

Maryia (Masha) Fedzechkina

Contact Information

Department of Psychology
University of Pennsylvania
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EDUCATION

- 2014 **University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY
Ph.D., Brain & Cognitive Sciences
- 2012 **University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY
M.A., Brain & Cognitive Sciences
- 2011 **LSA summer institute**,
University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO
- 2009 **University of Cologne**, Cologne, Germany
M.A., Data Processing, English, & Phonetics
- 2007 **Minsk State Linguistic University**, Minsk, Belarus
B.A., English & German

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2014 – present **Postdoctoral fellow**
Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania
Advisers: John Trueswell & Lila Gleitman

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2009 – 2014 **Graduate student**
Human Language Processing Lab & Newport Lab, University of Rochester
Advisers: T. Florian Jaeger & Elissa Newport
- 2006 – 2009 **Research assistant**
Linguistic Data Processing, University of Cologne
Adviser: Juergen Rolshoven

PAPERS

Fedzechkina, M., Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (in prep.) The miniature artificial language learning paradigm as a complement to typological data. **[invited submission]**

Fedzechkina, M., Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (under review). Balancing effort and information transmission during language acquisition: Evidence from word order and case-marking.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2013). Communicative biases shape structures of newly acquired languages. *Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2012). Language learners restructure their input to facilitate efficient communication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(44): 17897-17902.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in language learning: Evidence from word order and case-marking interaction. *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Fedzechkina, M., Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). The miniature artificial language learning paradigm as a complement to typological data. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 2014, Washington, DC, March 14-16, 2014.

Fedzechkina, M., Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). Functional biases in acquisition shape cross-linguistically frequent structures. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 2014, Washington, DC, March 14-16, 2014.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2013). Communicative biases shape structures of newly acquired languages. 35th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Berlin, Germany, July 31-August 3, 2013.

Jaeger, T. F., **Fedzechkina, M.**, Kurumada, C., Newport, E. (2012). Confusability reduction in production and acquisition. DGfS 2012 workshop 'Information Density and Linguistic Variation', Frankfurt, Germany, March 9, 2012.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in language learning: Evidence from word order and case-marking interaction. 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Boston, MA, July 20-23, 2011.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

Fedzechkina, M., Newport, E., Jaeger, T. F. (2014). Language processing shapes language change: Redundant cues are less likely to be maintained in language. 27th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Columbus, OH, March 13-15.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in acquisition: Language learners restructure the input to avoid uncertainty. 36th Annual Meeting of the Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA, November 4-6, 2011.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Functional biases in (artificial) language

learning. 24th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Stanford, CA, March 24-26.

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2011). Word order and case-marking in language acquisition and processing. 85th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA, January 6-9, 2011. [**designated media-worthy**]

INVITED TALKS

2014. *Communication shapes structures of newly acquired languages.* Department of Linguistics, University at Buffalo -- SUNY, Buffalo, NY, January 27, 2014.

2013. *Learners' communicative preferences shape structures of newly acquired languages.* Language and Cognition Lab, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, November 18, 2013.

2013. *Learners' communicative preferences shape structures of newly acquired languages.* Language Development and Language Processing Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, May 15, 2013.

2011. *Are there functional biases in language acquisition?* Cognitive and Computational Approaches to Language Group, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, January 10, 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| Spring 2013 | Teaching Assistant , Language Development Taught by Dr. Susan Thompson Gave 3 guest lectures on syntactic & morphological development, planned & held review sessions, wrote & graded exams, held weekly office hours |
| Fall 2012 | Guest Lecturer , Language and Psycholinguistics Topic: Child language processing |
| Fall 2011 | Teaching Assistant , Language and Psycholinguistics Taught by Dr. T. Florian Jaeger Gave a guest lecture on child sentence processing, wrote & graded weekly assignments, planned & held review sessions, held weekly office hours |
| Fall 2010 | Teaching Assistant , Language and Psycholinguistics Taught by Dr. Patricia Reeder Gave a guest lecture on parsing development in children, planned & held review sessions, graded exams & papers, held weekly office hours |
| Spring 2010 | Teaching Assistant , Language Development Taught by Dr. Sara Finley Wrote & graded exams, held weekly office hours |
| 2007 – 2009 | Private English Tutor , Cologne, Germany |
| 2001 – 2004 | Private English Tutor , Minsk, Belarus |

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate research assistants, University of Rochester (with T. Florian Jaeger):

- Becky Chu, Spring 2014 – present
- Patrick Davis, Summer 2013
- Suzanne Blackley, Spring 2013 – Spring 2014
- Shreya Krishnan, Summer 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
- Erica Williams, Spring 2013, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
- Kate Heffernan, Spring 2013
- Meghan Hennessy, Spring 2013
- Christopher Anzalone, Fall 2012
- Elisa Hoyos, Fall 2012
- Rachel Aronovitz, Fall 2012
- Cynthia Orr, Fall 2012
- Theodore Lincoln, Summer 2012
- Greta Smith, Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
- Tara Stanley, Fall 2011 – Summer 2013
- Vivian Choi, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011
- Keryn Bernstein, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011
- Colleen Dolan, Summer 2010, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012
- Rebecca Glass, Summer 2010

Independent study students, University of Rochester (with T. Florian Jaeger):

- Becky Chu, Summer 2014. Topic: 'First and second language influences on the acquisition of case-marking in the third language'.
- Suzanne Blackley, Summer 2013 – present. Topic: 'Communicative influences on the acquisition of optional case systems: A partner study using miniature artificial languages'.
- Delarom Menhaj, Spring 2013. Topic: 'The role of language experience in morphological acquisition'.
- Eric Partridge, Spring, 2012. Topic: 'Production strategies in two-word stage children'.
- Shreya Krishnan, Spring, 2012. Topic: 'Production strategies in two-word stage children'.
- Tara Stanley, Spring 2011. Topic: 'Functional biases in language acquisition'.
- Colleen Dolan, Spring 2010. Topic: 'Processing influences on word order acquisition'.
- Rebecca Glass, Spring 2010. Topic: 'Processing influences on word order acquisition'.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-hoc reviewer:

- Language, Cognition, & Neuroscience
- Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science

MEDIA COVERAGE

Fedzechkina, M., Jaeger, T. F., Newport, E. (2012). Language learners restructure their input to facilitate efficient communication. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(44): 17897-17902.

Reported in: Psychology Today, Academic Minute, Sceptic's Guide to the Universe, ScienceOmega, Rochester Review, Futurity, Phys.org, ScienceBlog, Science Daily, E-Science News, Sify News, ThruthDrive, BioSpace.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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| 2011 | Paula Menyuk travel award for BUCLD 2011 |
| 2011 | LSA summer institute fellowship |
| 2007 – 2009 | Koelner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds , Cologne, Germany Scholarship for academic excellence |
| 2007 | University of Cologne , Cologne, Germany Tuition waver |
| 2000 – 2004 | Minsk State Linguistic University , Minsk, Belarus Scholarship for academic excellence |

LANGUAGES

Belarusian (native)
Russian (native)
English (fluent)
German (fluent)
Italian (intermediate)

Philadelphia, PA
July 16, 2014