

Janet Randall

Northeastern University
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Position Professor Linguistics Program & English Department
Director [LingLawLab](#), Northeastern U. (formerly, Plain English Jury Instruction Project)
Academic Advisor Civil Jury Project, NYU School of Law

Education 1982 Ph.D., Linguistics. University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Research areas Linguistic Theory: the syntax-semantics interface
Language & law
Language acquisition and linguistic theory
Psycholinguistics
Linguistics in education

Earlier Positions Consultant 2015-22 Massachusetts Superior Court Model Jury Instructions Committee
Advised Criminal, Civil, and General Instructions Subcommittees

Research Fellow 2012-15 Massachusetts Bar Association, Plain English Jury Instruction Task Force

Director 1989-2012 Linguistics Program, Northeastern University

Research Associate 1987-97 Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik, Nijmegen

Visiting Scientist 1990 MIT Cognitive Science Center

Visiting Professor 1989 Universität Düsseldorf Institut für Sprachwissenschaft

Visiting Asst. Prof. 1985 Linguistics Department, Brown University

Postdoctoral Fellow 1981-83 Linguistics Department, University of British Columbia

Instructor & Research Assistant 1974-81 Linguistics Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- [LingLawLab](#) projects
- 2022- *The Ambiguity Project*
With Lawrence Solan, Professor, Brooklyn Law School.
“*In this parking lot, only cars and trucks without trailers are allowed*”: Experimental studies on ambiguous language.
- 2020- *The California Jury Instruction Project.*
With Mark Yanis, Attorney, California Appeals Court & Lawrence Solan, Professor, Brooklyn Law School.
Experimental studies on how the quantifier “each” affects the rate of guilty verdicts.
- 2020-21 Civil, Criminal, & General Model Jury Instructions,
With three Massachusetts Superior Court Committees, Judge Kathe Tuttman, Chair
A joint project to revise instructions in order to resolve ambiguity and replace “legalese” with “Plain English.”
- 2017 *The Syntax of Justice: Law, Language, Access & Exclusion.* A conference with the Northeastern U. School of Law, Boston. March 30-31.
My lab co-sponsored the conference and presented two papers:
a) “*Sounding Black*”: *The Legal Implications of Linguistic Profiling.*
Research Assistants: Abbie MacNeal, Katherine Fiallo, Alexander Jones, Shaughnessy Jones, Samantha Laureano, Matthew Monjarrez, & Yian Xu.
b) *The preponderance of the WHAT? Legalese, meet Linguistics.*
Janet Randall, Laboratory P.I.
- 2010-21 The Massachusetts Jury Instruction Project, with the Massachusetts Bar Association and Massachusetts Superior Court.
A project to run studies on alternate versions of Massachusetts jury instructions to identify the linguistics factors that impede comprehension. Here are the new [Superior Court Jury Instructions](#), based on my input.
- Publications**
- books
- 2010 [Linking: the geometry of argument structure.](#) Studies in Natural Language & Linguistic Series, Volume 74, Springer, Dordrecht. xv+325 pp. [paperback published in 2011]
(PDF of [errata list](#))
- 1985 [Morphological Structure and Language Acquisition.](#) Garland Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics, Garland Publications, NY.
- articles,
selected
- in press Randall, J. & L. Solan. [Legal ambiguities: What can psycholinguistics tell us?](#) In *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Jurisprudence.* Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2023.
- 2021 Randall, J., J. Cherry & A. Montag. [Collaborations in the Courthouse: Making Legal Language Accessible.](#) *Revue Linguistique et Referential Interculturel: La Linguistique à la croisée des sciences (Linguistics and Cultural Diversity: Linguistics at the Crossroads of Sciences).* Vol. 2, number 1, 2-12.
- 2021 [How To talk So Juries Will Listen](#) *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, 95:3, Symposium issue: Reviving the American Jury, 647-670.
- 2019 [How Just is Justice? Ask a psycholinguist.](#) In Carlson, K., C. Clifton Jr. & J. D. Fodor, eds. *Grammatical Approaches to Language Processing – Essays in Honor of Lyn Frazier.* Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics, Springer, NY, 275-308.

- 2018 [Ode to Tom Roeper](#). In Hollebrandse, Bart, Jaieun Kim, Ana T. Pérez-Leroux, & Petra Schulz, eds. *T.O.M & grammar (Thoughts on Mind & grammar): A festschrift in honor of Tom Roeper*. University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics (UMOP) 41. Amherst: U.Mass, Graduate Linguistics Student Association, 123-125.
- 2017 [Improving Jury Instructions: The Effect of Linguistic and Procedural Factors](#). (Randall, J. & Y. Xu, Katherine Fiallo, & Haley Emerson). *Proceedings of the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Meeting*. Seattle.
- 2015 [Improving juror comprehension: reading while listening](#). *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting*. Portland, 1-5.
- 2014 [Tackling "legalese": how linguistics can simplify legal language and increase access to justice](#). In Emonds, Joseph & Marketa Janebova, eds. *Language Use and Linguistic Structure*. Olomouc Modern Language Series Vol.3. Univerzita Palackeho, Olomouc, 239-254.
- 2014 [Linguistics meets "legalese": syntax, semantics, and jury instruction reform](#). (Randall, J. & L. Graf) [Extended 5p. abstract]. *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting*. Minneapolis.
- 2007 [Parameterized auxiliary selection: a fine-grained interaction of features and linking rules](#). In Aranovich, R., ed., *Split Auxiliary Systems: A Cross-linguistic Perspective*. Studies in Language Series, John Benjamins, NY. 207-235.
- 2007 [Discovering knowledge about prefixes](#). TeachLing: Lesson plans on language & linguistics in K-12 education. Lesson plan for grades 6-8. Western Washington U.
- 2004 [Acquiring unaccusativity: a cross-linguistic look](#). (Randall, J., A. van Hout, H. Baayen & J. Weissenborn) In Alexiadou, A., E. Anagnostopoulou & M. Everaert, eds. *The Unaccusativity Puzzle: explorations of the syntax-lexicon interface*. Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, Oxford University Press, NY. 332-353.
- 2003 [Inheritance in morphology](#). In Frawley, W., ed., *Oxford Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, NY. Volume 2, 283-284.
- 1993 [Lexical Mapping](#). (Carrier, J. & J. Randall) In Reuland, E. & W. Abraham, eds., *Knowledge and Language vol. 2: lexical and conceptual structure*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, 119-142.
- 1993 Acquiring the unergative-unaccusative distinction. (Randall, J., A. van Hout & J. Weissenborn). In Verrips, M. & F. Wijnen, eds., *The Acquisition of Dutch*. Amsterdam Series in Child Language Development, 1, Institute for General Linguistics, Amsterdam, 79-118.
- 1992 [The argument structure and syntactic structure of resultatives](#). (Carrier, J. & J. Randall) *Linguistic Inquiry* 23, 173-234.
- 1992 [The Catapult Hypothesis: an approach to unlearning](#) In Weissenborn, J., H. Goodluck & T. Roeper, eds., *Theoretical issues in language acquisition*. Erlbaum, Hillsdale, NJ, 93-138.
- 1992 [Inheritance in morphology](#). In Bright, W., ed., *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. Oxford University Press, NY. Volume 2, 218-219.
- 1990 [Catapults & pendulums: the mechanics of language acquisition](#). *Linguistics* 28, 1381-1406.
- 1988 [Inheritance](#). In Wilkins, W., ed., *Thematic Relations*. Syntax & Semantics series, Vol 21. Academic Press, NY, 129-146.

- 1987 [Of butchers and bakers and candlestick-makers: the problem of morphology in understanding words](#) In Davison, A. & G. Green, eds., *Linguistic complexity & text comprehension: a re-examination of readability with alternative views*. Lawrence Erlbaum, Hillsdale, NJ., 223-245.
- 1987 [Indirect positive evidence: overturning overgeneralizations in language acquisition](#). *Indiana University Linguistics Club*.
- 1985 [Negative evidence from positive](#). In Fletcher, P. & M. Garman, eds., *Child Language Seminar Papers 1*, 105-114. [abstract]
- 1984 [Morphological complementation](#). In Speas, M. & R. Sproat, eds., *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics VII*, 70-85.
- 1984 [Grammatical information in word structure](#). *Quaderni di Semantica [International Journal of Theoretical & Applied Semantics]* 5, 313-330.
- 1984 [Thematic structure and inheritance](#). *Quaderni di Semantica [International Journal of Theoretical & Applied Semantics]* 5, 92-110.
- 1984 [Indirect positive evidence: a new route for retreat](#). *Boston University Conference on Language Development, Special Session: theoretical issues in language acquisition*, 1-14. *Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse on Languages & Linguistics*, ED253113, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.
- 1983 A lexical approach to causatives. *Journal of Linguistic Research* 2, 77-105.
- 1983 [Filling gaps: decision principles and structure in language comprehension](#). (Frazier, L., C. Clifton & J. Randall) *Cognition* 13, 187-222.
- 1982 [The acquisition of agents: morphological and semantic hypotheses](#). *Stanford Papers & Reports on Child Language Development* 21, Stanford University, 87-94. *Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse on Languages & Linguistics*, #ED222056, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.
- 1981 [The Inheritance Model: making and breaking morphological relationships](#). Publication of paper presented at WECOL (the Western Conference on Linguistics), Seattle. 1-14. *Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) Clearinghouse on Languages & Linguistics*, #ED210940, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington D.C.
- 1981 A lexical approach to causatives. (early version) In Chao, W. and D. Wheeler, eds., *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers in Linguistics VII*, 184-211.
- 1980 [-ity: a study in word formation restrictions](#). *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* 6, 524-35.
- 1978 [de- and dis- location](#). Unpublished ms. University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- Honors, Awards, & Mentions**
- 2018 Profile In Johnson, *The Economist* language column April 14, 2018. Johnson is the pseudonym of Lane Greene), ["Too often juries comprise 12 confused men \(and women\)."](#) This profile article focuses on my research.
- 2015 Mention In Broda-Bahm, K. Embrace Plain English Jury Instructions. In *The Persuasive Litigator*, March 23, 2015. This column mentions my research.

	2002, 2000	Recipient	Hoffman Foundation Awards, \$2,500, \$5,000. Recognizing my contribution to undergraduate linguistics education at Northeastern University. (With these funds, I created the Hoffman Grant for linguistics undergraduates to carry out (inter-)national linguistics projects.)
	1996-	Member	Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars
	1993, 1991-92	Recipient	Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship <i>Learning argument structures in English and German: evaluating the theories with cross-linguistic evidence.</i> Universität Düsseldorf & Max-Planck-Institut Nijmegen
	1988	Recipient	Junior Research Appointment, Northeastern University <i>A theoretical study of retreat: how errors in language acquisition are unlearned.</i> For released-time from teaching, to write up research on retreat in acquisition.
	1981-83	Recipient	Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of British Columbia
Grants external	2016	Recipient	Flaschner Judicial Institute Grant To organize a conference, The Syntax of Justice: language, law, access & exclusion , March 2017 (with the NU School of Law).
	2012	Recipient	Massachusetts Bar Association Grant <i>The Plain English Jury Instruction Project.</i>
	1994	Recipient	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Travel Grant To attend the First Lisbon Meeting on Child Language, Lisbon.
	1992-94	Co-PI	DFG (=NSF of Germany) German Research Foundation Grant #WE-1236-2-2 <i>The acquisition of verb-argument structure in French, German, Hebrew.</i> Max-Planck-Institut, Nijmegen.
	1987	Recipient	National Science Foundation Travel Grant To attend the 14th International Congress of Linguists, East Berlin.
Grants internal	2022	Faculty Sponsor	Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Experiences Shout-It-Out Award to Anna Petti, Kyle Rysdam & Sofia Caruso, for Travel funding to present our poster at the Linguistics Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting, \$1000.
	2021-22	Faculty Sponsor	Undergraduate Research Initiative Award to Rajvi Shah, Radhika Barot & Kayla Collins. The California Jury Instruction Project: A Social Justice Question, \$2021.98.
	2021-22	Faculty Sponsor	Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Experience Summit Award to Sonia Caruso, Anna Petti, & Manav Mehta. <i>The Ambiguity Project</i> \$1500.
	2021-22	Faculty Sponsor	Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Experience Base Camp Award to Sanjna Patel, <i>The LingLaw Lab: Testing a California Jury Instruction.</i> \$500.

2020	Faculty Sponsor	Shout-It-Out Award, a Project-Based Exploration for the Advancement of Knowledge (PEAK) Experiences Award to Julien Cherry & Abby Montag for travel funding to present our paper, at a conference, Linguistics at the Crossroads of Sciences: Disciplinary Break-Up & Interdisciplinary Dialogue, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco, March. \$918.
2019	Faculty Sponsor	Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Conference Travel Fund Award to Leah Butz to present a talk at the 14th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguistics, Melbourne Australia, July. \$748.
2019	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Undergraduate Travel Grant Award to 4 students (Rachel Smith, Julien Cherry, Ryan Semple & Marisa Snelson) to present a poster at the Spring Linguistics Colloquium, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April. \$949.
2018	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Early Research and Creative Endeavors Award to Rachel Smith: <i>Overcoming Legalese: A new methodology to predict - and improve - juror comprehension.</i> \$1000.
2018	Faculty Sponsor	Office of Undergraduate Research & Fellowships Travel Grant for Abbie MacNeal to travel to 2018 Linguistics Society of America Meeting. \$500.
2017	Recipient	Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion <i>Do-It</i> Grant. For a conference that I organized: <i>The Syntax of Justice: language, law, access & exclusion</i> , March 2017. \$2000.
2017	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Advanced Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors Award to Matthew Monjarrez: <i>Jargon & Justice: a comparative study on how methods influence results.</i> \$1500.
2016	Recipient	Humanities Center Collaborative Research Cluster Grant. <i>The Plain English Jury Instruction Project: Identifying & Addressing Exclusion in the Justice System.</i> \$2000.
2015	Faculty Sponsor	CSSH Undergraduate Research Initiative Award to Haley Emerson. <i>The Plain English Jury Instruction Project.</i> \$1500.
2015	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors Award to Haley Emerson. <i>Plain English Jury Instruction (PEJI) Project: A Large Scale Study Using Mturk.</i> \$1075.
2015	Faculty Sponsor	CSSH Undergraduate Research Initiative Award to Alana Dore. <i>Plain English Jury Instruction Project MTURK Study.</i> \$1500.
2015	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors Award to Alana Dore. <i>Plain English Jury Instructions.</i> \$600.
2014	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Undergraduate Research Award to Lucas Graf, Katie Fiallo, Aaron McPherson. <i>Exploring the effect of education on comprehension: the challenge of understanding jury instructions.</i> \$1,950.

2010-14	Faculty Sponsor	Provost Undergraduate Research Award (5 awards) To send students to the McGill Canadian Conference for Linguistics Undergraduates.
2013	Faculty Sponsor	CSSH Undergraduate Research Initiative. Travel Grant for Lucas Graf to attend the LSA Annual Meeting. \$500.
2013	Recipient	CSSH Research Development Fund. <i>Plain English Jury Instruction Project.</i> \$5,000.
2009	Recipient	Faculty Advancement Fund Grant Funding for book manuscript publication costs.
2003	Recipient	Research Scholarship Development Fund Grant #371804 A project to complete the book manuscript, <i>From conceptual structure to syntax.</i>
1992	Recipient	Instructional Development Fund Grant <i>Language & Diversity: a series of workshops for teachers & students.</i> <i>For a second series of lecture/workshops on language variation and related social issues.</i>
1991	Recipient	Research Scholarship Development Fund Grant #370640 <i>From Conceptual Structure to Syntax.</i> For my book project.
1990	Recipient	Faculty Development Fund Grant #371120 <i>Language Variation & Diversity: Northeastern & the Community.</i> For a series of lectures on Black English, ASL & Deaf culture, language & gender, Hispanicity & bilingualism.
1987	Recipient	Research Scholarship Development Fund Grant #OSP 7675 <i>Retreat Routes: research on the acquisition of lexical rules.</i> To develop a theory of how learners retreat from early grammatical overgeneralizations.
1986	Recipient	Research Scholarship Development Fund Grant #7564 "Learning linguistic exceptions." For a pilot experiment on how children learn exceptions in dative verb alternations."
1986	Recipient	Instructional Development Fund Grant #7394 <i>Language acquisition and linguistic theory.</i> To develop two language acquisition courses, for Linguistics Program undergraduates & English Department graduate students.
1984	Recipient	Research Scholarship Development Fund Grant #7812 <i>Grammatical information in language comprehension.</i> For seed money to prepare a major grant with a co-investigator in Psychology at McGill University.

Memberships

Linguistic Society of America
International Association for the Study of Child Language
American Psychology-Law Society
Psychonomic Society

Reviewing

Journals
Language; Language Acquisition; Linguistic Inquiry
Journal of Child Language; Language Learning

Reviewing (continued)		Grant applications & Conference abstracts	NSF Grants Program NELS (Northeastern Linguistics Society (NELS)) WECOL (Western Conference on Linguistics) BU Conference on Language Development IASCL (International Assoc. for the Study of Child Language) Olinco: Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium, Czech Republic
Other professional activities	2022	Mentor	Boston University Child Language Development Conference. Began an ongoing mentorship with Jian Cui, Harvard PhD student.
	2019	Session chair	Linguistic Society of America annual meeting. NYC, January.
	2018-	Academic Advisor	Civil Jury Project, NYU School of Law
	2018	External Examiner	Doctoral Thesis, Yaqiao Lu, <i>Intransitive verbs in child Mandarin: acquiring the unaccusative vs. unergative distinction</i> . Chinese University of Hong Kong. Committee chair, Thomas Hun-tak Lee.
	2017	Conference Organizer	The Syntax of Justice: language, law, access & exclusion : a two-day interdisciplinary conference. Co-organized with the Northeastern University School of Law.
	2016	Session chair	Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics annual meeting. Washington DC, January.
	2010-15	External Member	Plain English Jury Instruction Task Force, Massachusetts Bar Association. Worked with MBA attorneys & Massachusetts Superior & Appeals Court judges to evaluate and rewrite Massachusetts civil jury instructions.
	2007	Contributor	teaching : an on-line resource for teaching linguistics K-12
	2001	Member	Tenure review committee, Maya Honda, Wheelock College.
	1990-97	Editorial board	<i>Language Acquisition: a journal of developmental linguistics</i>
	1993-96	Editorial board	<i>Linguistics</i>
	1995	Site Visit Team Member	National Science Foundation grant-funded Center for Research in Cognitive Science, UPenn.
	1991	Site Visit Team Member	National Science Foundation grant-funded Brain & Cognitive Science Research Training Program, MIT.
Legal Consulting (selected)	2022	Boston Consulting Group	Rewrote technical communication materials to make them understandable to a non-technical audience.
	2019-21	Massachusetts District Court	Advised judges on how to word new jury instructions to avoid gender bias.
	2019	Boston Law Firm	Provided a semantic interpretation of disputed language in a contract translated from Polish to English.

- 2019 Flaschner Judicial Institute, Boston
Presented a continuing legal education training workshop to new judges on language and law.
- 2015 Kansas Law Firm
Provided a semantic interpretation of disputed language in a contract.
- 2014 Flaschner Judicial Institute, Boston
Presented a continuing legal education training workshop to 35 judges on language, linguistics, and law.
- 2011 San Diego California Law Firm
Provided a semantic interpretation of a disputed clause in a contract for a nationwide class-action consumer case.
- 2010 Massachusetts Law Firm
Analyzed a questioned document to determine likely authorship.
- 2008 McLean Hospital Neurostatistics Laboratory, Harvard Medical School
Created pseudo-word auditory stimuli for a study on autism, brain activity & music.
- 2005 West Virginia Department of Education v. Teacher
Analyzed anonymous documents to determine if the teacher was the author.
- 2003 Marketing Company v. US Patent & Trademark Office
Evaluated a potential product name to determine its eligibility for registration.
- 2001 Harvard University Business School v. Student.
Analyzed anonymous e-mail messages to determine which of 11 students was the likely author. Conclusions were corroborated by linguist Donald Foster.
- 1999 Tufts University v. Faculty member
Analyzed a memo attributed to a faculty member to determine likely authorship.
- 1998 Harvard University Business School v. Student
Evaluated a student's take-home exams to determine evidence of plagiarism.
- 1995 Massachusetts Department of Education English Language Arts Frameworks
Topics included: decoding (whole language v. phonics); learning a spoken first language v. learning to read; teaching sound-letter correspondences.
- 1994 Greater Boston Legal Services
Wrote an affidavit on the status of Chinese dialects.
- Refereed
Conference
Presentations
(selected)**
- 2023 *Cars and trucks [with permits]: Resolving legal ambiguities with psycholinguistic data.*
Randall, J., L. Solan, A. Petti, S. Caruso, & K. Rysdam
Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Denver. January. Poster.
- 2022 [California Jury Instruction Project: Kidnapping, A Pilot Study](#)
Randall, J., Mehta, M., Patel, S., & Shah, R. Research, Innovation & Scholarship Expo (RISE), Northeastern University. April. Poster.
- 2021 [Collaborations in the Courthouse: Making Legal Language Accessible.](#)
Randall, J., J. Cherry & A. Montag. *Linguistics at the Crossroads of Sciences: Disciplinary Break-Up & Interdisciplinary Dialogue*, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco, March. [virtual presentation - covid].

- 2020 [Factors influencing jury instruction comprehension: New insights from working memory.](#) Randall, J., S. Bonnin S., Laureano, A. Robbins, & Y. Xu. *33rd Annual CUNY Human Sentence Processing Conference*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March. Poster.
- 2019 [Legalese, meet linguistics.](#) Randall, J., L. Butz, A. Macneal, R. Smith, S. Bonnin, R. Semple, J. Cherry, Y. Xu, S. Laureano, & M. Snelson. *The 14th Biennial Conference of International Association of Forensic Linguistics*, Melbourne, Australia. July.
- 2019 [Legalese, meet linguistics.](#) Randall, J., R. Semple, R. Smith, A. MacNeal, S. Laureano, S. Bonnin, J. Cherry, M. Snelson & Y. Xu. *Research, Innovation & Scholarship Expo (RISE)*, Northeastern University. April. Poster.
- 2019 [Legalese, meet linguistics.](#) Randall, J., A. Macneal, R. Smith, R. Semple, M. Snelson, S. Bonnin, S. Laureano, J. Cherry & Y. Xu. *Spring Linguistics Colloquium*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April. Poster.
- 2018 [How Just is Justice? Ask a psycholinguist.](#) *Lynschrift18, a conference in honor of the retirement of Professor Lyn Frazier.* Amherst, Massachusetts. May. Poster.
- 2018 [Jargon and Justice: Using Linguistics to Improve Legal Language.](#) Randall, J., A. MacNeal, Y. Xu, H. Emerson & K. Fiallo. *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.* Salt Lake City. January. Poster.
- 2018 [Law, meet Linguistics.](#) Randall, J., S. Laureano, M. Monjarrez, K. Fiallo, A. MacNeal, Y. Xu, S. Jones, A. Isaacs, B. Rubin, A. Jones, R. Smith, & F. Reis. *Showcase: Expanding the Reach of Linguistics: Collaborations with Other Disciplines & Beyond.* *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.* Salt Lake City. January. Poster.
- 2017 [Improving Jury Instructions: The Effect of Linguistic and Procedural Factors.](#) Randall, J., Y. Xu, K. Fiallo, H. Emerson & A. MacNeal. *American Psychology-Law Society Annual Meeting.* Seattle. March.
- 2017 [Beyond Undergraduates: strengthening psycholinguistic studies and their impact using MTurk.](#) Randall, J., A. MacNeal, Y. Xu, H. Emerson, & K. Fiall. *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.* Austin. January. Poster.
- 2016 [The preponderance of the WHAT? Factors in the comprehension of jury instructions.](#) Randall, J. & Y. Xu. *Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society.* Boston, November. Poster.
- 2016 [Reading along helps: an MTurk study on jury instruction comprehension.](#) Randall, J., H. Emerson, A. Dore, J. Tan, A. MacNeal, Y. Xu, K. Fiallo, & A. McPherson. *Research, Innovation and Scholarship Expo (RISE)*, Northeastern U, Boston, April. Poster.
- 2015 [Improving juror comprehension: reading while listening.](#) Randall, J. & K. Fiallo. *American Society of Trial Consultants Annual Conference.* Nashville. May. Poster.
- 2015 [Improving juror comprehension: reading while listening.](#) Randall, J., L. Graf & N. Clarke. *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting.* Portland OR. January. Poster.
- 2014 [Linguistics meets "legalese": syntax, semantics, and jury instruction reform.](#) Randall, J. & L. Graf. *Linguistic Society of America annual meeting.* Minneapolis. January. Poster.

- 2013 [Tackling "Legalese": how linguistics can simplify legal language & increase access to justice.](#) *Olinco: Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium*, Czech Republic. June.
- 2013 [Plain English Jury Instructions for Massachusetts: first steps.](#) *Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting*. Boston. January.
- 2011 Redefining argument and adjunct: considering the interface. *Workshop: The Argument/Adjunct Distinction Cross-Linguistically. Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) 44th Annual Meeting*. Logroño, Spain. September.
- 2006 Parameterized Linking: an approach to cross-linguistic differences in verb learning. *Research & Scholarship Expo*. Northeastern U, Boston. April. Poster.
- 2006 Parameterized Linking: an approach to cross-linguistic differences in verb learning. Poster. *Women in Science & Engineering Expo & Symposium*. Northeastern U., Boston. April.
- 2005 Parameterized Linking: explaining cross-linguistic differences in verb learning. Poster. *Xth International Congress for the Study of Child Language*. Berlin, July.
- 1998a Lexical semantics as a basis for argument structure frequency biases. Argaman, V., Pearlmuter, N. J., Garnsey, S. M., Mendelsohn, A. A., Randall, J. H. & Myers, E. Poster. *Eleventh Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 1998b Lexical semantics as a basis for argument structure frequency biases. Argaman, V., Pearlmuter, N. J., Garnsey, S. M., Mendelsohn, A. A., Randall, J. H., & Meyers, E. Poster. *39th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Dallas, Texas. November.
- 1994 Approaching linking. Randall, J., A. van Hout, J. Weissenborn, & H. Baayen. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*. January.
- 1993 Learning linking? Unaccusativity in Dutch and German. van Hout, A., Randall, J., & J. Weissenborn. *Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA)* Durham, England. September.
- 1993 Learning unaccusativity: auxiliary selection in Dutch and German. Randall, J., A. van Hout & J. Weissenborn. *6th International Congress for the Study of Child Language. Symposium: The acquisition of argument structure. (Symposium co-organizer.)* Trieste, Italy. July.
- 1992 On the acquisition of unaccusatives. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*. October.
- 1989 From conceptual structure to syntax: projecting from resultatives. (with J. Carrier). *Conference on Knowledge and Language. Workshop on lexical structure.* Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands. May.
- 1988 Resultatives. (with J. Carrier) *3rd International Morphology Meeting*. Krems, Austria. July.
- 1987 Stopping the pendulum: domain-specific principles in language acquisition. *14th International Congress of Linguists*. Berlin, East Germany. August.
- 1987 Solving the Pendulum Problem. *4th International Congress for the Study of Child Language*. Lund, Sweden. July.

- 1986 Derived argument structure: evidence from resultative verbs. (with J. Carrier)
15th Annual Linguistics Symposium. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. April.
- 1985 Negative evidence from positive. *Child Language Seminar*. University of Reading, England. March.
- 1983 Principled overgeneralization: UG, markedness and exceptional rules.
Canadian Linguistics Association annual meeting. Vancouver. May.
- 1982 The acquisition of agents: morphological and semantic hypotheses.
Stanford Child Language Research Forum. Stanford University. March.
- 1981 "The Inheritance Model: making and breaking morphological relationships." *WECOL*
(the Western Conference on Linguistics), Seattle. October.
- 1981 Children's use of morphological structure in language acquisition.
Linguistic Society of America annual meeting. New York City. December.
- 1980 Inheritance of subcategorization in deverbal nominals. *Linguistic Society of America annual meeting*. San Antonio, Texas. December.
- Invited
Conference
& workshop
Presentations**
- 2022 [Resolving legal ambiguities: What can psycholinguistics tell us?](#)
Randall, J., L. Solan, A. Petti, Caruso, S., Rysdam, K., & Mehta, M.
Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics 2022. November.
- 2021 [The California Jury Instruction Project: Kidnapping, A Pilot Study.](#)
Janet Randall, Manav Mehta, Sanjna Patel, & Rajvi Shah
Northeastern University Linguistics Research Forum, December.
- 2019 In pursuit of comprehension: Law, meet Linguistics.
A workshop for new judges, *Flaschner Judicial Institute, Boston*. (Organized by Judge Douglas Wilkins.) The Flaschner Judicial Institute provides educational/ professional development programming for judges. May.
- 2019 The Linguistics & Law Lab: a collaborative research space.
The Civil Jury Project Roundtable for Academic Advisors, NYU Law School. April.
- 2018 "Just" Language: Linguistics & Law 101. 2-hour workshop. Department of
Linguistics & Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong. August.
- 2017 The preponderance of the WHAT? Legalese, meet Linguistics.
The Syntax of Justice: Law, Language, Access & Exclusion Conference. Northeastern U.
School of Law, Boston. March.
- 2017 One talk, three ways.
Keynote speaker, professional development workshop for graduate students & post-docs. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Boston. November.
- 2016 Results, three ways. One of 3 invited speakers at Student-organized Panel,
Know Your Audience: Explaining your Research in Different Contexts
Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting. Washington DC. January.
- 2014 "What was that, again?" Instructing a Jury in Plain English.
Workshop, Flaschner Judicial Institute, Boston. The Flaschner Judicial Institute provides educational/ professional development programming for judges.

- 2009 Comments on "Recursive complements and propositional attitudes" by Jill de Villiers. *Recursion: Structural Complexity in Language & Cognition*. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, May.
- 2007 Solving the re- mystery. *Linguistics in Education Workshop*. Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington. July.
- 1997 How languages constrain speakers. *Chautauqua about writing, rhetoric, text interpretation and responsibility: "the other" in an internationalized context*. Northeastern U. Boston. October.
- 1994 "Can you help Cookie Monster?" Randall, J. & E. Clark. Workshop on experimental methods in language acquisition research. *1st Lisbon Meeting on Child Language*. Lisbon. June.
- 1990 Positive evidence counts as negative evidence, or, how catapults get around the negative evidence problem. *Fifth International Congress for the Study of Child Language*. Symposium: What counts as negative evidence? Budapest. July.
- 1987 The Catapult Hypothesis: grammars as machines for unlearning. *Conference on language acquisition*. Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik, Nijmegen. November.
- 1985 N --> V. *Linguistic Society of America annual meeting*. Symposium on Thematic Relations. Seattle, Washington. December.
- 1985 Retreat routes. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*. October.
- 1984 Morphological complementation. *MIT Morphology Workshop*. January.
- 1984 Indirect positive evidence: a new route for retreat. *Boston University Conference on Language Development*. October.
- 1980 Overgeneralization and complex forms. *Sloan Cognitive Science Meeting*. Chatham, Massachusetts. June.
- 1979 Productivity and the acquisition of causatives. *New England Child Language Association annual meeting*. Amherst, Massachusetts. October.
- Invited Talks**
- 2021 Linguistic Factors in Criminal Jury Instructions: Assault & Battery, Intent, Kidnapping. Boston Superior Court Criminal Committee, April 12.
- 2020 What's so hard about legal language? Plenary meeting, Jury Instructions Committee, Suffolk Superior Court. May.
- 2018 Jargon & Justice: a tour of the PEJI Project's recent research. Presented in John Rickford's Seminar in Sociolinguistics: Applied Sociolinguistics – Tryn'a Make a Difference (LING 255K/155K), Stanford University. [via Skype]. February.
- 2013 Language on trial: the case of Massachusetts jury instructions. Linguistics Program Colloquium. Northeastern University.
- 2012 The Plain English Jury Instruction Project. Massachusetts Bar Association.
- 2012 Morphology, argument structure, and linking: at the lexicon-syntax interface. Morphological Theory Seminar, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2011 The Plain English Jury Instruction Project. Northeastern University School of Law.

- 2010 *Put* is not a 3-argument verb: a geometric approach to argument structure puzzles. Linguistics Research Group, Center for Cognitive Studies, Tufts University.
- 2008 Linguistics for grade 6. Shady Hill School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 2008 Arguments at the interface: the Isomorphic Linking Hypothesis. University of Maryland Colloquium.
- 1998 Acquiring unaccusativity: a cross-linguistic look. *Workshop on Unaccusativity*, ZAS (Zentrum für Allgemein Sprachwissenschaft) & LOT (Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap, the Dutch national graduate school for linguistics), organizers. Held at ZAS, Berlin.
- 1997 Ebonics: What it is & what it ain't. Northeastern U. Diversity Series.
- 1997 Back up the Rabbit Hole: the role of principles in a theory of language acquisition. Comments on Steven Pinker, *Words & Rules*. Northeastern University.
- 1997 Ebonics: A Linguistic Perspective. African-American Seminar Series on Ebonics, Northeastern University.
- 1996 Evidence for a semantic blueprint: how kids learn intransitive verbs. Language & Cognition Group Colloquium. Northeastern University.
- 1996 Dissolving boundaries: interdisciplinary scholarship. Northeastern U. Roundtable.
- 1995 How kids link: semantic primitives and the syntax of verbs. Five Colleges Cognitive Science Colloquium.
- 1995 Watch Ernie murgle: semantic correlates of unaccusativity. Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT.
- 1995 Watch Oscar glorp: distinctions children use to categorize verbs. Thursday Language Lectures. Northeastern University.
- 1993 On the acquisition of intransitive verbs. Randall, J., A. van Hout & J. Weissenborn. Kolloquium Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft-Schwerpunkt "Spracherwerb" Berlin.
- 1993 Acquiring the unergative-unaccusative distinction. Holland Institute of Generative Linguistics (HIL), Amsterdam.
- 1993 Acquiring the unergative-unaccusative distinction. Randall, J. & A. van Hout. Center for Language Studies (CLS), Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- 1993 Establishing argument structure. Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.
- 1993 Uncovering argument structure. Tel Aviv University, Israel.
- 1992 Windows on argument structure: compounds, resultatives & 1-argument verbs. Universität Tübingen.
- 1991 A lexical puzzle & what it can tell us about mental representations. Universität Hamburg.
- 1991 The syntax of resultatives. Katholieke Universiteit Brabant, Tilburg, The Netherlands.
- 1990 The Catapult Hypothesis: an approach to unlearning. MIT.

- 1988 Resultative formation, lexical conceptual structure and linking. Universität Düsseldorf.
- 1988 On resultatives. Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1988 Resultative verbs. Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 1988 Resultatives; or, what can one rule tell us about lexical conceptual structure and the lexicon-syntax mapping? Vrij Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1986 About principles in language acquisition. University of Connecticut.
- 1986 Up out of the rabbit hole: unlearning processes in language acquisition. Boston V.A. Hospital.
- 1985 On resultatives. MIT.
- 1985 Retreat via positive evidence. Brown University.
- 1984 Undoing overgeneralizations: principled retreat in language acquisition. University of Alberta.
- 1983 Indirect positive evidence. McGill University.
- 1983 The student the teacher wanted to talk: on processing fillers and gaps., Northeastern U.
- 1982 Case and the acquisition of the English dative. New York University.
- 1982 Morphological learnability: structural principles in retreat. U of California, Irvine.
- 1982 On filling gaps. University of Washington, Seattle.
- 1982 Children's use of morphological structure. Northeastern University.
- 1982 When syntax won't suffice: strategies for processing complex structures. University of Alberta.
- 1981 The acquisition of the agentive *-er* nouns. University of British Columbia.
- 1981 Acquisition principles and the learning of complex morphology. Boston University.
- 1981 The Inheritance Principle in language acquisition. University of New Hampshire.

Teaching
graduate

Northeastern University
Introduction to linguistics
Syntax
Semantics
Issues in English Grammar
Topics in Linguistics: Morphology

Teaching
undergraduate

Northeastern University
Introduction to language & linguistics
Syntax
Grammar: the architecture of English
Topics in Linguistics: Grammar Matters
Topics in Linguistics: Morphology
Semantics
Linguistic Analysis

Seminar in Linguistics: Linguistics & law
Seminar in Linguistics: The Lexicon
Research Seminar in Linguistics: Verb

Brown University

Language Acquisition & linguistic theory

University of Düsseldorf

Language Acquisition & the lexicon

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