



Christopher Potts

Professor of Linguistics

Bio

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Linguistics
- Member, Bio-X
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, (2020- present)
- Professor, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, (2016- present)
- Associate Professor (tenured), Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, (2009-2016)
- Associate Professor (untenured), Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, (2008-2009)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, (2003-2008)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Symbolic Systems Program

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- B.A., New York University , Linguistics Major, German Minor (1999)
- M.A., University of California, Santa Cruz , Linguistics (2000)
- Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz , Linguistics (2003)

Teaching

COURSES

2024-25

- Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics: LINGUIST 130A, LINGUIST 230A (Win)
- Linguistic Research Discussion Group: LINGUIST 294 (Aut)
- Research Workshop: LINGUIST 395 (Spr)
- Undergraduate Research Seminar: LINGUIST 197A (Win)

2023-24

- Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics: LINGUIST 130A, LINGUIST 230A (Win)
- Linguistic Research Discussion Group: LINGUIST 294 (Aut)

- Research Workshop: LINGUIST 395 (Spr)
- Undergraduate Research Seminar: LINGUIST 197A (Win)

2022-23

- Advanced Semantics: LINGUIST 230B (Aut)
- Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics: LINGUIST 130A, LINGUIST 230A (Win)
- Natural Language Understanding: CS 224U, LINGUIST 188, LINGUIST 288, SYMSYS 195U (Spr)
- Undergraduate Research Seminar: LINGUIST 197A (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Fisher Anderson

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Satchel Grant

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Adolfo Hermsillo

Master's Program Advisor

Antonio Alonso-Stepanov, Ari Barbella-Blaaha, Kenneth Bui, Aadi Golchha, Jack Hung, Kenny Lam, Robby Manihani, Fisher Marks, James Morice, Andy Ouyang, Jisang Park, Rami Ratl Mrad, Evan Robert, Samuel Roush, Brydie Sigg, Andy Tang, Jess Toh, Natalie Wang, Jiaye Zou

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Alexa Tartaglini, Tristan Thrush

Doctoral (Program)

Aryaman Arora, Nathan Hu, Jing Huang, Julie Kallini, Krista Opsahl-Ong, Dilara Soyulu, Omri Uzan, Qinan Yu

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **A data-driven framework for mapping domains of human neurobiology** *Nature Neuroscience*
Beam, E., Potts, C., Poldrack, R. A., Etkin, A.
2021
- **A case for deep learning in semantics: Response to Pater** *LANGUAGE*
Potts, C.
2019; 95 (1): E115–E124
- **Enculturation Trajectories: Language, Cultural Adaptation, and Individual Outcomes in Organizations** *MANAGEMENT SCIENCE*
Srivastava, S. B., Goldberg, A., Manian, V., Potts, C.
2018; 64 (3): 1348–64
- **Fitting In or Standing Out? The Tradeoffs of Structural and Cultural Embeddedness** *AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*
Goldberg, A., Srivastava, S. B., Manian, V. G., Monroe, W., Potts, C.
2016; 81 (6): 1190-1222
- **Embedded Implicatures as Pragmatic Inferences under Compositional Lexical Uncertainty** *JOURNAL OF SEMANTICS*
Potts, C., Lassiter, D., Levy, R., Frank, M. C.
2016; 33 (4): 755-802
- **Bringing Machine Learning and Compositional Semantics Together** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF LINGUISTICS, VOL 1*
Liang, P., Potts, C.

2015; 1: 355-376

- **Modeling the Lifespan of Discourse Entities with Application to Coreference Resolution** *JOURNAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH*
de Marneffe, M., Recasens, M., Potts, C.
2015; 52: 445-475
- **That straight talk: Sarah Palin and the sociolinguistics of demonstratives** *JOURNAL OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS*
Acton, E. K., Potts, C.
2014; 18 (1): 3-31
- **A computational approach to politeness with application to social factors** *Proceedings of the 2013 Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C., Sudhof, M., Jurafsky, D., Lescovec, J., Potts, C.
2013: 250-59
- **Emergence of Gricean maxims from multi-agent decision theory** *Human Language Technologies: The 2013 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
Vogel, A., Bodoia, M., Jurafsky, D., Potts, C.
2013: 1072-81
- **The life and death of discourse entities: identifying singleton mentions** *Human Language Technologies: The 2013 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
Recasens, M., de Marneffe, M., Potts, C.
2013: 627-33
- **Presupposition and implicature** *The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory*
Potts, C.
edited by Lappin, S., Fox, C.
Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.2013; 2
- **No country for old members: user lifecycle and linguistic change in online communities** *Proceedings of the 22nd World Wide Web Conference*
Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, C., West, R., Jurafsky, D., Lescovec, J., Potts, C.
2013: 307-17
- **Implicatures and nested beliefs in approximate decentralized-POMDPs** *Proceedings of the 2013 Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
Vogel, A., Jurafsky, D., Potts, C.
2013: 74-80
- **Did It Happen? The Pragmatic Complexity of Veridicality Assessment** *COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS*
de Marneffe, M., Manning, C. D., Potts, C.
2012; 38 (2): 301-333
- **Trust propagation with mixed-effects models** *Proceedings of the 6th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*
Overgoor, J., Wulczyn, E., Potts, C.
2012
- **Goal-driven answers in the Cards dialogue corpus**
Potts, C.
edited by Arnett, N., Bennett, R.
2012: 1-20
- **Corpus evidence for preference-driven interpretation** *Proceedings of the 18th Amsterdam Colloquium: Revised Selected Papers*
Djalali, A., Lauer, S., Potts, C.
edited by Aloni, M., Kimmelman, V., Roelofsen, F., Sassoon, G. W., Schulz, K., Westera, M.
2012
- **Teaching pragmatics** *Teaching Linguistics*
Potts, C.

edited by Kuiper, K.

London: Equinox Publishing.2011: 51–65

- **On the negativity of negation** *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory*
Potts, C.
2011: 636–59
- **Modeling expert effects and common ground using Questions Under Discussion** *Proceedings of the AAAI Workshop on Building Representations of Common Ground with Intelligent Agents*
Djalali, A., Clausen, D., Lauer, S., Schultz, K., Potts, C.
2011
- **Learning word vectors for sentiment analysis** *Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
Maas, A. L., Daly, R. E., Pham, P. T., Huang, D., Ng, A. Y., Potts, C.
2011
- **Veridicality and utterance meaning** *Proceedings of the Fifth IEEE International Conference on Semantic Computing: Workshop on Semantic Annotation for Computational Linguistic Resources*
de Marneffe, M., Manning, C. D., Potts, C.
2011
- **Pragmatics** *The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics*
Potts, C.
edited by Mitkov, R.
Oxford University Press.2011; 2nd
- **Sentiment flow through hyperlink networks** *Proceedings of the 5th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media*
Miller, M., Sathi, C., Wiesenhal, D., Leskovec, J., Potts, C.
2011
- **Harmonic Grammar with linear programming: from linear systems to linguistic typology** *PHONOLOGY*
Potts, C., Pater, J., Jesney, K., Bhatt, R., Becker, M.
2010; 27 (1): 77-117
- **Affective ‘this’** *Linguistic Issues in Language Technology*
Potts, C., Schwarz, F.
2010; 3 (5): 1 - 30
- **“Was it good? It was provocative.” Learning the meaning of scalar adjectives** *Proceedings 48th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*
de Marneffe, M., Manning, C. D., Potts, C.
2010: 167–76
- **Semantics–pragmatics interactions** *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Language Sciences*
Potts, C.
edited by Hogan, P. C.
Cambridge University Press.2010: 758–759
- **Affective demonstratives and the division of pragmatic labor** *Logic, Language, and Meaning: 17th Amsterdam Colloquium Revised Selected Papers*
Davis, C., Potts, C.
edited by Aloni, M., Bastiaanse, H., Jager, T., Schulz, K.
2010: 42–52
- **Crowdsourcing and language studies: The new generation of linguistic data** *Proceedings of the NAACL 2010 Workshop on Creating Speech and Language Data With Amazons Mechanical Turk*
Munro, R., Bethard, S., Kuperman, V., Lai, V. T., Melnick, R., Potts, C., Schnoebelen, T., Tily, H.
2010: 122–30
- **Perspective-shifting with appositives and expressives** *LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY*
Harris, J. A., Potts, C.

2009; 32 (6): 523-552

- **Not a simple yes or no: Uncertainty in indirect answers** *Proceedings of the 10th Annual SIGDIAL Meeting on Discourse and Dialogue*
de Marneffe, M., Grimm, S., Potts, C.
2009: 136–43
- **Predicting perspectival orientation for appositives** *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Chicago Linguistic Society Meeting*
Harris, J. A., Potts, C.
2009
- **The pragmatics of expressive content: Evidence from large corpora** *Sprache und Datenverarbeitung*
Constant, N., Davis, C., Potts, C., Schwarz, F.
2009; 33 (1 - 2): 5 - 21
- **Formal pragmatics** *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Pragmatics*
Potts, C.
edited by Cummings, L.
London: Routledge.2009: 167–170
- **Review Article: Hagit Borer's Structuring Sense Vol I-II** *Language*
Potts, C.
2008; 82 (2): 348 - 369
- **The pragmatics of conventional implicature and expressive content** *Semantics: An International Handbook of Natural Language Meaning*
Potts, C.
edited by Maienborn, C., Portner, P.
Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.2008
- **Expressives and identity conditions** *Linguistic Inquiry*
Potts, C., Alonso-Ovalle, L., Asudeh, A., Cable, R. S., Davis, C., Hara, Y., Kratzer, A., McCready, E., Roeper, T., Walkow, M.
2008; 40 (2): 356–366
- **The expressive dimension (The theory is multidimensional in the sense that descriptives and expressives are fundamentally different but receive a unified logical treatment)** *THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS*
Potts, C.
2007; 33 (2): 165-198
- **Conventional implicatures, a distinguished class of meanings** *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Interfaces*
Potts, C.
edited by Ramchand, G., Reiss, C.
Oxford University Press.2007: 475–501
- **Into the conventional-implicature dimension** *Philosophy Compass*
Potts, C.
2007; 4 (2): 665–679
- **The pragmatic values of evidential sentences** *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory*
Davis, C., Potts, C., Speas, M.
edited by Gibson, M., Friedman, T.
2007: 71–88
- **The dimensions of quotation** *Direct Compositionality*
Potts, C.
edited by Baker, C., Jacobson, P.
Oxford University Press.2007: 405–431
- **The centrality of expressive indices** *THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS*
Potts, C.
2007; 33 (2): 255-268

- **Paul Grice: Philosopher and linguist (Book Review)** *MIND*
Book Review Authored by: Potts, C.
2006; 115 (459): 743-747
- **How far can pragmatic mechanisms take us?** *THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS*
Potts, C.
2006; 32 (3): 307-320
- **Conversational implicatures via general pragmatic pressures** *Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence*
Potts, C.
edited by Washio, T., Sakurai, A., Nakajima, K., Takeda, H., Tojo, S., Yokoo, M.
Berlin: Springer.2006
- **The narrowing acquisition path: From expressive small clauses to declaratives** *The Syntax of Nonsententials: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives*
Potts, C., Roeper, T.
edited by Progovac, L., Paesani, K., Casielles, E., Barton, E.
Amsterdam: John Benjamins.2006: 183–201
- **The Logic of Conventional Implicatures**
Potts, C.
Oxford University Press.2005
- **Lexicalized intonational meaning** *University of Massachusetts Occasional Papers*
Potts, C., Kawahara, S.
Amherst, MA: GLSA..2005: 129–146
- **Japanese honorifics as emotive definite descriptions** *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory*
Potts, C., Kawahara, S.
edited by Watanabe, K., Young, R. B.
2004: 235–54
- **Expressive content as conventional implicature**
Potts, C.
edited by Kadowaki, M., Kawahara, S.
2003: 303–22
- **The syntax and semantics of As-parentheticals** *NATURAL LANGUAGE & LINGUISTIC THEORY*
Potts, C.
2002; 20 (3): 623-689
- **The lexical semantics of parenthetical-as and appositive-which** *Syntax*
Potts, C.
2002; 5 (1): 55 - 88
- **NELS 33 conference report** *Glott International*
Potts, C.
2002
- **Model theory and the content of OT constraints** *Phonology*
Potts, C., Pullum, G. K.
2002; 19 (3): 361–393
- **WCCFL 21 conference report** *Glott International*
Potts, C.
2002; 5 (5)
- **Proceedings of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics**
edited by Mikkelsen, L., Potts, C.
2002

- **No vacuous quantification constraints in syntax**
Potts, C.
2001: 451–70
- **Three types of transderivational constraint** *Syntax at Santa Cruz*
Potts, C.
edited by Bhloscaidh, S. M.
2001: 21–40
- **(Only) some weak crossover effects repaired** *Snippets*
Potts, C.
2000; 1 (3)