solutions Integration Team, University of Toronto
- 10/2014 **Assistant Organizer**, University of Toronto Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind: Mind and Religion
- 04/2014 **Demonstrator**, Science Rendezvous, Toronto

LANGUAGES

Russian (native) | English (fluent) | Japanese (intermediate, certified by ARC Academy Kyoto) | Hebrew (reading with dictionary) | Tatar (basic, reading with dictionary) | German (basic, reading with dictionary)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python (intermediate, NLTK, machine learning) | Matlab/Octave (machine learning) | C/C++ (basic) | R (basic, statistical methods for linguistics) | Wolfram Mathematica (basic modelling) | Google Suite | Microsoft Office | Apple Keynote | Machine Learning Coursera Certificate (Stanford University, 2018)