

Ben D. Amsel, Ph. D.

Curriculum Vitae

University of California, San Diego

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BIOGRAPHICAL

Born: Calgary, AB, Canada.

Citizenship: U.S.A., Canada.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2014- Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego, USA.
- 2014-2015 Lecturer, Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego, USA.
- 2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Neural Computation, University of California, San Diego, USA.
- 2011-2013 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research in Language, University of California, San Diego, USA.

EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph. D. Experimental Psychology, University of Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2006 M.A. Experimental Psychology, University of Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2004 B.A. Psychology, University of Calgary, AB, Canada.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2014-2015 **KIBM Innovative Research Award**
Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind
- 2013-2014 **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award**
National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health
- 2011-2013 **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award**
National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health
- 2005-2006 **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**
Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- 2003-2004 **Millennium Excellence Award**
Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

MANUSCRIPTS

- Amsel, B. D.**, DeLong, K. A., & Kutas, M. (*in revision*). Close, but no garlic: Perceptuomotor and event knowledge activation during language comprehension.
- Kutas, M., Kluender, R., Barkley, C., & **Amsel, B. D.** (*forthcoming in 2015*). Language. In J. Cacioppo, L. Tassinary, and G. Berntson (Eds), *Handbook of Psychophysiology 4th Edition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Amsel, B. D.**, Kutas, M., & Coulson, S. *A novel test of the grounded cognition hypothesis in grapheme-color synesthetes*. Manuscript in preparation.

PUBLICATIONS

- Forgács, B., Bardolph, M. D., **Amsel, B. D.**, DeLong, K. A., & Kutas, M. (2015). Metaphors are physical and abstract: ERPs to metaphorically modified nouns resemble ERPs to abstract language. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*.
- Amsel, B. D.** (2014). Flexible use of perceptuomotor knowledge in lexical and semantic decision tasks. *Center for Research in Language Technical Report, Vol. 27, No. 1*.
- Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., & Kutas, M. (2014). Empirically grounding grounded cognition: The case of color. *NeuroImage, 99*, 149-157.
- Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., & Kutas, M. (2013). Alive and grasping: Stable and rapid semantic access to an object category but not object graspability. *NeuroImage, 77*, 1-13.
- Amsel, B. D.**, & Cree, G. S. (2013). Semantic richness, concreteness, and object domain: An electrophysiological study. *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, 67*, 117-129.
- Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., & Kutas, M. (2012). Perceptual and motor attribute ratings for 559 object concepts. *Behavior Research Methods, 44*, 1028-41.
- Amsel, B. D.** (2011). Tracking Real-Time Neural Activation of Conceptual Knowledge Using Single-Trial Event-Related Potentials. *Neuropsychologia, 49*, 970-983.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Amsel, B. D.**, DeLong, K. A., & Kutas, M. Perceptuomotor and event knowledge activation during language comprehension. 22nd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA, March 2015.
- Guerra, E., Troyer, M., **Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., DeLong, K. A., Knoeferle, P., & Kutas, M. Visually perceived spatial distance modulates an early neural response to different semantic relations. 6th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2014.
- Troyer, M., Guerra, E., **Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., DeLong, K. A., Knoeferle, P., & Kutas, M. Spatial distance influences the neural response to different semantic relations. 21th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, MA, April 2014.
- Forgács, B., Bardolph, M. D., **Amsel, B. D.**, DeLong, K. A., & Kutas, M. ERPs talk: Are metaphors abstract or concrete? 18th Meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Budapest, Hungary, August 2013.
- Bardolph, M. D., Forgács, B., DeLong, K. A., **Amsel, B. D.**, & Kutas, M. Metaphor and concreteness: An ERP study. 20th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA, April 2013.
- Amsel, B. D.**, Urbach, T. P., & Kutas, M. Getting a grasp: Using the no-go N200 to inform the timing of semantic access. 52nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, New Orleans, Louisiana, September, 2012.
- Amsel, B. D.**, & Cree, G. S. Tracking the Timecourse of Conceptual Knowledge Activation. 18th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, Halifax, Nova Scotia. June 2010.
- Amsel, B. D.**, & Cree, G. S. A dynamic approach to semantic computation: Evidence from event-related potentials and connectionist attractor networks. 15th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 2009.

Le, A., Rondina, R., **Amsel, B. D.**, & Cree, G. S. Statistical feature-based semantic relations, not knowledge type, govern speed of semantic computation. 19th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, York, U.K. 2009.

Amsel, B. D., & Cree, G. S. The nature of semantic representation and visual information during online language comprehension: An electrophysiological approach. 18th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, London, Ontario. June 2008.

Le, A., Rondina II, R., **Amsel, B. D.**, & Cree, G. S. Exploring reasons for the primacy of sensory knowledge in semantic computation. 18th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, London, ON., June 2008.

Amsel, B. D., & Cree, G. S. The role of semantic visual features in word meaning computation: An electrophysiological investigation. 15th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, CA, April 2008.

Amsel, B. D., & Cree, G. S. Insights into semantic decision making: A connectionist attractor network approach. 17th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science, Victoria, B.C., June 2007.

Amsel, B. D. (2005). Why Animal Consciousness Falls Short: Language as a requirement for the highest level of conscious experience. *Canadian Undergraduate Journal of Cognitive Science*.

INVITED TALKS

Amsel, B. D. A novel test of the grounded cognition hypothesis in grapheme-color synesthetes. Cognitive Neuroscience Spring Retreat and Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind Symposium, *University of California, San Diego, CA*, May, 2015.

Amsel, B. D. What do you know and when do you know it? Center for Research in Language Talk Series, *University of California, San Diego, CA*, October 8, 2013.

Amsel, B. D. From microvolts to meaning. Invited talk. Brain and Mind Institute & Department of Psychology, *University of Western Ontario, ON, Canada*, June 6, 2013.

Amsel, B. D. From microvolts to meaning. Cognitive Neuroscience Spring Retreat and Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind Symposium, *University of California, San Diego, CA*, May 4, 2013.

Amsel, B. D. Extremely categorical and incredibly graspable: On the organization and activation of concepts in semantic memory. UCSD Cognitive Brown Bag, *University of California, San Diego, CA*, March 2, 2012.

Amsel, B. D. Behavioral and electrophysiological investigations into the structure and computation of concrete concepts. Center for Research in Language Talk Series, *University of California, San Diego, CA*, February 15, 2011.

Amsel, B. D. Towards a model of category verification: Attractor networks and random walks. Cognition and Perception Series, *University of Toronto, ON*, June 12, 2008.

Amsel, B. D. A computational exploration of semantic decision-making. Ebbinghaus Empire Series, *University of Toronto, ON*, September 20, 2007.

Amsel, B. D. Towards a computational account of semantic decision-making. University of Toronto Masters Thesis Presentation Day, *University of Toronto, ON*, April 10, 2007.

TEACHING

Instructor, University of California, San Diego, Department of Cognitive Science

Learning, Memory, and Attention. *Student recommendation rate: 100%*

Introduction to Cognitive Science. *Student recommendation rate: 77% (team-taught course)*

Brain Disorders and Cognition. *Student recommendation rate: 96%*

Teaching assistant, University of Toronto, Department of Psychology

Advanced Data Analysis in Psychology

Data Analysis in Psychology

Psychological Research Laboratory

Memory and Cognition

Cognitive Psychology Laboratory

Scientific Communication in Psychology

SERVICE

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Cognition*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Neuropsychologia*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Psychophysiology*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Cognitive Linguistics*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Behavior Research Methods*

Ad hoc Reviewer for *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*

Member, Let's Talk Science Outreach Program.

Member, Cognitive Psychology Hiring Committee, Department of Psychology, University of Toronto.

Member, Experiment Participation Task force, Department of Psychology, University of Toronto.

Coordinator, Visiting Speaker Committee, Graduate Student Association, University of Toronto.

Psychology representative, Graduate Student Association, University of Toronto.

Member, Department of Psychology Chair Search Committee, University of Toronto.

TRAINING

Instructional Workshop and Demonstration, g.tec Brain Computer Interface System, September 2012.

Instructional Workshop, EGI Dense Array EEG System, June 2009.

Instructional Workshop, Advanced NeuroTechnology (ANT), November 2007.