

# Erika Lynn Exton

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University of Maryland

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## Academic Information

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The University of Maryland  
Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences  
Ph.D. student August 2018 – present

The Pennsylvania State University  
Schreyer Honors College  
B.A. Linguistics | B.S. Communication Sciences and Disorders | Mathematics (minor) May 2018  
Student Marshal for the College of Health and Human Development May 2018  
The Presidential Leadership Academy Certificate April 2015 – May 2018  
Graduated summa cum laude with interdisciplinary honors in Linguistics and Communication Sciences  
and Disorders  
Thesis: *Lexical Decision and Semantic Relatedness Judgment Processing*  
Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Janet van Hell

## Awards and Scholarships

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National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship April 2019 – present  
Maryland PULSAR graduate fellow January 2020 – present  
Maryland Language Science Fellowship August 2019 – present  
University of Maryland Flagship Fellowship August 2018 – present  
Presented to incoming doctoral students with strong qualifications who show promise for  
outstanding performance in graduate study  
Communication Disorders Award Fall 2016  
Presented to an excellent scholar majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Academic Excellence Award Fall 2014 – Spring 2018  
Presented to all students who enter the Penn State Schreyer Honors College as a freshman  
The Ruth B. Wodock Scholarship Fall 2015 – Spring 2018  
Presented to excellent undergraduate scholars in the college of Health and Human Development

## Research Experiences

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### Language Development and Perception Lab | University of Maryland

Graduate research assistant August 2018 – present  
Work under the supervision of Dr. Rochelle Newman on basic lab tasks including scheduling  
and running child participants for research experiments; assisting in undergraduate mentorship  
and training

### Bilingualism and Language Development Lab | Penn State University

Undergraduate research assistant September 2014 – April 2018  
Work under the supervision of Dr. Janet van Hell with post-doctoral student Dr. Sarah Grey and  
graduate student Dr. Kaitlyn Litcofsky on ERP experiments related to sentence comprehension.  
Responsibilities include independently capping participants for ERP studies and collecting data,  
recording and preparing auditory stimuli, recruiting participants, updating tasks in E-Prime.

### Adult Neuroplasticity Laboratory | Penn State University

Undergraduate research assistant November 2015 – December 2017  
Work under the supervision of Dr. Chaleece Sandberg on experiment related to abstract and  
concrete word processing. Responsibilities include identifying semantic features for use in future

experiments, developing ERP analysis protocol, training new research assistants on ERP data collection protocol.

**PIRE Undergraduate Fellow | Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands | Penn State CLS**

Visiting researcher

Summer 2016

Visited Dr. James McQueen's lab at Radboud University, Nijmegen to conduct research supported by NSF grant OISE-0968369. Conducted independent ERP research on concreteness effects in lexical decision and semantic judgment processing in Dutch-English bilinguals. Responsibilities included preparing stimulus materials, designing the task in Presentation, independently capping and collecting ERP data from participants.

## **Presentations**

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**Exton, E.** & Newman, R.S. (2020). *Phonemic restoration in L1 and L2 listeners*. Poster to be presented at the 179<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Chicago, Illinois, May 11-15.

**Exton, E.**, & Newman, R.S. (2019). *Identification of code-switches in unfamiliar languages*. Poster presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Montreal, Canada, November 14-17.

**Exton, E.**, Sandberg, C., & Van Hell, J. G. (2018). *ERP exploration of semantic organization for concrete and abstract words in bilinguals and persons with aphasia*. Poster presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Boston, Massachusetts, March 22-25.

**Exton, E.**, Sandberg, C., & Van Hell, J. G. (2017). *Bilingual semantic memory: concreteness effects in second language lexical decision and semantic relationship judgment tasks*. Poster presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, Canada, November 10-12.

**Exton, E.**, Sandberg, C., & Van Hell, J.G. (2016). *Concreteness effects in lexical decision and semantic relatedness judgment processing in bilinguals*. Talk given at the Penn State University Center for Language Science, University Park, Pennsylvania, November 11.

**Exton, E.**, Sandberg, C., & Van Hell, J.G. (2016). *Concreteness effects in lexical decision and semantic relatedness processing in bilingual healthy adults*. Poster presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Penn State Undergraduate Linguistics Research Exhibition, University Park, Pennsylvania, October 15.

Tanner, D., Grey, S., **Exton, E.**, & Van Hell, J.G. (2016). *Event-related brain potentials dissociate cue-based retrieval interference and reanalysis during sentence comprehension*. Poster presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. New York, April 2-6.

Tanner, D., Grey, S., **Exton, E.**, & Van Hell, J.G. (2016). *Dissociating retrieval interference and reanalysis in agreement comprehension*. Poster presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY conference on human sentence processing. University of Florida, Gainesville, March 3-5.

## **Specialized Undergraduate Coursework**

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**CSD 497 Neural Foundations of Communication**

Fall 2017

Course focusing on the cognitive neuroscience of language and communication with an emphasis on understanding fMRI studies and using data from patients to inform neural underpinnings of language.

**LING 497 Introduction to Data Analysis in R for Language Scientists**

Fall 2016

Course taken almost exclusively by graduate students; designed to train language scientists in the use of R for data analysis with a focus on applying statistical concepts and R functions to our own data sets.

## **Extracurricular Activities and Leadership**

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### **Maryland Language Science Center Outreach Committee**

- Co-chair September 2019 – present  
Coordinate undergraduate and graduate student volunteers to participate in outreach events to bring language science to the local community; organize a visit for 50+ high schoolers to the campus to show them the work that language scientists do
- Member November 2018 – present  
Volunteered for outreach events that aim to introduce students in the Maryland/DC area to language science

### **Springfield benefiting THON**

- President March 2017 - March 2018  
Managed a board of ten leaders; coordinated all aspects of fundraising, family relations, community, and alumni relations for a 150+ member organization; determined the organization's future direction; served as the face of the organization to the rest of the THON community (16,500 students), university, and donors; led an organization that raised nearly \$170,000 in five months
- Family Relations Chair March 2016 - March 2017  
Worked closely with a co-chair to facilitate relationships between four families affected by pediatric cancer and members of Springfield; applied for and received the opportunity to introduce another family to Springfield members; planned and coordinated visits with and care packages for four families; leader for an organization that raised nearly \$193,000 in five months
- Member August 2014 – April 2018  
Active participant in a 150+ member student organization whose main purpose is to fundraise for the Penn State Dance Marathon (THON) in the fight against pediatric cancer and support families who have a child affected by pediatric cancer

### **Honors Leadership Jumpstart**

- Teaching Assistant Fall 2015, 2016, 2017  
Served as a three-time teaching assistant for an honors freshman leadership course. Designed and facilitated activities to promote leadership development; provided feedback on assignments; supervised teams of six freshmen while they designed and implemented a service project

## **Employment**

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### **Penn State University Mathematics Department**

- Grader August 2017 – December 2017  
Grade quizzes for 80 students in MATH 411 (Ordinary Differential Equations) given a solutions guide (6 hr/week)
- Proctor August 2017 – December 2017  
Proctor evening undergraduate math exams to ensure all exams are conducted fairly and eliminate academic integrity violations (3 hr/week)