

# Alex Brabham Fine

University of Rochester  
Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences  
Department of Linguistics  
Date of Birth: June 13, 1984  
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## Academic Background

PhD, University of Rochester, *Fall 2008 – present*

*Departments:* Brain and Cognitive Sciences; Linguistics

*Advisors:* Florian Jaeger, Jeff Runner

MA, University of Rochester Dept. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, *Fall 2010*

*Qualifying Exam Committee:* Florian Jaeger, Mike Tanenhaus, Robbie Jacobs

Linguistics Society of America Summer Institute - UC Berkeley, July 2009

B.A. (*with Distinction*), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006.

*Major:* Linguistics (Highest Honors)

*Minor:* German

*Senior Thesis Title:* “Attachment Preferences of Successive Prepositional Phrases in German”

Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, Exchange Student, August 2004-July 2005

Sprachinstitut Tübingen, June 2004-August 2004

## Honors

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, April 2010 – present

Department of Education FLAS Graduate Fellowship, April 2008 – *declined*

UNC Office of Undergraduate Research Travel Award, April 2006

Baden-Württemberg Landesstiftung Stipendium, August 2004-July 2005

## Employment

*Boston University School of Medicine, Lab of Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*

Research Assistant, Social Perception in Williams Syndrome, June 2007-July 2008.

Research Assistant, Language and Social Communication in Autism, June 2006-June 2007.

Principal Investigators: Helen Tager-Flusberg, Daniela Plesa Skwerer, Robert M. Joseph

## Teaching

### *Teaching Assistantships*

University of Rochester, BCS 200: Statistical Analysis and Experimental Design; instructor: Dave Knill

University of Rochester, LIN 110: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis; instructor: Greg Carlson (Spring 2010)

LSA Summer Institute, LSA 125: Psycholinguistics and Syntactic Corpora; instructor: Florian Jaeger (July 2009)

University of Rochester, BCS 152: Language and Psycholinguistics; instructor: Florian Jaeger (Fall 2008)

### *Tutoring*

University of Rochester College Writing Program. Writing Consultant. (Fall 2009 - present)

## Professional Activities

Assistant Editor, Spring 2009 - present: *University of Rochester Working Papers in the Language Sciences*

Co-founder of the Boston Society of Cognitive Science, 2007

## Publications

### *in prep*

Fine, A. B., Farmer, T., Jaeger, T. F. "Rapid linguistic adaptation during syntactic comprehension".

Fine, A. B. and Jaeger, T. F. "A rational analysis of lexical cue combination in syntactic comprehension".

### *submitted*

Fine, A. B. and Jaeger, T.F. "Evidence for implicit learning in syntactic comprehension". Under revision.

Farmer, T., Misyak, J. B., Fine, A. B., Christiansen, M. H. "The "Ex-Factor": Individual differences in linguistic experience help explain variability in measures of on-line syntactic processing ability". Under review.

### *2011*

Fine, A. B. and Jaeger, T.F. "Language comprehension is sensitive to changes in the reliability of lexical cues". In *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

Farmer, T., Fine, A. B., Jaeger, T. F. "Implicit context-specific learning leads to rapid shifts in syntactic expectations". In *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.

2010

Fine, A. B., Qian, T., Jaeger, T.F., Jacobs, R. “Syntactic Adaptation in Language Comprehension”. In *Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*.

## Conference Presentations

2011

Fine, A. B., Jaeger, T.F. “Principles and Mechanisms Underlying Syntactic Adaptation”. Poster presented at 24th Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. March 2011. Palo Alto, CA.

Farmer, T., Dikker, S., Bicknell, K., Fine, A. B., Tanenhaus, M. Word-form Typicality Effects on Eye-Movements During Reading. Poster presented at 24th Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. March 2011. Palo Alto, CA.

Ammerman, E., Fine, A. B., Lindeke, M., André, M-C., Plesa Skwerer, D., Tager-Flusberg, H. “How do Children with Williams Syndrome Respond to Ambiguous Referential Communication in a Joint Activity?”. Poster presented at Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. April 2011. Montreal, CA.

2010

Fine, A. B., Qian, T., Jaeger, T.F., Jacobs, R. “Syntactic Adaptation in Language Comprehension”. Talk given at ACL 2010. Uppsala, Sweden.

Ammerman, E., André, M-C., Storer, A., Fine, A. B. Ciciolla, C., Lindeke, M., Plesa Skwerer, D., Tager-Flusberg, H. “Differential Appraisal of Social and Nonsocial Affective Images in Williams Syndrome”. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science. May 2010. Boston, MA.

2009

Fine, A. B., Kim, C., Runner, J. “The Role of Inflectional Entropy in VP Ellipsis Resolution”. Poster presented at 22nd Annual Meeting of the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. March 2009. Davis, CA.

Edelson, L. Fine, A. B., Tager-Flusberg, H. “Using Eye-Tracking Measures to Assess Verb Comprehension in Toddlers with and without Autism Spectrum Disorders”. Talk given at Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. April 2009. Denver, CO.

Plesa Skwerer, D., Kennedy, M., Fine, A. B., Lindeke, M., Ciciolla, L., Tager-Flusberg, H. “Visual preferences, social attention and arousal in people with developmental disorders: Eye-tracking and pupillometry findings”. Talk given at Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. April 2009. Denver, CO.

2008

Fine, A. B., Plesa Skwerer, D., Ciciolla, L., Tager-Flusberg, H. “Reflexive Orienting to Non-Predictive Gaze and Arrow Cues in Williams Syndrome.” Poster Presented at the 12th International Professional Conference on Williams Syndrome. July 2008. Garden Grove, CA.

Fine, A. B., Plesa Skwerer, D., Ciciolla, L., Joseph, R., Tager-Flusberg, H. "Orienting of Attention to Gaze and Arrow Cues in Williams Syndrome. Poster Presented at the 2nd Annual Social and Affective Neuroscience Conference. June 2008. Boston, MA.

Kennedy, M. Plesa Skwerer, D., Lindeke, M., Fine, A. B., Tager-Flusberg, H. "Social Attention in Young Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Evidence from Eye-Tracking". Poster presented at the 2nd Annual Social and Affective Neuroscience Conference. June 2008. Boston, MA.

Edelson, L., Fine, A. B., Tager-Flusberg, H. "Comprehension of Nouns in Toddlers with Autism: An Eye-Tracking Study. Talk given at 7th International Meeting for Autism Research. May 2008. London, UK.

### *2007*

Keehn, B., Connolly, C., Fine, A. B., Joseph, R. "Slowed Visual Search in the Absence of Top-Down Information in Autism". Poster Presented at 6th International Meeting for Autism Research. May 2007. Seattle, WA.

Keehn, B. Connolly, C., Fine, A. B., Joseph, R. "Bottom-up Modulation of Attention in Autism: Evidence of Impaired Prioritization of Novel Onset Stimuli". Poster Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. March 2007. Boston, MA.

### *2006*

Fine, A. B.. "Ordering Preferences of Successive PPs in German". Paper presented at the 4th Annual Harvard University Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium. April 2006. Cambridge, MA.