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**CHERLON L. USSERY**


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Carleton College  
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 Linguistics Department  
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**Research Interests**

Syntax, with particular interests in the syntax-morphology and syntax-semantics interfaces: case and agreement patterns; syntactic, semantic, and morphological phenomena inside of infinitival clauses; Icelandic; Faroese; syntax and semantics of ditransitives; modeling optionality and variation; word order, argument structure, and scope.

**Positions at Carleton College**

Fall 2017 – present Associate Professor of Linguistics  
 Fall 2010 – Summer 2017 Assistant Professor of Linguistics  
 Fall 2009 – Summer 2010 Scholar-in-Residence Fellow in Linguistics

**Courses Taught at Carleton:** Introduction to the Theory of Syntax, Introduction to Linguistic Theory, The Noun (a first-year seminar), Generative Approach to Syntax (intermediate), Case and Agreement (intermediate), Semantics and Pragmatics (intermediate) Topics in Syntax (advanced), Topics in Semantics (advanced), Topics in Morphology (advanced)

**Education**

*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2009

Dissertation: Optionality and Variability: Syntactic Licensing Meets Morphological Spell-Out

Directors: Kyle Johnson and Ellen Woolford

*University of South Carolina, Columbia*

M.A. in Linguistics, 2004

Primary Field: Syntax

M.A. Thesis: Possessor Raising in English

Director: Stanley Dubinsky

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

B.A. in Political Science and

African and African American Studies, 1995

**Publications**

*Peer Reviewed Journals and Anthologies*

To appear. Ditransitives in Faroese: The Distribution of IO/DO and PP. With Hjalmar P. Petersen. Submitted to T. Coleman, M. Röthlisberger, and E. Zehentner eds. *Ditransitive Constructions in the Germanic Languages*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2017. Dimensions of variation: Agreement with nominative objects in Icelandic. In H. Thráinsson, C. Heycock, H.P. Petersen, and Z.S. Hansen, eds. *Syntactic Variation in Insular Scandinavian*, p. 165-197. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

2015. Agreement and the Icelandic passive. *Linguistic Analysis* 40(1-2): 19-53.

*Conference Proceedings and Other Publications*

2018. Inversion as Rightward-Dative Shift in Icelandic ditransitives. *Proceedings of the 48th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts. [Distributed by GLSA].

2017. Double objects again...but in Icelandic. In N. LaCara, K. Moulton, and A.-M. Tessier, eds. *A Schrift to Fest Kyle Johnson*. Linguistics Open Access Publications. 1. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.7275/R57D2S95>.

2016. With Lydia Ding and Yining Rebecca Liu. The typology of Mandarin infinitives. *Proceedings of the 90<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v1i0.3727>.

2013. Variability in Icelandic agreement: An interaction of DP licensing and Multiple Agree. *Proceedings of the 40th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts. [Distributed by GLSA].

2012. Case and phi features as probes. *Proceedings of 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Working Papers in Linguistics. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Coyote Papers.

2008. What it means to Agree: The behavior of case and phi features in Icelandic control. *Proceedings of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* Somerville, MA: Cascadia Press.

### Conference Presentations

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| June 2021     | <i>The Acceptability and Interpretation of Ditransitives in Icelandic and Faroese</i> . Talk to be presented at the 12 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of Nordic and General Linguistics. Oslo, Norway. (virtual)                             |
| February 2021 | <i>Scope in Faroese Ditransitives</i> (with Hjalmar P. Petersen). Talk presented at the Ditransitives Across Languages and Frameworks workshop at the 43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Linguistic Society. Freiburg, Germany (virtual). |
| August 2019   | <i>Ditransitive Constructions in Faroese</i> (with Hjalmar P. Petersen). Talk presented at the 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Frændafundur. Tórshavn, Faroe Islands.  |
| October 2017  | <i>Inversion as Rightward-Dative Shift in Icelandic Ditransitives</i> . Talk presented at the 48 <sup>th</sup> North East Linguistic Society meeting. Reykjavík, Iceland.  |
| January 2016  | <i>The Typology of Mandarin Infinitives</i> (with Lydia Ding and Yining Rebecca Liu). Poster presentation at the 90 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Washington, DC.   |
| April 2013    | <i>Agreement vs Concord in Icelandic</i> . Poster presentation at GLOW 36. Lund, Sweden.   |
| January 2013  | <i>Agreement and the Icelandic Passive: A Smuggling Account</i> . Talk presented at the 87 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Boston, MA.  |
| June 2012     | <i>Deriving Agreement and Non-agreement with Quirky Case in Icelandic</i> . Talk presented at the Non-Canonical Case-Marked Subjects Conference. Reykjavík, Iceland.   |
| March 2012    | <i>A Taxonomy of Agreement in Icelandic: A PF Account</i> . Talk presented at the 36 <sup>th</sup> University of Pennsylvania Linguistics Colloquium. Philadelphia, PA.  |
| August 2011   | <i>Variation in Icelandic Agreement: Multiple Agree, Multiple Grammars</i> . Talk presented at the Variation and Typology: New Trends in Syntactic Variation Conference. Helsinki, Finland.  |

- April 2011 *Case and Phi Features as Probes*. Poster presentation at the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. Tucson, AZ.
- January 2010 *Modeling Optionality: A View from Icelandic*. Talk presented at the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Baltimore, MD.
- November 2009 *Variability in Icelandic Agreement: An Interaction of DP Licensing and Multiple Agree*. Talk presented at the 40<sup>th</sup> North East Linguistic Society meeting. Cambridge, MA.
- January 2009 *Case in Syntax, Agreement in PF: Evidence from Icelandic*. Poster presentation at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. San Francisco, CA.
- April 2007 *What it Means to Agree: The Behavior of Case and Phi Features in Icelandic Control*. Talk presented at the 26<sup>th</sup> West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics. Berkeley, CA.
- January 2007 *AGREE to Control: Case Optionality in Icelandic*. Talk presented at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Anaheim, CA.
- July 2005 *A Control Account of External Possession in English*. Poster presented at Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Special Session on Raising and Control. Cambridge, MA.
- Invited Talks**
- January 2020 *Why an Icelander Can Give a Tourist Directions but Cannot Give Directions to a Tourist*. Colloquium at Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ
- June 2019 Annual Meeting (with Dustin)
- March 2018 *The Complexities of Ditransitives in English and Icelandic*. Colloquium at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.
- October 2017 *\*The Visitor Gave the Audience a Lecture: The Complexities of Ditransitives in English and Icelandic*. Colloquium at the University of Iceland, Reykjavík.
- March 2017 *The Dakota Pronoun Puzzle*. Colloquium at Shanghai University. Shanghai, China.
- August 2016 *Pronouns in Dakota: a Brief Look*. Workshop: Preserving and Revitalizing Dakota at Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate (SWO). Dakotah Language Institute and Carleton College. [This workshop was funded by NSF Award 1641556, ‘Fostering Dakota Language Restoration through Workshops: First Steps to Partnering by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Dakotah Language Institute, and Carleton College’, to PI Michael Flynn and Co-PI Jeff Ondich.]
- April 2014 *Optionality and Intervention: The Complexities of Nominative Object Agreement in Icelandic*. Colloquium at Lund University. Lund, Sweden.
- February 2014 *The (un)predictability of Icelandic agreement*. Colloquium at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.
- October 2013 *Approaches to the Morphology of Dative-Nominative Constructions in Icelandic*. Colloquium at the University of Iceland, Reykjavík.

March 2010

*A Formal Approach to Optionality through the Lens of Icelandic.* Colloquium at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.

September 2008

*Case and Agreement in Different Components of the Grammar.* Colloquium presentation at the University of Iceland, Reykjavík.

### Grants Awarded (external to Carleton)

- *Ditransitives in Insular Scandinavian.* Icelandic Research Fund, Rannís. Grant number 195926-051. Co-PI with Jóhannes Gísli Jónsson (University of Iceland). Rest of the primary project team includes Hjalmar P. Petersen (University of the Faroe Islands), Einar Freyr Sigurðsson (Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies), Jim Wood (Yale), and Nicole Dehé (University of Konstanz). 17,000,000ISK for first year with additional funding for up to three years. (Winter 2019)

### Grants Awarded (internal to Carleton)

- Hewlett Mellon and Presidential Fellowship: For extended sabbatical during the 2020-21 academic year (November 2019) to conduct research on Icelandic and Faroese ditransitives
- Student Research Partner Award (through the Humanities Center): To support research on Icelandic and Faroese ditransitives (Summer 2019, Summer 2021)
- Student Research Partner Award (through the Dean of the College Office): To support research on Icelandic and Faroese ditransitives (Summer 2020, Summer 2021)
- Dean of the College Fund: To conduct research in Iceland (Fall 2017)
- Wu Family Fund Award: To work with students (Lydia Ding and Yining Rebecca Liu) on Mandarin infinitives project (April 2015)
- Curriculum Development Grant: To revise an advanced semantics course, Topics in Semantics (March 2015)
- Global Engagement Initiative Course Development Grant: To infuse Icelandic culture into my first-year seminar, The Noun (March 2014)
- Student Research Partner Award (through the Humanities Center): To support research on Icelandic passives (December 2013)
- Eugster Fellowship: For extended sabbatical during the 2013-14 academic year (November 2012)
- Class of '49 Fellowship: For extended sabbatical during the 2013-14 academic year (November 2012)
- Curriculum Development Grant: To develop an advanced morphology course, Topics in Morphology (March 2011)
- Summer Student Employee Award: To assist with the development of my first-year seminar (Summer 2010)

### Student Advising

Primary Advisor for Senior Theses:

*Winter – Spring 2019*

- Nathaniel Chew: Reanalyzing the Past: An Experimental Study on Non-Standard -ed in Singapore Colloquial English.
- Kaitlyn Hamers: A Syntactic Account of Tense, Mood, and Aspect in the Haitian Creole Preverbal Marker System.
- Kate Richardson: The Infinitive-Gerund Alternation in English.

*Winter – Spring 2018*

- Leila Awad: Historical Explorations of the Modern Chinese Passive Construction
- Anny Lei: On the Non-existence of Japanese Internally-headed Relative Clauses: Puppet Head Noun *no*
- Malia Molina: Tawkin Enikain at Sku: An Examination of Hawai'i Creole English in an Academic Setting
- Abigail Sheldon: Semantic Motivations and Consequences of Scrambling in Japanese

*Winter – Spring 2017*

- Amanda Owensby: Interpreting [e]: The Reformulation of a Gricean Framework in Understanding Null Categories in Mandarin Chinese

*Spring 2016 – Winter 2017*

- Yining Rebecca Liu: An Experimental Account of Serial Verbs in Mandarin (through Cognitive Science)

*Winter – Spring 2016*

- Josh Elmore: Gender, Animacy, and Variable Constraints: An OT Analysis of *Leísmo*, *Loísmo*, & *Laísmo*
- Almeda Moree-Sanders: Language Contact and Simplification: The Phonology of Surzhyk
- Hannah Quinn: The Semantics of Multiple Modals: An Analysis

*Winter – Spring 2015*

- Mark Hermanson: Harmony in Faithlessness: Toward an Optimality Theory Account of Split Ergativity (did not complete)
- Johanna Olsen: Sarcasm Detection Using Grice's Maxims (published in Carleton's *Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies*)
- Zachary Richmond: Appealing to a Higher Projection: Determining the Possibility of a Unified Analysis of Algonquian Relative Clauses

*Winter – Spring 2013*

- Rebecca Gelles: Gender, Number, and Agreement in English: A Look at Singular *They*
- Will Johnston: The Syntax and Semantics of *Mo* Coordination in Japanese
- Kelsey Klug: How I Talk to Myself: Seeking an Improved Analysis of Anaphora
- Evan Leibowitz: The Role of the *Bǎ* Construction as a Resultative in Mandarin
- Johanna Schmidt: Accounting for Morphological Optionality: An Examination of the Distributed Morphology Operation *Impoverishment*

*Winter – Spring 2012*

- Emily Barter: The Case for a Reanalysis of Case in Sinhala
- Karl Snyder: Russian Default Stress and the Effect of Lexically Weak Roots
- Carly Wordelman: Borrowing as a Result of Contact: Evaluating Models Through Spanish and Otomí

## Other Advising:

- Faculty advisor for the *Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies* (Fall 2018 - present)
- Academic Advisor for 15 first and second year students (Fall 2012-present)
- Mentored seven students (Dan Brodtkin, Yitong Chen, John Cronin, Chase Garcia, Anny Lei, Kai Matsubara-Rall, Abby Sheldon) who presented papers and posters at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistic Symposium
- Mentored two students (Lydia Ding and Yining Rebecca Liu) on a year-long project on Mandarin infinitives: Co-presented at LSA (January 2016) and co-authored proceedings paper
- Mentored five students (Dan Brodtkin, Yitong Chen, Elliot Schwartz, Michael Schneekloth, Adriana Smith) who presented syntax papers at the Harvard Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium (Spring 2016)
- Mentored three students (Alison Wechsler, Emily Barter, Julia Clark) who presented phonology papers at the University of Minnesota Student Workshop on Linguistics (Spring 2010)

**Professional Development***Linguistics*

- Visiting researcher at the University of Iceland (Fall 2013, May 2014, Fall 2017)
- Visiting researcher at Lund University – Lund, Sweden (April 2014)

- Audited course “Dakota History and Culture” at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (Spring 2017)
- Participant in the Institute on Collaborative Language Research – University of Texas at Arlington (June 2014)
- Linguistic Society of America member (2003-present)

#### *Carleton College*

- Advising Circle Participant (forum for advisors of first and second year students) (2015-present)
- Interdisciplinary Teaching Circle Participant (with a Professor of Psychology and a Professor of Music) (2012-2013)
- Participant in Engaging Ideas reading group (Spring 2012)
- New faculty winter workshop (December 2009)

#### **Service**

##### *Linguistics*

- Abstract reviewer for the 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, and 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society
- Abstract reviewer for the 88<sup>th</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> Linguistic Society of America annual meeting
- Reviewer for *Glossa*
- Reviewer for *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics*
- Reviewer for *Linguistic Analysis*
- Reviewer for *Linguistische Berichte*
- Reviewer for *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*
- Editor: Proceedings of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (with Leah Bateman) (2006).

#### *Carleton College*

- Member: Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Steering Group (November 2020 – present)
- Member: Post-Science Planning Committee (Winter 2019 – Winter 2020)
- Member: Search Committee for VP and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid (Spring – Fall 2018)
- Member: Institutional Review Board (January – July 2018)
- Member: Humanities Advisory Board (September 2016-June 2020)
  - Faculty Advisor: *Undergraduate Journal of Humanistic Studies* (September 2018-June 2020)
- Affiliated Faculty for Cognitive Science Department (September 2012 – present)
- Academic advisor for first and second year students (September 2010 – present)
- College Council member (2015-2017)
- Instructor for course on American Culture for students visiting Carleton from Japan (August 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
- Student Fellowships Committee member (2014-2015)
- Convocations Committee member (2011-2013)
- Reader for Tracer Project (2011)
- Interviewer for Watson Fellowship applicants (2011)
- Participated in workshop on First-Year Seminars at Pomona College (2011)
- Quantitative Inquiry, Reasoning, and Knowledge Initiative portfolio reader (2010)
- Sophomore writing portfolio reader (2010)

**Additional Work Experience**

- June 1999- *Program Director*, The Urban Alliance Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- August 2002 Designed curriculum to integrate high school students into professional work environments. Provided training for mentors. Secured new partnerships. Managed grant writing and reporting to funding agencies.
- August 1997- *Program Coordinator*, Street Law, Inc., Washington, D.C.
- June 1999 Coordinated national expansion and maintenance of program. Provided training for teachers implementing organization's social studies curriculum. Assisted with grant writing and reporting to funding agencies.
- August 1995- *Corps Member*, Teach for America, Washington, D.C.
- June 1997 Teaching: Primary instructor for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Implemented curriculum and maintained relationships with parents. Organizational Work: Designed and conducted new corps member orientation for the Washington D.C. office.