

Exponent®
Engineering & Scientific Consulting

Monica Do, Ph.D.

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Professional Profile

Dr. Do is a cognitive scientist with expertise in visual and auditory perception, event recall, learning, and language processing – including written, signed, and spoken communication. She has over ten years of experience designing, conducting, and analyzing behavioral studies measuring eye-gaze, reaction time, and decision-making. Dr. Do also has expertise in processing, visualizing, and statistically analyzing large qualitative and quantitative data sets using machine learning methods such as mixed effect regression modeling, clustering, and principal component analysis.

Prior to joining Exponent, Dr. Do was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics and was the Director of the Language, Events, and Mind Lab at the University of Chicago. In addition to teaching and science outreach work, she also directed research projects with international collaborators. These projects focused on the relationship between language and thought, language learning, language evolution, and real-time language production among hearing and deaf individuals. Her dissertation focused on factors that can explicitly or in-explicitly affect how adults with various language backgrounds choose what to say – and not say – and how they decide to say it.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

Ph.D., Psycholinguistics, University of Southern California, 2018

B.A., Linguistics, University of Southern California, 2011

Endowed Fellowship, University of Southern California

Provost Fellowship, University of Southern California

Lilian Kim Outstanding Female Debater Award, University of Southern California

Licenses and Certifications

PADI Certified Open Water Scuba Diver (IL)

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Linguistics & Director of the Language, Events & Mind Lab, University of Chicago, 2022-2025

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Prior Experience

Assistant Professor of Linguistics & Director of the Language, Events & Mind Lab, University of Chicago, 2022-2025

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Chicago, 2020-2022

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2018-2019

Professional Affiliations

2018 – Pres, Cognitive Science Society

2025 – Pres, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Publications

Do ML, Kirby S, Goldin-Meadow S. Regularization of word order in the verb phrase differs from the noun phrase: evidence from an online silent gesture perception paradigm. Proceedings of the 44th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (pp. 1211-1217), Toronto, ON: Cognitive Science Society, 2022.

Do ML, Kirby S, Goldin-Meadow S, Flaherty M, Abner N, Senghas A. Amplifying the bias to order nouns before adjectives in language: evidence from emerging sign language and silent gesture studies. Proceedings of the Joint Conference on Language Evolution, Kanazawa, Japan, September 2022.

Do ML, Papafragou A, Trueswell J. Encoding motion events during language production: effects of audience design and conceptual salience. Cognitive Science, e13077, 2022.

Do ML, Kaiser E. Sentence formulation is easier when thematic and syntactic prominence align: evidence from psych verbs. Language, Cognition, & Neuroscience 2021; 37(5).

Do ML, Papafragou A, Trueswell J. Cognitive and pragmatic factors in language production: evidence from source-goal motion events. Cognition 2020; 104447.

Presentations

Do M. The emergence of word order in the noun phrase: a view from sign and gesture. Talk presented at the Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language, Chicago, IL, October 2024.

Do M, Kesan JR. Language production for source-goal motion events: factors affecting goal mention. Talk presented at the 37th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Ann Arbor, MI, May 2024.

Do M, Kirby S, Goldin-Meadow S. Input frequency affects regularization of word order in the verb phrase vs noun phrase differently: evidence from comprehension and production of silent gesture. Poster presented at the 29th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, San Sebastian, Spain, August 2023.

Do M. From thematic to syntactic structures: a view from psych verbs. Plenary talk presented at the Chicago Linguistics Society 58, Chicago, IL, April 2022.

Do M. Adjective ordering preferences: from conceptual roots to linguistic strings. Talk presented at the Center for Language Evolution, Edinburgh, Scotland, April 2021.

Advisory Appointments

Cognitive Science Society, Mentoring Program Committee, Chair, 2021-2024

Peer Reviews

Journal of Child Development, Advances in Cognitive Science, Cognition, Child Development, Language, Cognitive Psychology, Linguistic Inquiry, Language and Cognition, Cognitive Science