



GRADUATE STUDY *at*



RICE

THE PROGRAMS

The basic orientation of the Department of Linguistics at Rice is toward viewing language in its cognitive, social, cultural and physical contexts. We explore such questions as: What are the cognitive, articulatory, and social-interactive factors that shape human language in general and natural languages in particular? How do languages organize, form and express human knowledge and thought? How do the patterns of language reveal properties of the human mind?

Linguists at Rice examine language data of various types and from various perspectives. Field studies of undocumented languages are one primary source of data; others include large linguistic corpora in electronic form, discourse data, neurological evidence of various sorts, close analysis of naturally occurring discourse and data from grammars and historical texts. Rice linguists are interested in the study of language use, with the ultimate aim of answering the question: What are the cognitive underpinnings of language structure, use and understanding?

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Rice faculty engage in a broad range of research specializations, all of which play an important role for in-depth graduate training. These interrelated areas include: language of the mind, cognitive linguistics, language change, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, field research, phonetics, laboratory phonology and typology.

Departmental interests and expertise related to language and the mind include neurolinguistics, the study of how language is implemented in neural structures; the relation of language to broader cognitive processes, including spatial reasoning, vision and other aspects of cognition; and the relation of language and intelligence. Particular theoretical and descriptive models employed include Cognitive Grammar, the Relational Network Model and usage-based theories. Methodologies include lexical semantic analysis, observation of cross-linguistic regularities, cognitive modeling and use of very large linguistic corpora and concordances. Links with cognitive psychology and with the University of Texas Health Science Center afford opportunities for the study of language processing and cognitive neuroscience.

The study of language change gives us an understanding of how synchronic patterns come to take the forms they do and reveals some of the functional forces at work in language on a larger time scale. Both genetic and typological dimensions of change are of interest, with faculty specialities in Australian Aboriginal, Uto-Aztecan, Indo-European and Austronesian languages. The study of sociolinguistics allows us an understanding of how synchronic variation brings out and influences language change, in addition to helping us to understand how speakers use language as a social tool.

Research in discourse at Rice focuses on spoken and written language in its natural habitat. By studying naturally occurring language-in-use from a variety of genres and languages, we gain an empirical foundation to inform our understanding of the communicative and functional pressures that motivate the structure and function of language. The study of discourse at Rice uses a range of methodologies, including tools from corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis and interactional linguistics, focusing on both quantitative and qualitative generalizations.

The department offers excellent training and a supportive environment for field studies, particularly of undocumented languages. Through exposure to ongoing field research proj-

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ects, students gain both an appreciation of the linguistic diversity found in the world and an understanding of the practical aspects involved in conducting successful field research. Languages investigated by faculty and/or graduate students include, to date: languages of North America (ASL, Alabama [Muskogean], Bella Coola [Salishan], Chatino [Mije-Zoquean], Creek [Muskogean], Inuktitut [Eskimo-Aleut] and Mono, Guarijio, Tarahumara and Yaqui [Uto-Aztecan]); South America (Akawaio, Tiriyo and Wayana [Cariban], Matses [Panoan], and Trumai [isolate]); Austronesian (Atayal, Balinese, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Ilokano, Indonesian, Kapampangan, Kinaray-a, Kulisusu, Tolaki and Yagad [Western Austronesian]); Asia (Koya [Dravidian], Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Khanty [Uralic]); Bardi (Australian); Tibeto-Burman (Himalayas); and Africa (Luo [Nilo-Saharan], Pulaar and Wolof [Niger-Congo]). A number of dissertations in progress are descriptive grammars of languages based on students' fieldwork.

Research in phonetics and phonology is conducted from a laboratory perspective. At Rice, there is an emphasis, for instance, on the acoustic analysis of speech and speech perception. In addition, while phonological studies at Rice are informed by current methodologies on phonological analysis, there is particular emphasis on research in laboratory phonology. These studies are enriched by a new state-of-the-art laboratory recently acquired by the department.

Faculty interests include language universals and typology, in which cross-linguistic generalizations are drawn from empirical study in language description, phonetics and phonology, both based on experimental studies, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics.

These departmental foci are not mutually exclusive, and all are informed by a basically functional approach to language. Other faculty research specialities, which feed into the research programs enumerated above in various ways, include second-language acquisition, phonological theory, acoustic phonetics, corpus linguistics, history of linguistics, and language and society.

Students work closely with faculty on research projects and learn to develop their own research programs within the range of approaches represented in the department. For supplementary training associated with particular specialities, connections outside the department can also be made with Rice's Center for the Study of Languages (for applied linguistics and the study of European and Asian languages) and the Departments of Anthropology and Psychology.

FACULTY

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Achard, Michel. *Representation of Cognitive Structures: Syntax and semantics of French sentential complements*. New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 1998.

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Lamb, Sydney. *Pathways of the Brain: The neurocognitive basis of language*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1999.

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Stephen A. Tyler. Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology and Linguistics Emeritus. Ph.D. (1964) Stanford University. Cognitive studies, philosophy of language, anthropological linguistics and languages of India.

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Christina Willis Oke. Assistant Professor. Ph.D. (2007) University of Texas at Austin. Language description and documentation, linguistic typology, languages and cultures of the Himalayas.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The Department of Linguistics is home to Funknet, an e-mail discussion list on functional linguistics, and to Corpus Linguistics and Language Teaching, an e-mail discussion list devoted to the uses of corpora in language teaching. The Department of Linguistics also hosts a weekly colloquium. Distinguished speakers in recent years have included:

Joan Bybee, University of New Mexico
Bernard Comrie, Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology and University of California at Santa Barbara
Susanna Cumming, University of California at Santa Barbara
Östen Dahl, University of Stockholm
T. Givón, University of Oregon
Adele Goldberg, University of Illinois
Paul Hopper, Carnegie Mellon University
Dennis Preston, Michigan State University
Susumu Kuno, Harvard University
Knud Lambrecht, University of Texas at Austin
Ronald W. Langacker, University of California at San Diego
James Matisoff, University of California at Berkeley
Elizabeth Traugott, Stanford University
Harvey M. Sussman, University of Texas at Austin

CAMPUS VISIT

We encourage you to visit Rice at any time for a firsthand look at the department and the beautiful, tree-lined campus near the heart of historic Houston. If you apply and are admitted, we will make an effort to invite you to visit the campus later at departmental expense. During your time here, you will not only visit with faculty, but usually you'll be hosted by current graduate students from whom you can learn more about graduate life and



lifestyles in Houston. In the meantime, feel free to contact the department with any questions you may have about its programs or the university.

ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Admission to the program is competitive. The graduate program admits students planning to study for the Ph.D. degree on a full-time basis. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as is the TOEFL or IELTS for international students who are not native speakers of English. Undergraduate preparation should ideally include language study and course work in linguistics or disciplines related to linguistics, such as anthropology, applied linguistics, psychology or computational modeling. However, other backgrounds will be considered, depending on the student's interests and scholarly achievement. The range of backgrounds of graduate students has included the biosciences, classics, engineering, law and physics. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged.

Most acceptances include a fellowship offer, with a tuition waiver and a cash stipend sufficient for living expenses. While the department does expect some service from fellowship holders (which generally includes serving as a teaching assistant one semester per year), the awards are designed to foster progress toward the Ph.D. and are not simply teaching jobs. Fellowships are normally renewable for five years of study, depending on the student's preparation and progress made toward the degree. A number of our students have successfully competed for university-wide fellowships and for external support (National Science Foundation and Wenner-Gren) of their graduate study. Faculty also provide guidance for student applications to outside foundations supporting fieldwork, for which students also have been successful. Finally, students can apply for funds from the department and the Rice School of Humanities for travel to conferences and for summer research.

GRADUATE STUDY IN LINGUISTICS AT A GLANCE

- **Degrees awarded (5/87–5/14):** 61 Ph.D.s, 18 M.A.s
- **Fields of study:** Aspect, voice, causation, comparative grammar, corpus linguistics, cognitive grammar, discourse analysis, fieldwork and language description, grammaticalization, nominalization, etc.; Akawaio (Cariban), Austronesian, Chatino, Chiac, Creek, English, French, German, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Matses (Panoan), Taiwanese, Tiriyo (Cariban) and Trumai (Isolate)
- **Faculty working with students:** 7
- **Students:** 23 graduate students, approximately 29 undergraduate majors
- **Number of full fellowships for 2014:** 17
- **Standard award for 2014:** \$16,000 plus tuition waiver
- **Number of graduate students receiving financial aid:** 20
- **Degree requirements for the Ph.D.:** Professional papers in the second, third and fourth years; one language-competency exams; and a dissertation
- **Average number of years to complete the doctoral program:** 5–6



ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON

Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country's largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 2,374 graduate students and 3,708 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. It's home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University. Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.

As urban as it is, Houston also is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and 120 open spaces, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state's capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

For application forms, see the contact information below:

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