

ALEXIS PALMER

MMCI Cluster of Excellence,
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational discourse and semantics; computational linguistics for less-studied languages; active learning; grammar engineering; language documentation; formal and functional syntax, argument structure and linking, voice; lexical and formal semantics, structure of discourse; language and music

Linguistics of American indigenous languages: Ojibwe (Algonquian), Q'anjob'al, Uspanteko (Mayan), Chatino (Zapotecan)

EDUCATION

- 2001 – 2009 **PhD** in Linguistics, October 2009, University of Texas at Austin
PhD thesis: 'Semi-Automated Annotation and Active Learning for Language Documentation'
Supervisors: Jason Baldridge, Katrin Erk
Committee members: Nora England, Raymond Mooney, Anthony Woodbury
- 2001 – 2005 **MA** in Linguistics, University of Texas at Austin
MA thesis: 'Strategies for Automatic Classification of Situation Entities'
- 1990 – 1994 **BA** in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
- Summer 2007 LSA Summer Institute, Stanford, CA.
Summer 2002 European Summer School for Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI). Trento, Italy.

EXPERIENCE

- 2009 – present Postdoctoral fellow, *Computational Modelling of Discourse and Semantics*; Caroline Sporleder, research group head; MMCI Cluster of Excellence, Department of Computational Linguistics and Phonetics, Saarland University.
- 2007 – 2008 Research Assistant, *EARL – Efficient Annotation of Resources using Learning*; Jason Baldridge and Katrin Erk, principal investigators; NSF Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) grant
- 2007, 2009 Research Assistant, *TexTime – Temporal Expressions and Time Processing*; Jason Baldridge, principal investigator; New York Community Trust grant
- 2007 Research Assistant, *OpenCCG GUI development*; Jason Baldridge, principal investigator; UT Austin Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services grant
- 2006 Research Assistant, *Linguistic research on text interpretation*; Carlota Smith, principal investigator; New York Community Trust grant
- 2006 Research Assistant, *The UT-Austin NLP Software Suite*; Jason Baldridge, faculty sponsor; UT Austin DIIA ~FAST Tex program
- 2004 Research Assistant, *Natural language generation for the medical domain*; Mary Dee Harris, supervisor; ReCare Inc., Austin, TX

2003 – 2004 Research Assistant, *Linguistic research on text interpretation*;
Carlota Smith, principal investigator; New York Community Trust grant

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Submitted Alexis Palmer, Caroline Sporleder, and Linlin Li. So to speak: Lexical cohesion of idiomatic and literal expressions in text. [In review, special issue of journal *Discours*, selected papers from *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Discourse 2010 (MAD 2010)*, Moissac, France]
- 2011 Alexis Palmer, Afra Alishahi, and Caroline Sporleder. Robust Semantic Analysis for Unseen Data in FrameNet. To appear in *Proceedings of RANLP 2011*. Hissar, Bulgaria. [conference publication]
- Chenhua Chen, Alexis Palmer, and Caroline Sporleder. Enhancing Active Learning for Semantic Role Labeling via Compressed Dependency Trees. To appear in *Proceedings of IJCNLP 2011*. Chiang Mai, Thailand. [conference publication]
- 2010 Alexis Palmer, Taesun Moon, Jason Baldridge, Katrin Erk, Eric Campbell, and Telma Can. Computational strategies for reducing annotation effort in language documentation. *Linguistic Issues in Language Technology*. 3(4):1-42, February 2010. CSLI Publications. [journal article]
- Alexis Palmer and Caroline Sporleder. Evaluating FrameNet-style semantic parsing: the role of coverage in FrameNet. In *Proceedings of COLING 2010*. Beijing. [conference publication]
- Ines Rehbein, Josef Ruppenhofer, and Alexis Palmer. Bringing Active Learning to Life. In *Proceedings of COLING 2010*. Beijing. [conference publication]
- 2009 Jason Baldridge and Alexis Palmer. How well does active learning *actually* work? Time-based evaluation of cost-reduction strategies for language documentation. In *Proceedings of EMNLP-09*. Singapore. [conference publication]
- Alexis Palmer, Taesun Moon, and Jason Baldridge. Evaluating automation strategies in language documentation. In *Proceedings of the NAACL HLT 2009 Workshop on Active Learning for Natural Language Processing*. Boulder, Colorado. [workshop publication]
- 2007 Alexis Palmer, Elias Ponvert, Jason Baldridge, and Carlota Smith. A sequence model for situation entity classification. In *Proceedings ACL 2007*. Prague. [conference publication]
- Alexis Palmer and Katrin Erk. IGT-IML: An XML format for interlinearized glossed text. In *Proceedings of the ACL 2007 Linguistic Annotation Workshop (LAW)*. Prague. [workshop publication]
- Jason Baldridge, Sudipta Chatterjee, Alexis Palmer, and Ben Wing. DotCCG and VisCCG: Wiki and Programming Paradigms for Improved Grammar Engineering with OpenCCG. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Grammar*

Engineering Across Frameworks (GEAF). Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. [workshop publication]

2004 Alexis Palmer, Jonas Kuhn, and Carlota Smith. Utilization of Multiple Language Resources for Robust Grammar-Based Tense and Aspect Classification. In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2004)*. Lisbon. [conference publication]

Nicholas Asher, Pascal Denis, Jonas Kuhn, Erik Larson, Eric McCready, Alexis Palmer, Brian Reese, and Linton Wang. Extracting and Using Discourse Structure to Resolve Anaphoric Dependencies: Combining Logico-Semantic and Statistical Approaches. In *TALN Proceedings (SDRT Workshop)*. Fès, Morocco. [workshop publication]

2003 Alexis Palmer. Inverse agreement, argument structure, and hierarchy-driven phenomena in Ojibwe. In *Proceedings of Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 2003)*. Santa Barbara, California. [workshop publication, linguistics]

EDITED VOLUMES

2008 Nicholas Gaylord, Stephen Hilderbrand, Alexis Palmer, and Elias Ponvert. *Proceedings of TLSX 2006: Computational Linguistics for Less-Studied Languages*. CSLI: Stanford, CA.

2007 Online proceedings of 4th *Workshop on Discourse Structure*. UT Austin. <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/linguistics/workshops/4DW>

2006 Pascal Denis, Eric McCready, Alexis Palmer, and Brian Reese. *Proceedings of the 8th Meeting of the Texas Linguistics Society: Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface*. Cascadilla Proceedings Project: Somerville, MA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (WITHOUT CORRESPONDING PUBLICATION)

2009 Alexis Palmer and Caroline Sporleder. Situation entities and genre distinctions in the Penn Discourse TreeBank. Presented at TLS 2009. Austin, Texas.

2004 Alexis Palmer. Toward an Understanding of the Discourse Function of the Inverse Construction in Ojibwe. Presented at *Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL 2004)*. Santa Barbara, California.

INVITED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2009 Working group participant and co-chair, *Cyberling 2009*. Workshop at 2009 LSA Summer Institute. Berkeley, California.

2007 Working group member. *Toward Interoperability of Language Resources (TILR)*. Workshop at LSA Summer Institute. Stanford, California.

2006 Working group member. *EMELD Workshop on Digital Language Documentation: 'Tools and Standards: State of the Art' and Digital Tools Summit in Linguistics (DTLS)*. East Lansing, MI.

INVITED TALKS

2009 Computational linguistics and language documentation. FEAST talk series, Saarland University, May 2009.

With Jason Baldridge. Connecting language documentation and natural language processing. LSA symposium on Computational Linguistics in the Service of Linguistic Analysis. San Francisco, California. January 2009

2008 Automatic classification of situation entities in discourse. Saarland University, November 2008. [job talk]

ADVISING

MSc Students Mariya Koleva, Saarland University, Computational Linguistics
Topic: Bootstrapping POS taggers for South African languages (ongoing)

Chenhua Chen, Saarland University, Computer Science
Topic: Active Learning for Semantic Role Labeling (submitted Oct 2011)

TEACHING

Primary Instructor Computational Linguistics for Low-Resource Languages (UdS, MSc seminar)
[to access wiki: <http://wiki.coli.uni-saarland.de/CL4LRL/main>, login: cl4lrl, password: Aid1aiji]
Language and Music (UT, LIN312, undergraduate)
Introduction to the Study of Language (UT, LIN306, undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant Syntax I (UT, LIN380L, graduate), Carlota Smith
Language and Meaning (UT, LIN350, undergraduate), Bernhard Schwarz
Introduction to the Study of Language (UT, LIN306, undergraduate),
Robert King

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal reviewing Computational Linguistics, Linguistic Issues in Language Technology (LiLT), Philippine Social Sciences Review.

Conference reviewing AAAI 2012, EACL 2012, EMNLP 2011, LSA 2010-12, COLING 2010, Konvens 2010, EMNLP-CoNLL 2007, SALSA (Symposium about Language and Society in Austin) 2005-2008.

Funding review NSF Documenting Endangered Languages program 2011

Committees Member, Linguistic Society of America Technology Advisory Committee (2009-present); Organization of FEAST talk series, Saarland University; Student member, search committee for assistant professor of semantics

Conference organization TLSX 2006 (*Computational Linguistics for Less-Studied Languages*), 4th Workshop on Discourse Structure (2006), TLS8 2004 (*Issues at the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface*).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2008 Carlota S. Smith Memorial Fellowship, UT Austin Dept. of Linguistics
2007 – 2008 University Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin
2007 NAACL/ACL Fellowship to the LSA Linguistic Institute
2004 David Bruton, Jr, Graduate Fellowship stipend, UT Austin
2003 Honorable mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
1992 – 1994 National Merit Scholarship, University of Michigan

REFERENCES (SUPERVISORS)

Jason Baldridge
Associate Professor, Linguistics
The University of Texas at Austin
jbaldrid@mail.utexas.edu

Katrin Erk
Assistant Professor, Linguistics
The University of Texas at Austin
katrin.erk@mail.utexas.edu

Caroline Sporleder
Research Group Head, MMCI Cluster of Excellence
Dept. of Computational Linguistics and Phonetics
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REFERENCES (ADDITIONAL)

Richard Meier
Professor, Linguistics
The University of Texas at Austin
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Rajesh Bhatt
Associate Professor, Linguistics
University of Massachusetts
bhatt@linguist.umass.edu