

Thomas de Haven Roberts

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Research Interests

Semantics, pragmatics, syntax-semantics interface, questions, speech acts, lexical semantics, semantic typology, Finno-Ugric, Estonian

Education

2020 (expected) **Ph.D., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz

2017 **M.A., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz
Thesis: *The Semantics of Estonian Responsive Predicates and their Complements*
Committee: Pranav Anand (chair), Donka Farkas, Jim McCloskey

2014 **S.B., Linguistics and Philosophy**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Concentration in Japanese

OTHER EDUCATION:

Jul 2016 Estonian language (A1-A2 level)
Tallinn Summer School, Tallinna Ülikool, Tallinn, Estonia

Proceedings Publications

- To appear **Roberts, T.** The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. In the Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White. On double access, cessation and parentheticality. In *Proceedings of SALT 25*, eds. S. D'Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney, and M. Wiegand, 18-37. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.
- 2013 Chang, A., D. Nunez, **T. Roberts**, D. Sengeh, & C. Breazeal. Pre-pilot findings on developing a literacy tablet. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC '13)*, 471-474. New York, NY: ACM.
- 2012 Chang, A., C. Breazeal, F. Faridi, **T. Roberts**, G. Davenport, H. Lieberman, & N. Montfort. Textual tinkerability: encouraging storytelling behaviors to foster emergent literacy. In *CHI '12 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '12)*, 505-520. New York, NY: ACM.

Presentations

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 **Roberts, T.** The syntax of statives across categories. Linguistics Society of America annual meeting (LSA 2018), January 4-8, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2017 **Roberts, T.** Relating form and meaning in negative polar questions. Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB) 2, December 18-19, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Roberts, T.** The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 22, September 7-10, University of Potsdam/ZAS, Germany.
- Roberts, T.** Responsive Predicates are Question-Embedding: Evidence from Estonian. Talk at the Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53, May 25-27.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White (2015). On double access, cessation and parentheticality. Talk at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 25, Stanford University.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 **Roberts, T.** The semantics of responsive predicates and their complements in Estonian. Talk at Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), March 18, UC Santa Cruz.
- 2015 **Roberts, T.** Thinking about thinking in Estonian. Talk at California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Workshop (CUSP) 8, Stanford University.

Selected Research Experience

- Mar 2016 - University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
Jun 2016 *Graduate Research Assistant*
 NSF Grant *Collaborative Research: RI: Processing Opinion Sharing Dialogue in Social Media*
 PIs: Jean Fox Tree, Marilyn Walker, Pranav Anand, Steve Whittaker
- Aug 2014 - University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA
Aug 2015 *Baggett Fellow*
 One-year post-baccalaureate research fellowship
 Advisors: Valentine Hacquard, Philip Resnik
- Jun 2014 - Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Aug 2014 *MIT-Netherlands Researcher*
 SemAnTE project for Recognizing Textual Entailment (RTE)
 Advisor: Yoad Winter

Jan 2012 - MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA, USA
Jan 2013 *Research Assistant*
AIGRE project, a system for automatic interpretation and generation of referring expressions.
Advisor: Dustin Arthur Smith

Awards and fellowships

2015-2016 Regents Fellowship, UCSC
2014-2015 Baggett Fellowship, University of Maryland
2014 1st place, S. Klein Prize for Technical Writing, MIT
2010-2014 James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Teaching

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UCSC:

2018 Syntax 1, Instructor: Jim McCloskey
2017 Pragmatics, Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu
Language, Society and Culture, Instructor: Jim McCloskey
Semantics 1, Instructor: Donka Farkas
2016 Introduction to Linguistics, Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu

Service

2017- Events Committee Chair, UCSC Linguistics
2015- Organizing & Program Committees, North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO)
2014- MIT Educational Council, alumni interviewer
2016-2017 Computer Czar, UCSC Linguistics
2014-2015 NACLO site host, University of Maryland

Computer skills

Languages Python, R, PHP, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Bash
Packages NLTK, Stanford Dependency Parser, Twitter API
Programs Praat, Audacity, IbexFarm

Languages

Native English
Advanced French
Intermediate Japanese, Estonian
Beginner Dutch, Norwegian