

SHARON A. COTE
Curriculum Vitae
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James Madison University
Department of English
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.: University of Pennsylvania
Thesis: "Grammatical and Discourse Properties of Null Arguments in English," December 1996
Honors: Dean's Scholarship

MA: New York University
Field: Linguistics, 1986
Honors: University Scholarship

BA: State University of New York at Binghamton, Harpur College
Field: English Literature and Rhetoric, 1982
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

POSITIONS HELD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(2003 – Present) Department of English, James Madison University

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(1998 – 2003) Department of English, James Madison University

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
(1997 – 1998) Department of English, James Madison University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Pragmatics and Inference
Metaphor
Interrelationships between Syntax/Semantics and Discourse
Functions of English Syntax
Discourse Modeling
Differences between Spoken and Written Language
Differences between Literary and Non-Literary Language
Speculative Fiction
Magic Realism in the United States

COURSES TAUGHT AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

ADVANCED STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS: METAPHOR
CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES TO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS (*Graduate Course*)
GREAT WORKS: FICTION
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION - HONORS
GREAT WORKS: SPECULATIVE FICTION (*I also team taught a version of this course with Clarke County HS teacher Kimberly Wilt in the pilot semester of the JMU Bridge Program*)
INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)
MATTERS OF SPECULATION (*Graduate Course*)
MODERN GRAMMAR: STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)
SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE: ENGLISH IN CONTEXT (*Cross-listed as a Graduate Course*)
SPECIAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS
SPECIAL TOPIC SEMINAR: LINGUISTIC APPROACHES TO LITERATURE
SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE I
SURVEY OF PROSE FICTION
TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR (*Sometimes cross-listed as a graduate course*)

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDIES ON TOPICS IN SOUTHERN DIALECTS, GENDER DIFFERENCES AND CHANGES IN AMERICAN SLANG, MODELLING REFERENCE RESOLUTION, AND THEORIES OF SYNTAX

THESES SUPERVISOR/READER:

READER FOR HONORS THESIS BY DAVID BLORE – Freedom, Security, and Costumed Superheroes: Marvel Comics' Approach to the War on Terror. (Completed spring 2010)

SUPERVISED UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY MARCUS HAMILTON – After Lot's Wife: Reconciling the Humanist and the Skeptic in Kurt Vonnegut's Early Novels. (Completed spring 2009)

READER FOR MASTER'S THESIS BY MELISSA HURTER -- Fractured Identities in Iain Bank's *The Wasp Factory*. (Completed Spring 2009)

READER FOR HONOR'S THESIS BY JARED JESSUP- ON J. R. R. TOLKIEN (Completed 2008)

READER FOR MASTERS THESIS BY STEVEN CUMMINGS – CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT

SUPERVISED UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY ROBIN SMITH – Long Live the Subjunctive: A Comparative Study of Modality and Mood Selection in English. (Completed fall 2005)

SUPERVISED BACHELOR OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES THESIS BY MICHAEL MORRISON – Legends of Ryllia (*Designing a fantasy role-playing world and game* – Completed spring 2005)

SUPERVISED MASTERS THESIS BY JEREMIAH FORSHEY – William Gibson and the Fiction of Unreality (Completed spring 2004)

READER FOR MASTERS THESIS BY REBECCA DEEL – CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT (Completed spring 2005)

READER FOR UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS BY BRIAN KIM – EXPERIMENTAL CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT (completed spring 2006)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL CHAIRING AT REFEREED CONFERENCES

“Deliberateness and the Use and ‘Avoidance’ of Particular Conventional Metaphors in Cyberpunk Fiction,” 2014 Stockholm Metaphor Festival, Stockholm, Sweden. (Forthcoming August 2014)

“Inferable Paths and Metaphoric Potholes: Interactions between Inferential Processes for Containing Inferrables and Metaphoric References,” presented at Beyond Words 2: New Developments in Pragmatics, Leipzig, Germany. (May 2014)

“The Generic Speculative Baby in the Murky Bathwater: An Exploratory Study of How and Why We Recognize a Science Fiction Genre despite its Slippery Nature,” presented at the Forty-Fifth Annual CEA Conference, Baltimore, MD. (March 2014)

“Ellen Prince as a Creative Theorist,” presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Society of America, Special Symposium on Studies in the Discourse-Semantics Interface: In Memory of Ellen F. Prince, Portland, OR. (January 2012)

“‘It’s All Par for the Lifestyle, Kids’: Conventional Metaphors for Risk and Misfortune in Cyberpunk and Post-Cyberpunk Literature,” presented at the Forty-Second Annual CEA Conference, St. Petersburg, FL. (March 2011)

“Does the Left Brain Matter in the Literary Mind?” presented at the Fortieth Annual CEA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2009)

Moderator: Panel on Grammar and Linguistics at the Fortieth Annual CEA Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2009)

Moderator: Panel on “The Love of Mother Nature: Seduction, Ecology, and Literature” at the Thirty-Ninth Annual CEA Conference, St. Louis (March 2008)

“Analogical Assumptions and Writing Errors,” presented at the Thirty-Ninth Annual CEA Conference, St. Louis, MO. (March 2008)

Moderator: Panel on Responses to Tragedy and Discrimination – Thirty-Eighth Annual CEA Conference, New Orleans (April 2007)

“What do You Know: Cognitive Re-modeling in Science Fiction,” presented at the Thirty-Eighth Annual CEA Conference, New Orleans (April 2007)

Moderator: Panel on Surreal Regions: Historical, Cultural, and Cognitive Regions of Science Fiction – Thirty-Seventh Annual CEA Conference, San Antonio (April 2006)

“The Rock and the Word: Metaphors for Science Fiction in Science Fiction” – presented at the Thirty-Seventh Annual CEA Conference, San Antonio (April 2006)

“Communicative Intentions and Discourse Structures: Speaker Imposed Interpretability Constraints” – Workshop on the Syntax-Pragmatics Interface, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. (April 2005)

“The Pragmatic Author: Comparing Pragmatic Constraints on Linguistic Choices in Everyday Language Use and in Literary Texts” – MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA. (December 2004)

“On a ‘Need to Know’ Basis?: Communicative Intentions, Relevance, and Discourse Reference Resolution” – MLA Convention, New York. (December 2002)

“Lexical Conceptual Structure and Inferable Entities in Discourse” – Seventh International Pragmatics Conference, Budapest, Hungary. (July 2000)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL CHAIRING AT REFEREED CONFERENCES (CONT.)

“Teaching Modern Grammar to English Majors” – Thirty-First Annual CEA Conference, Charleston, SC. (April 2000)

“Inferable Entities in Discourse and in Narrative” – Linguaging 2000, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. (March 2000)

“Been there. Done that.!: Comparing Null Subject Use in Naturally-Occurring Utterances and Scripted or Literary Dialogue” – Linguaging 99, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. (March 1999)

“Elaborations: a Function and a Form” – 23rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society, Berkeley, CA. (1997)

“Discourse Constraints on Null Subject Utterances” – 71st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, Chicago, IL (1997)

“Discourse Constraints on Implicit Arbitrary Objects in English” – 19th Penn Linguistics Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. (1995)

“Elaborations and Subjectless Sentences in Conversational English” – 69th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1995)

“Arbitrary Null Objects in English and Pro-Arb” – 68th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1994).

“Ranking of Forward-Looking Centers” – Workshop on Centering Theory in Naturally-Occurring Discourse (1993).

“Discourse Functions of Two Types of Null Objects in English” – 66th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (1992).

“Centering in Japanese Discourse” – 13th International Conference on Computational Linguistics – COLING-90, Helsinki, Finland (1990).

“Features in a Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar For English” – First International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars, Dagstuhl, Germany (1990).

“‘Certain’ Adverbials and Non-Monotonicity in Natural Language” – 14th Penn Linguistics Colloq. (1990).

“Even/Still” – 11th Penn Linguistics Colloquium (1987).

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Invited Panelist: James Madison University Liberal Education Institute (LEI 2010), May 21st, 2010

“Speculation, Language, and Reality,” JMU Honors Symposium Series, January 2005

“Science Fiction and Mental Models of the World” – Brown Bag Talk sponsored by the JMU Honors Program, October 2002 (with Dabney Bankert)

“Teaching H.A.L. to Understand English: Natural Language Processing” – sponsored by the JMU Neuroscience Club, spring 1999

PUBLICATIONS

"The Flexibility of Inference in Triggers for Inferable Entities: Evidence for an Interpretability Constraint" in *Pragmatics and the Flexibility of Word Meaning*, Eniko Nemeth and Karoly Bibok (eds.), Elsevier Science Press, 2001.

"Lexical Conceptual Structure and Inferable Entities in Discourse" in *Selected Papers from the 7th International Pragmatics Conference*, 2001.

"Elaboration: A Function and a Form", in *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*, 2000.

"Ranking Forward-Looking Centers", in *Centering in Discourse*, Ellen Prince, Aravind Joshi, and Marilyn Walker (eds.), Oxford University Press, 1998.

"Japanese Discourse and the Process of Centering", in *Computational Linguistics*, Vol. 20, No. 2, June 1994, (with Lyn Walker and Masayo Iida).

"A Lexicalized Tree Adjoining Grammar for English", Technical Report, University of Pennsylvania, 1990, (with Anne Abeille', Kathleen Bishop, Aravind K. Joshi, and Yves Schabes).

"Centering in Japanese Discourse" in *Papers Presented to the 13th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING)*, 1990, (with Lyn Walker and Masayo Iida).

"Lexicalized TAGs, Parsing and Lexicons" in *Proceedings of the Speech and Natural Language Workshop*, Feb. 1989, (with Anne Abeille', Kathleen Bishop, Aravind K. Joshi, and Yves Schabes).

"'Certain' Adverbials and Non-Monotonicity in Natural Language" in *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 14, 1990.

"Even/Still" in *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 11, 1987.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

"LLAMA (Linguistics Labs And Multimedia Activities) - Syntax" : a JAVA parsing applet used for pedagogical purposes in the Modern Grammar course (Fall 1997 w/ David Bernstein, revised with David Bernstein, Summer 2013)

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Paper Referee: LSA Organized Session in Memory of Ellen F. Prince: Information Structure and Discourse. (Fall 2011 for LSA Annual Meeting, January 2012)

Proposal Reviewer: National Science Foundation linguistics grant proposal, Spring 2009

Paper Referee: *Discourse Processes*, 2002

Paper Referee: Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 2000

Paper Referee: *Centering Theory in Discourse*, 1998

Editor: *The Penn Review of Linguistics*, Vol. 12, 1988

Abstract Referee: Eastern States Conference on Linguistics, 1988

SERVICE

CHAPTER SECRETARY, PHI BETA KAPPA, XI CHAPTER OF VIRGINIA
James Madison University (November 2011 – November 2013)

FOUNDER AND ORGANIZER, ENGLISH ALUMNI CAREER TALKS
English Department (2011-present)

CHAIR, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE
English Department (2005-2013 – co-chaired w/Dabney banker through 2008))

TREASURER OF THE FACULTY SENATE and STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER
James Madison University (2007-2008)

CO-CHAIR, CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
English Department (2007 – 2008)

CHAIR, AFRICAN-AMERICANIST SEARCH COMMITTEE
English Department (2004 –2005)

CHAIR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE
Honors Program, James Madison University (2003 – 2004)

CHAIR, PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE
English Department (2004 –2005)

CHAIR, MEDIEVALIST SEARCH COMMITTEE
English Department (2003 – 2004)

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
College of Arts and Letters (Fall 2012-Fall 2013)

AD HOC APPEAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
College of Arts and Letters (Fall 2012)

PHI BETA KAPPA COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS IN COURSE
James Madison University (spring 2012 and spring 2013)

PHI BETA KAPPA COMMITTEE ON HONORARY AND ALUMNI MEMBERS
James Madison University (2011-2013)

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
James Madison University (2008-2009)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STEERING COMMITTEE
(2007-2009)

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW
English Department (2007-2008)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM STRUCTURE (INTERNAL REVIEW)
English Department (1998, 2007-2008)

FACULTY SENATOR
James Madison University (fall 2000-spring 2002, 2005- 2006 as alternate, 2007-2008)

SERVICE (CONT.)

ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Faculty Senate, James Madison University (2007-2008)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

English Department (fall 1999-2000, fall 2005–2009, representative to College C & I committee 2009)

LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE

English Department (2005-2008)

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

English Department (Spring 2005 – 2009)

PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

English Department (fall 1998-spring 2000, fall 2002-spring 2005)

FACULTY CONCERNS COMMITTEE (fall 2001-spring 2002)

Faculty Senate, James Madison University

FACULTY/STUDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Faculty Senate, James Madison University (fall 2000-spring 2001)

IDLS ENGLISH SEARCH COMMITTEE

English Department, (fall 2000-spring 2001)

ADVISING/TRANSFER ADVISING/ HEAD OF ADVISING

English Department, James Madison University (1998-present, Head/transfer advising spring 1999-2001)

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL STUDIES REVISION/STEERING COMMITTEE

School of Arts and Letters, James Madison University (January 2000-April 2001)

ARTS AND SCIENCES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATION UNIT

(1998-1999)

COMMITTEE(S) TO CREATE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

James Madison University (intermittent 1998-2006)

HONORS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

James Madison University (fall 2001-spring 2006)

FACULTY ADVISOR – Science Fiction and Fantasy Guild

James Madison University (fall 1999-spring 2007)

GENERAL EDUCATION CLUSTER TWO INSTITUTE

James Madison University (June 2006)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Linguistic Society of America

College English Association