







Luke Smith

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Basic Info

 : luke@lukesmith.xyz
 : <https://lukesmith.xyz>


 : github.com/LukeSmithxyz
 : youtube.com/c/LukeSmithxyz



- Doctoral candidate in linguistics at the [University of Arizona](#) , focusing mostly on deriving linguistic traits and tendencies from non-linguistic cognitive traits and theoretical reform.
- Maintainer and developer of an Arch Linux-based metadistribution at [larbs.xyz](#) .
- Since late 2016, I run a [YouTube channel](#)  mostly on technology tutorials and Linux configuration and system management.

Institutions

2015–2018	Ph.D. in Linguistics <i>University of Arizona, Tucson</i> Focusing on biolinguistics, syntax and computational linguistics. Advisors: Tom Bever , Mike Hammond .
2013–2015	M.A. in Linguistics <i>University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia</i> Major in Syntax; minor in Romance Languages . Thesis: <i>External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics</i>  . Advisor: Vera Lee-Schoenfeld .
2012	Exchange Program, Zhèngzhōu University (郑州大学) <i>Zhèngzhōu, China</i> Studying Chinese history.
2009–2012	B.A. in International Economics and Modern Languages <i>Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta</i> Specializations in Spanish and Chinese. Certificates in Economic History and International Trade.


Classes Taught




More teaching information, along with my **teaching evaluations** and some materials can be found on my website at lukesmith.xyz/classes .

2018	LING150 – “Language” (Online) <i>University of Arizona</i> With Amy Fountain .
2017–2018	ESOC210 – “The History of Hacking and Open Source Culture” – Graduate Assistant (Online) <i>University of Arizona</i> With David Seng.
2016	LING300 – “Introduction to Syntax” – Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> Under Simin Karimi . Helped introduce undergraduates to the Gospel of Chomsky. Served as a substitute for main professor when gone, graded work and did administrivia.
2015–2017	LING150 – “Language” – Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> With Amy Fountain . I teach Friday sessions and conduct recitations for a break-out section of an auditorium classroom. I conduct my own activities and lectures off of my own syllabus.
2014–2015	LING2100 – “Study of Language” – Instructor   <i>University of Georgia</i> I worked through my own syllabus and class plan and focus mainly on how language relates to wider issues in cognitive science. Also focused on the philosophy of language and historical linguistics.
2014	LING3150 – “Generative Syntax” – Co-teacher <i>University of Georgia</i> Covered Phrase-Structure Rules and X-bar Theory. A writing intensive course. Taught with Jennimaria Palomäki .

2014 | **Writing Intensive Program – Teaching Assistant**
University of Georgia Guided and graded essay-writing for linguistics students.

Presentations

Current projects and other information can be found on <https://lukesmith.xyz/linguistics> .

- 2018 | **“Linux is the Wild West! And Let It Be That Way!”** 
Southeast Linuxfest 2018
- 2018 | **“The Evolution of the Ibero-Romance Irregular Imperfect: A Constraint-based Analysis”** 
28th Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language and Culture
- 2017 | **“Scope without Syntax: Towards a Game Theoretic Approach”** 
University of Arizona Synsalon
- 2017 | **“Language as Synesthesia”**  
Seminar on language and consciousness Clarification of some points from [my qualifying paper](#).
- 2015 | **“Towards Bilingual Clarity in Generative Syntax”** 
The Interdisciplinary Linguistics Conference at UGA, 2015
- 2015 | **“Syntax is for Real! – Parameterization of Head Movement in Korean and its Effects on Scope and Alternations”**
LSUGA Tiny Talks
- 2015 | **“External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics”**
University of Georgia Linguistics Program Spring Colloquium
- 2013 | **“The acquisition of *tú* and *usted* by English speakers: A study of non-native knowledge and usage of forms of address”**
Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference
- 2012 | **“Theories of contraction: A survey of macroeconomic theories of depression”**
Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference

Guest Lectures


This list is non-exhaustive.

- 2018 | **“Linguistics Isn’t 60 Years Old!: Pāṇinian Approaches to the Syntax and Semantics of Natural Language”**  
Guest Lecture For [Simin Karimi](#)’s class *Major Works in Syntax*
- 2018 | **“Quantifier Scope is Just All Fun and Games!”** 
Linguistics Department Graduate Student Showcase
- 2017 | **“The Origins and Mechanics of the Greek Alphabet”** 
Guest Lecture For Shannon Grippando’s class *The Psychology of Writing Systems*
- 2016 | **“The Phonetics of Language”**
Guest Lecture For Amy Fountain’s class *Language*
- 2016 | **“Constituent Structure—What is it and where does it come from?”**
Guest Lecture (series of 3) For [Simin Karimi](#)’s class *Introduction to Syntax*
- 2016 | **“An Introduction to Minimalism”**  & **“Optimizing Structure”** 
Guest Lectures For Doug Merchant’s class *Generative Syntax*
- 2015 | **“Syntactic Theory and Psycholinguistics”** 
Guest lecture For Doug Merchant’s class *Psychology of Language*

Languages

HUMAN	Spanish, Mandarin, Latin, some Persian and French, reading knowledge of classical Greek and most Romance languages. Grammatical knowledge of a many Indo-European languages, Korean and others.
MACHINE	Python, Perl, R, PHP, Matlab/GNU Octave, bash/shell, some superficial knowledge of C, common LISP and Haskell; markup languages including \LaTeX / $X_{\text{}}\TeX$, R Markdown, HTML, CSS.

Tools I Use

I have lots of tutorials on many of these programs and tools on my [my YouTube channel](#) .







Usual Workflow

I use a **vim**-based setup in a tiling window manager (**i3-gaps**). I compile documents using **R Markdown** or **\LaTeX** , and **biber** for references. I prefer to do multimedia manipulation in the terminal with tools like **imagemagick** and **ffmpeg** for extensibility's sake. I've run Microsoft, MacOS and GNU/Linux systems (both Debian and Arch-based varieties, as well as Void Linux).

Programs I'm Familiar With

tmux, ssh, Apache web servers, RStudio, Blender (mostly for video-editing), Praat, Audacity, E-Prime, GIMP, pandoc, Jupyter. I've managed websites manually via ssh and vim using HTML/CSS/PHP and with tools such as Github Pages (Jekyll) WordPress via either cpanel or wp-cli. Some experience with myBB.

Public Code and Scripts


2018	lb  <i>Lightweight blogging system</i> An extremely small and economical system, based on in shell script, for generating blog entries with a rolling blog page, standalone pages, RSS entries and more.
2018	mutt and offlineIMAP wizard  <i>A fully-featured configuration tool.</i> A tool for automatically configuring mutt, offlineIMAP, notmuch and other parts of a full email system with automatic detection of IMAP and SMTP protocols and automatic password encryption
2017–2018	shortcut-sync  <i>A small system for synchronizing configs between bash and other shells, ranger and qute-browser.</i>
IN PROGRESS	Corpus Latinum Lucae  <i>A planned linguistic corpus of the Latin language, to be searchable by regexes and grammatical category, with an interface written in Python.</i> As of now I've constructed the parser to generate the corpus from raw text files.
2017–Now	Luke's Auto-Rice Bootstrapping Scripts (LARBS) WWW  <i>A dynamic installer for an i3wm Arch Linux distribution</i>
2016–Now	Voidrice  <i>Linux dotfiles</i> A set of GNU/Linux dotfiles that I popularized on YouTube, aiming at creating a powerful, optimized, all-purpose and lightweight general computing environment. Innovated dynamically configured and synced rc files.
2015	http://LukeSmith.xyz WWW <i>My website</i> Written from scratch. Modern traditional feel. I generate the website offline with PHP and upload a static version of only HTML/CSS.





2016–2017	/Comfy/ Arch <i>Automatic ricing tool</i> A web-based deployment system for configuration files which focuses on enabling novice Linux users to get immersed quickly in advanced ricing environments. No longer actively maintained as it has been largely replaced by LARBS (above).
2013	Vulgarizer <i>Sound Change Simulator</i> A string-manipulation paradigm written in Python for simulating phonetic and phonological change over time. The original implementation focused on modeling changes between Latin and Spanish and then other Romance languages, but if I continue the project, my hope is to generalize this.

Other

My build of the the suckless [simple terminal \(st\)](#) with added vimlike homerow binds and small improvements.

Online Tutorials

I produce screencasts and produce other videos for public use as tutorials on YouTube on my channel.  As of January 2018, over 13,000 subscribers, with 1.4 millions views on over 100 different videos. All of these series below are ongoing.


R / STATISTICS 	[1]: Arithmetic, Variables and Vectors; [2]: Basic Statistical Functions and Logic; [3]: Dataframes, Subsetting and Ifelse
LaTeX 	[0]: Installation; [1]: Compiling, Titles, Sections, Formatting, Syntax; [2]: Labels, References and Lists; [3]: Bibliographies; [4]: Résumé-making Part 1; [5]: Résumé-making Part 2; [6]: Images, Figures; [7]: Beamer Slideshow Presentations; [8]: Macros
VIM 	Macros; Workflow with LaTeX; Basic Tips After Vimtutor; SC-IM - Vim-based Terminal Spreadsheet Editor; Custom code snippets, for IDE functionality; Vi-mode in bash; Spell-checking and Dictionaries; How vim Makes my Daily Life Easier
LINUX	Videos on hacking and modifying Linux graphical environments particularly on i3-gaps, including customization, window management, program-shortcutting, optimization. 

Service

SOON	Coyote Papers Editor for the 2018 Arizona Linguistics Circle <i>University of Arizona</i>
2017–2018	Manager for Tom Bever’s Language and Cognition Lab site <i>University of Arizona</i>
2017	Arizona Linguistic Circle Peer-Reviewer <i>University of Arizona</i> Judged and gave feedback for scholarly article submitted for the Arizona Linguistics Circle.
2015–2016	Indo-European Reading Group Director <i>University of Arizona</i> Covering general historical linguistics, and the particulars of PIE morphology, phonology and development. Group materials located at luksmith.xyz/pie
2014–2016	LSUGA Website Manager <i>University of Georgia</i> Created and managed the LSUGA website, http://www.lsuga.com . (Now apparently reformatted.)
2014–2015	LSUGA Interdisciplinary Conference in Linguistics Committee Member <i>University of Georgia</i> Managed email, reviewed papers and did audio and video for conference.
2014–2015	Graduate Student Mentor <i>University of Georgia</i>
2014	Socio-Paths Sociolinguistics Reading Group Co-director <i>University of Georgia</i>

2014 | **Typology Reading Group Director**
University of Georgia Covered classical Greenbergian typology, particularly with relevance to historical linguistics.

Writings



Section incomplete. Only contains major degree requirements now. To be updated. More minor squibs of mine can be found at <https://luke-smith.xyz/linguistics> .

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| SOON | Unnamed dissertation
<i>Dissertation, University of Arizona</i> Possible committee: Tom Bever , Robert Henderson , Masha Fedzechkina , Noam Chomsky ? |
| 2017 | Scope Without Syntax: A Game Theoretic Approach  
<i>Second qualifying paper, University of Arizona</i> Committee: Robert Henderson , Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini , Tom Bever , Mike Hammond . |
| 2017 | Syntax Without Syntax   
<i>First qualifying paper, University of Arizona</i> Committee: Mike Hammond , Simin Karimi , Heidi Harley . |
| 2015 | External Possession and the Undisentanglability of Syntax and Semantics 
<i>Master's thesis, University of Georgia</i> Committee: Vera Lee-Schoenfeld , Tim Gupton , Pilar Chamorro . |

Hobbies

Classical languages, human evolution and prehistory, free (i.e. libre) software, survivalism, cybernetics, medieval thought, Rhaeto-Romance poetry.

References

- Email me  with your interests in me and I'll refer you to someone who can vouch for me or defame me, depending on what you want.
- I upload all of my teaching evaluations to <https://luke-smith.xyz/evals>  and they can be read there.