Steven Foley

Syntax · Psycholinguistics · Field methods · Georgian

Contact	*foleys@usc.edu*	**ORCiD**	*0000-0003-2061-2488*
Website	*stevenrfoley.github.io*	**Pronouns**	*they/them* or *he/him*

Employment	1/2023 – 12/2023	**University of Southern California**, Los Angeles, CA Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow
	9/2020 – 8/2022	**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer
Education	9/2014 – 6/2020	**University of California Santa Cruz**, Santa Cruz, CA Ph.D. in Linguistics Dissertation advisors: Maziar Toosarvandani and Matt Wagers
	9/2010 – 5/2013	**New York University**, New York City, NY B.A. in Linguistics, *summa cum laude* Senior thesis advisor: Stephanie Harves

Research

Manuscripts

Foley, Steven. In preparation. Transitivity, prominence, and verb finality in sentence processing: Georgian Maze evidence. Manuscript: University of Southern California.

Foley, Steven. In preparation. Inverted actors and demoted goals. Manuscript: University of Southern California.

Foley, Steven and Byron Ahn. In preparation. Pronoun innovation and the processing of cataphora. Manuscript: University of Southern California, Princeton University.

Foley, Steven and Nino Amiridze. In preparation. Where does *that* fit in? Morphological variation in Georgian placeholder verbs. Manuscript: University of Southern California, Tbilisi State University.

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Foley, Steven and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2022. Extending the Person–Case Constraint to gender: Agreement, locality, and the syntax of pronouns. *Linguistic Inquiry*. 53(1): 1–40.

Theses

Foley, Steven. 2020. Case, agreement, and sentence processing in Georgian. Ph.D. dissertation, University of California Santa Cruz.

Foley, Steven. 2013. The syntax of Georgian relative clauses. Senior honors thesis, New York University.

Invited contributions

Foley, Steven. 2021. Agreement in the languages of the Caucasus. In Maria Polinsky (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Languages of the Caucasus*. Oxford University Press. 845–872.

Adler, Jeff, Steven Foley, Jed Pizarro-Guevara, Kelsey Sasaki, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2018. The derivation of verb initiality in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec. In Jason Merchant, Line Mikkelsen, Deniz Rudin, and Kelsey Sasaki (eds.), *A reasonable way to proceed: Essays in honor of Jim McCloskey*. 31–49.

Conference proceedings

Foley, Steven, Nick Kalivoda, and Maziar Toosarvandani. To appear. Gender–Case constraints in Zapotec. In Anne Bertrand and Heather Burge (eds.), *Proceedings of the 22nd Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas* (*WSCLA 22*). University of British Columbia Working Papers in Linguistics.

Foley, Steven, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2019. Pronoun cliticization, *wh*-movement, and the Principle of Minimal Compliance. In Maggie Baird and Jonathan Pesetsky (eds.), *Proceedings of the 49th North East Linguistics Society* (*NELS 49*). 251–264.

Foley, Steven, Nick Kalivoda, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2019. Forbidden clitic clusters in Zapotec. In Daniel Edmiston, Marina Ermolaeva, Emre Hakgüder, Jackie Lai, Kathryn Montemurro, Brandon Rhodes, Amara Sankhagowit, and Michael Tabatowski (eds.), *Proceedings of the 53rd Chicago Linguistics Society* (*CLS 53*). 87–102.

Foley, Steven. 2017. Morphological conspiracies in Georgian and Optimal Vocabulary Insertion. In Jessica Kantarovich, Tran Truong, and Orest Xherija (eds.), *Proceedings of the 52nd Chicago Linguistics Society* (*CLS 52*). 217–232.

Refereed conference presentations

Foley, Steven, Lizi Baramidze, Tamar Kalkhitashvili, Natia Poniava, and Irakli Salia. 2023. When do comprehenders posit agents? Maze-task evidence from Georgian. Talk at the Third South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC-3). Ilia State University, Philadelphia, PA. March 31 – April 1.

Foley, Steven and Nino Amiridze. 2023. Whether verbs are placeheld or placeholded in Georgian: An acceptability study. Poster to be presented at the Third South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC-3). Ilia State University, Philadelphia, PA. March 31 – April 1.

Amiridze, Nino and Steven Foley. 2023. Whether verbs are placeheld or placeholded in Georgian: An acceptability study. Poster to be presented at Locality in Theory, Processing, and Acquisition. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. March 31 – April 1.

Foley, Steven, Kirby Conrod, Byron Ahn, Ameena Faruki, Xander Guidry, and Ruth Schultz. 2023. Depending on their social group, does the comprehender process cataphora differently? Virtual poster to be presented at *The Society for Human Sentence Processing* (*HSP*). University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. March 9–11.

Ahn, Byron, Kirby Conrod, Ameena Faruki, Steven Foley, Xander Guidry, and Ruth Schultz. 2022. Acceptability, production, and comprehension of definite singular *they*. Project-launch paper presented at *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* (*NWAV 50*). Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. October 13–15.

Foley, Steven. 2022. Quantifying performance constraints on case-alignment typology with information theory. Poster presented at the *35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (*HSP 2022*). University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA. March 24–26. Video presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYdWJt44NfE>

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2021. Predicting syntactic role in a split-ergative language: Reading-time and corpus evidence from Georgian. Paper presented at *Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning* (*X-PPL*). University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. September 16–17.

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2020. Prominence scales guide incremental sentence comprehension in Georgian. Poster presented at the *33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (*CUNY 33*). University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA. March 19–21.

Foley, Steven. 2019. The Principle Minimal Compliance and derivational competition in South Caucasian agreement. Poster presented at the *50th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society* (*NELS 50*). Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. October 25–27.

Foley, Steven. 2019. Object agreement in South Caucasian via the Principle of Minimal Compliance. Paper presented at *Object Agreement Across Barriers*. University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia. September 16–17.

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2019. Computing object agreement is easier than computing subject agreement in Georgian. Poster presented at the *32nd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (*CUNY 32*). University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. March 29–31.

Foley, Steven, Jed Pizarro-Guevarra, Kelsey Sasaki, Maziar Toosarvandani, and Matt Wagers. 2019. Pronouns over gaps in parsing? The Subject Relative Clause Advantage in Santiago Laxopa Zapotec. Paper presented at the *93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America* (*LSA 93*), New York City, NY. January 3–6.

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2018. Detecting agreement errors in Georgian: Implications for predictive parsing. Paper presented at the *2nd Annual California Meeting on Psycholinguistics* (*CAMP 2*). University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. December 1–2.

Foley, Steven and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2018. Pronominal cliticization, multiple *wh*-movement, and Probe Generosity. Paper presented at the *49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society* (*NELS 49*). Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. October 5–7.

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2017. The Subject Gap Preference in a split-ergative language: Reading time evidence from Georgian. Paper presented at the *48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society* (*NELS 48*). University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland. October 27–29.

Foley, Steven, Nick Kalivoda, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2017. Forbidden clitic clusters in Zapotec. Paper presented at the *53rd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society* (*CLS 53*). University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. May 25–27.

Foley, Steven, Nick Kalivoda, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2017. Forbidden clitic clusters in Zapotec. Paper presented at the *22rd Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas* (*WSCLA 22*). University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. May 25–27.

Foley, Steven and Matt Wagers. 2017. Subject gaps are still easiest: Relative clause processing and Georgian split ergativity. Poster presented at the *30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (*CUNY 30*). Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. March 30 – April 1.

Adler, Jeff, Steven Foley, Jed Pizarro-Guevara, Kelsey Sasaki, and Maziar Toosarvandani. 2017. The derivation of verb- initiality of Santiago Laxopa Zapotec. Paper presented at *Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas Annual Meeting* (*SSILA*). University of Texas, Austin, TX. January 5–8.

Foley, Steven. 2016. Case–agreement mismatches in Georgian. Poster presented at *South Caucasian Chalk Circle* (*SCCC),* Paris, France. September 22–24.

Foley, Steven. 2016. Morphological conspiracies and the nature of Vocabulary Insertion. Paper presented at the *52nd Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistics Society* (*CLS 52*). University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. April 21–23.

Foley, Steven. 2015. Is the Subset Principle Violable? The view from Georgian agreement. Paper presented at the *11th International Tbilisi Symposium on Language, Logic, and Cognition* (*TbiLLC XI).* Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia. September 21–26.

Foley, Steven. 2013. Songhay relative clauses. Paper presented at *SUNY–Yale–NYU–CUNY Linguistics Graduate Conference* (*SYNC 15*). Yale University, New Haven, CT. December 7.

Foley, Steven. 2013. A unified derivation of relative clauses in Georgian. Paper presented at the *Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium* (*CULC 7*). Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. April 20–21.

Invited presentations

Foley, Steven and Léa Nash. 2023. Georgian argument structure. Workshop on theoretical syntax at the Third South Caucasian Chalk Circle (SCCC-3), Ilia State University. Tbilisi, Georgia. September 2–4.

Foley, Steven. 2019. Why are ergatives hard to process? Reading-time evidence from Georgian. Linguistics department colloquium, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Amherst, MA. March 1.

Teaching experience

As postdoctoral teaching fellow at the University of Southern California

Fall semester 2023	*Seminar in Syntax* (topic: argument structure)
Spring semester 2023	*Advanced Syntax* (undergraduate)
	Syntax & Grammatical Theory (graduate)

As postdoctoral lecturer at Princeton University

Spring semester 2021	*Constructed Languages: From Elvish to Esperanto*
Fall semester 2020	*Mythbusting Language*

As graduate-student instructor-of-record at UC Santa Cruz

Fall quarter 2019	*Poetry & Language* (with one junior teaching assistant)
Spring quarter 2019	*Native Languages of North America*

As graduate-student teaching assistant at UC Santa Cruz

Spring quarter 2020	*Introduction to Linguistics*
Winter quarter 2020	*Typology*
Winter quarter 2019	*Semantics I*
Fall quarter 2018	*Introduction to Linguistics*
Summer quarter 2018	*Invented Languages: From Elvish to Esperanto*
Spring quarter 2017	*Pragmatics*
Winter quarter 2017	*Syntax I*
Fall quarter 2016	*Psycholinguistics & Linguistic Theory*
Spring quarter 2016	*Poetry & Language*
Winter quarter 2016	*Phonology I*
Fall quarter 2015	*Phonology II*

Advising experience

As primary senior-thesis advisor

Yeung, Michael. 2021. Iconicity in Language Comprehension: A Plausibility Study on Sound Symbolism from Cantonese Ideophones. Senior Thesis, Princeton University.

Other training

May 17–21, 2022	*An introduction to vector space morphology and morphological processing using linear discriminative learning*, Online workshop at Spring Training in Experimental Psycholinguistics (STEP), University of Alberta Center for Comparative Psycholinguistics
January 19, 2022	*Introduction to Webgazer*, Online tutorial on remote eyetracking methods, University of Alberta Center for Comparative Psycholinguistics
July 2016	Eastern Generative grammar (EGG), Summer school in linguistics, Lagodekhi, Georgia
July 2013	New York / St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition & Culture (NYI), Summer school in linguistics, St. Petersburg, Russia
6/2011 – 8/2011	Middlebury School of Russian, Middlebury VT

Fieldwork and experimental experience

On Georgian (South Caucasian)

8/2022 – 12/2022	Hired four local research assistants to create stimuli and coordinate participants in Georgia for two multi-session remote studies (acceptability judgment, L-Maze)
4/2021 – 11/2021	Sustained remote fieldwork (17.5 hours of translation and elicitation) with one resident of Princeton, NJ, conducted via Zoom video conferencing
8/2019 – 9/2019	In-person fieldwork (<10 hours) helping construct and deploy a self-paced reading study; worked with two consultants in Tbilisi, Georgia
7/2017 – 8/2017	In-person fieldwork (<10 hours) to construct and deploy a self-paced reading study; worked with two primary consultants and several other minor consultants in Tbilisi, Georgia
7/2016 – 9/2016	In-person fieldwork (<10 hours) to construct and deploy a self-paced reading study; worked with three consultants in Tbilisi, Georgia
September 2015	Some in-person fieldwork (<5 hours) with one consultant in Tbilisi, Georgia
Fall 2012, Spring 2013	Some in-person fieldwork (<10 hours) with three consultants in New York, NY

On Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (Oto-Manguean)

July 2019	Participated in data-collection for several field-psycholinguistics studies (visual-world and interpretation-judgment tasks, using a tablet computer and non-invasive portable eyetracking device), over ca. ten days in Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico
6/2018 – 7/2018	Participated in data-collection for a field-psycholinguistics study (interpretation-judgment task using tablet computers), over ca. two weeks in Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico
2017 – 2018	Collaborated on several field-psycholinguistics projects as a member of UC Santa Cruz's Zapotec Lab; contributed actively in conceptualization, experimental design, intermittent syntactic fieldwork; writing and recording audio stimuli; and commissioning an artist to create visual stimuli
Spring quarter 2016	Participated in a field-methods course at UC Santa Cruz

On American English

6/2022 – 8/2023	Collaborated on an experimental sociolinguistics project (PIs Byron Ahn and Kirby Conrod), contributing actively in conceptualization, experimental design, and stimuli creation of three remote behavioral studies, in addition to helping coordinate three undergraduate research assistants

Grants and awards

2019	Mary Turner Gilliland and Clinton Gilliland Award, Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association
2014	Recommended candidate, Fulbright Research Grant to Georgia
2013	Alumni Association Award, NYU
2013	Elected to Phi Beta Kappa
2013	Robert A. Fowkes Award, NYU Department of Linguistics

Service

Organization

4/2016 – 6/2017	S̄-Circle, UCSC's syntax reading group
9/2015 – 6/2017	S-Circle, UCSC's syntax–semantics speaker series

Ad-hoc reviewing of journal articles

Glossa
Glossa Psycholinguistics
Journal of Memory and Language
Journal of Psycholinguistic Research
Language
Linguistic Inquiry
Linguistic Typology
Natural Language and Linguistic Theory
Poznań Studies in Contemporary Linguistics

Ad-hoc reviewing of conference abstracts

Society for Human Sentence Processing (HSP)
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)

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