

Curriculum Vitae

Joseph Galasso

3, 11 2025



Center for Open Science (OSF)

"Joseph Galasso" (born August 21, 1964) is an American linguist and researcher in the fields of [\[\[Generative Grammar\]\]](#), [\[\[Syntax\]\]](#) [\[\[Child Language Acquisition\]\]](#) [\[\[Minimalist Program Syntax\]\]](#)
|main_interests = [\[\[Child Language Acquisition\]\]](#), [\[\[Syntax\]\]](#)
|workplaces = [\[\[California State University, Northridge\]\]](#)
|alma_mater = [\[\[Essex University, UK\]\]](#)
|doctoral_advisors = [\[\[Andrew Radford\]\]](#), [\[\[Harald Clahsen\]\]](#)
|known_for = [\[\[Basal Ganglia Merge-based Theory of Child Language Acquisition\]\]](#)

[\[\[Merge-based theory of early child syntax \(wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_acquisition#cite_note-61\)\]\]](#)

[Joseph Galasso](#)'s main research involves issues surrounding [early child language development](#). He is interested in pursuing certain '[Minimalist Program](#)' assumptions ([Chomsky](#) 1995) and to ask how such assumptions might explain observed early stages of morphosyntactic development in children. His research specifically asks how/when the requirements and conditions placed on '[Merge](#)' over '[Move](#)' operations come on-line in child language and whether or not these operations are open to maturation factors having to do with a brain-to-language corollary. His work has appeared in '[The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics](#)' (2016) (eds. Jeffrey L. Lidz, William Snyder, and Joe Pater). His latest contributions have been to: [Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics](#) Annotated Bibliography on '[Acquisition of Possessives](#)' (By Elena Babatsouli) Oxford University Press (Mark Aronoff, Editor in Chief). [The National Institutes of Health](#) has referenced his research on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Language Acquisition, citing his work 'Headedness'. ([PMID: 32457672](#). 'Fragments Along the Way: Merge as an Account of Early Stages in Language Development', by Helen Goodluck and Nina Kazanina). His most recent writings involve [Basal Ganglia Grammar](#).

Joseph Galasso: Emeritus Faculty of Theoretical Linguistics at [California State University, Northridge](#) (Ph.D. in Linguistics from the [University of Essex](#), 1999). He taught both undergraduate and graduate level linguistics at CSUN and has published widely in the fields of child language acquisition.

Dissertation: [The Acquisition of Functional Categories](#) (Indiana University IULC Publications, 2003)
<https://isni.org/isni/0000000055088477>

Dissertation under the supervision of Andrew Radford, and Harald Clahsen. Dissertation Defense: [Michelle Aldridge](#) (Bangor), [Vivian Cook](#) (Essex).

==WEBPAGE==

- <https://www.csun.edu/~galasso/>
- https://www.academia.edu/106396832/Webpage_Joseph_Galasso_Linguist

==RESEARCH/CITATIONS==

- | [ORCID RESEARCH](#) | [CENTER For OPEN SCIENCE](#)
- | [semantics scholar \(citing authors\)](#)
- | <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32457672/>

==EXTENAL LINKS==

- | [csun webpage](#)
- | [academia page](#)
- | [google scholar](#)
- | [scholar work](#)
- | [list of works and citations](#)
- | notable graduate students [[[Sarah Phillips](#)]], [[[Lujain Alkhazy](#)]].

==ACADEMIC POSITIONS==

2000-2025. Faculty of Linguistics (*Emeritus*). California State University—Northridge.

2000-2025. Adjunct: California State University—Long Beach.

2000. Lecturer. California State University—Los Angeles.

1999. Lecturer. San Diego State University (Graduate seminar in TESL Theory & Methods).

1998. Lecturer. Summer English Program, Essex University.

1994-1998. Doctoral Research: Essex University, England.

==PUBLICATIONS==

2025. Essays on Linguistic Neurocircuitry AI, Recursive Networks, and a Merge-based Theory of Early Child Syntactic Structure. **LINCOM Studies in Neurolinguistics, 5 (LSNL)**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN 9783969392409. [LSNL 05: Essays on Linguistic Neurocircuitry](#)

2024. Speaking Brains: Collective Papers on AI, Neurocircuitry and Basal Ganglia Grammar. **LINCOM Studies in Neurolinguistics, 4. (LSNL)**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN: 9783969392065. [LSNL 04: Speaking Brains](#)

2022. Contributions to: *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics*. Annotated Bibliography on ‘Acquisition of Possessives’ (By Elena Babatsouli). **Oxford University Press**. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199772810-0292 <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199772810/obo-9780199772810-0292.xml#obo-9780199772810-0292-biblitem-0005>

- [Galasso 2011](#) discusses the fundamental syntactic notion of movement linking the rate of grammatical development to production rates of morphosyntactic inflection.

• [Galasso, Joseph. 2011. Children first start with a single processing model—“Merge,” then move to a dual processing model—“Move”.](#)

This study has been influential in capturing how the theoretical notion of syntactic movement influences child language development of possessives. The findings add to previous postulations that production rates of morphosyntactic inflection are optionally variable by further contending that children go through an initial stage characterized by complete lack of access to inflectional morphology.

2022. *Lectures in the Minimalist Program: Syntheses & Exegeses*. **LINCOM Coursebooks in Linguistics, 25**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN 9783969390887. (147pp. Book: Hardcover).
[LCL 25: Lectures in the Minimalist Program \(lincom-shop.eu\)](#) <https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/006333/current.pdf>

2021. *Reflections on Syntax: Lectures in General Linguistics, Syntax, and Child Language Acquisition, Berkeley Insights in Linguistics and Semiotics Series*. **Peter Lang Publishing**: Berlin, Bern, Oxford. ISBN: 9781433184321 (Book: Hardcover). [Reflections on Syntax - Peter Lang Verlag](#)

2021. *Minimum of Language Acquisition*. Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego. [Minimum of Language Acquisition \(cognella.com\)](#)

2021. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory*. New Revised Edition, Vol. 1. Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego. [Minimum of English Grammar \(cognella.com\)](#)

2019. *Recursive Syntax: A Minimalist Perspective on Recursion as the Core Property of Human Language, and Its Role in the Generative Grammar Enterprise (with special notes on The Dual Mechanism Model, Problems of projection, Proto-language, and Recursive implementation in AI and the Brain)*. **LINCOM Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, 61**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN: 9783862889884 (268pp. Book: Hardcover). [LSTL 61: Recursive Syntax \(lincom-shop.eu\)](#)

2016. *From Merge to Move: A Minimalist Perspective on the Design of Language and its Role in Early Child Syntax*. **LINCOM Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, 59**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN 9783862887569. (238pp. Book: Hardcover). [LSTL 59: From Merge to Move \(lincom-shop.eu\)](#)

2016. Contributions to: *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics* (eds. Jeffrey L. Lidz, William Snyder, and Joe Pater). Section **19: Acquiring Possessives** by [Theo Marinis](#) . Print Publication Date: Jul. 2016 Subject: Linguistics Online Publication Date: Nov 2016. **Oxford University Press**.
DOI:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199601264.004.000. <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/38688/chapterabstract/335936280?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

2015. ‘Small Children’s Sentences are “Dead on Arrival”: Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax’., **Journal of Child Language Acquisition and Development Vol 3, no.4 2015**. pp. 184-226.
http://jclad.science-res.com/archives_full_issu/Vol%203%20Issue%204%20FULL%20ISSUE.pdf

2013. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. Vol. 1. Revised. Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego.

2013. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. Vol. 2. Revised. Cognella Academic Publishing.

2009. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. University Readers Publications.

2009. ‘Some New Perspectives on Lexical and Functional Categories: Revisiting “Brown’s Fourteen Grammatical Morphemes” ’. **GLOSSA, Vol. 4**, no.2 Oct. 2009.

2004. ‘The Acquisition of Inflection and the Dual Mechanism Model’. **Proceeding of the CLRF, CSLI Publications, Stanford**. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007324>

2003. *The Acquisition of Functional Categories*. IULC Publications, Indiana University.
https://www.academia.edu/49082880/The_Acquisition_of_Functional_Categories

1998. 'Children's Possessive Structures: A Case Study'. (Paper presented by Andrew Radford to the 'Annual Convention of the *American Speech and Hearing Association*' in November 1997.

Essex Research Reports in Linguistics 19: April 1998, (with Andrew Radford).
https://www.academia.edu/775439/Childrens_possessive_structures_A_case_study

1998. 'Towards a Weakening of Kayne, Wexler and Cinque: Three Cases for a Pre-functional Stage in Language Acquisition', *Essex University Working Papers/Abstracts*.

==DOWNLOADABLE PAPERS/TALKS==

2024. A Brief Note on Dynamic Antisymmetry, Merge-based Theory, and its Implications to Early Child English Possessive {'s} and the Setting of Word Order. Paper submitted December 2024.
<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/008666>

2023. *Speaking Brains: Recent Papers on AI, Neuroscience and Basal Ganglia Grammar*
https://www.academia.edu/109211401/Speaking_Brains_Recent_Papers_on_AI_Neuroscience_and_Basal_Ganglia_Grammar_working_papers_and_squibs_on_the_topic_of_an_artificial_language_neuro_circuitry_natural_language_interface

2023. The Basal Ganglia, Astrocyte-Ca²⁺ Neuronal Circuit, and Artificial Intelligence: Real Requirements towards AI-Transformer-to-Natural-Language Interface: A Dual Mechanism Account (Revised).
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/TVHMP>

2023. Basal Ganglia Grammar: The Neuronal Substrate as Common-Denominator Interface for Language.
[Basal Ganglia Grammar: The Neuronal Substrate as Common-Denominator Interface for Language - lingbuzz/007426 \(auf.net\)](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/AQ5GH) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/AQ5GH>

2023. The Pursuit of Recursive Neurons $\diamond$ Squibbing Against Continuity Claims in Artificial Intelligence: Why We Can't Get There From Here. <https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007354> DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.33018.06087](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.33018.06087)

2023. Problems of Projection: A Note on Chomsky's 2013 *Lingua Paper*. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007267>

2022. A Note on 'Reprojection' and the Dual-Merge Status of DP as a Phase. Complex Nominal Expressions. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007079>

2022. The Recursive Linguistic Mind (Revised).
<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007176>

2021. Lecture Notes on Experiments, Explorations and Methods for Data Collection (EEM-Paper).
https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling_438_538_LECTURE_NOTES_ON_EXPERIMENTS_EXPLORATIONS_AND_METHODS_FOR_DATA_COLLECTION_PSYCHOLINGUISTICS_EEM_Explorations_for_Lecture_1_Structure_and_Lecture_2_Phonology

2020. The Myth of 'Function defines Form' as the Null-Biological Adaptive Process and the Counter Linguistics-based Response: Accumulative Lecture. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005298>

2020. Notes on a Biological Basis for Language.
[\(PDF\) Notes on the Biological Basis for Language: The Brain, The Dual Mechanism Model and the Two Stages of Early Child Syntax.](#)
[1 | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2019. A Note on Artificial Intelligence and the critical recursive implementation: The lagging problem of
 ‘background knowledge’ <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006410>
[\(PDF\) Note 4 A Note on Artificial Intelligence and the critical recursive implementation: The lagging problem of 'background knowledge'](#)
[1 | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2019. From Merge (items) to Sets (categories) = Move. Movement-based Theoretical Applications:
 Morphology down to Phonology.
https://www.academia.edu/42273106/From_Merge_items_to_Sets_categories_Movement_based_Theoretical_Applications_Morphology_down_to_Phonology
2019. Vertical v Horizontal, Language Acquisition v Learning and the Bell-Shape Curve.
https://www.academia.edu/75446189/Lecture_4_Lang_Acq_Vertical_vs_Horizontal_Processing_Leaning_vs_Acquisition_and_the_Bell_Shape_Curve
2015. Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax. (ms, California State University
 Northridge). [\(PDF\) Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2012. Why Move? Preliminary Thoughts and Overview: How Merge over Move informs early child
 syntax. https://www.academia.edu/5421727/Why_Move
2008. Some New Perspectives on Lexical and Functional Categories: Revisiting Brown’s ‘Fourteen
 Grammatical Morphemes’ (Talk: guest speaker, paper presented at
 CSUB). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/webupdateCSUBLecture.pdf>
2006. The Nature of the Input: Outline for talk (Talk: presented at UCLA). Paper presented on potential
 ‘brain-to-language’ models for early child language syntactic development
 (UCLA). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/Thenatureoftheinputfullpaper.pdf>
2006. The Nature of the Input: Tracing INFL through the Dual Mechanism Model of Language
 Development. (Talk: Presented at UMass, May 2006).
2004. Towards a Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development.
https://www.academia.edu/775453/Towards_a_Dual_Mechanism_Model_of_Language_Development
2004. The Acquisition of Inflection and the Dual Mechanism Model. <https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007324>
2003. The Dual Mechanism Model: Towards a Converging Theories Hypothesis of Language Acquisition.
<http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/discount.pdf>
2003. ‘Notes on a Research Statement: The Gradual Development Hypothesis and The Dual Mechanism
 Model of Language Development.’ (Talk: Paper presented at the 32d Stanford Child Language
 Research Forum).
2003. ‘Notes on a Research Statement for Child First Language Acquisition: *Twin Working Papers*’
 (2003a/b). (Ms. CSU-Northridge). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/statement.htm>

==CONFERENCE/COLLOQUIUM RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS==

2008. Invited lecture sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society, and the Department of English, California State University, Bakersfield. (The paper *Some New Perspectives on Lexical and Functional Categories: Revisiting Brown's 'Fourteen Grammatical Morphemes'*).
2006. Psycholinguistic Lab (UCLA) (The paper: *The nature of the input: outline and basis of talk* was presented Dec. 6, at the Psycholinguistic Lab. Carson Schütze, Director. University of California, Los Angeles).
2006. Child Language Lab (UMass) (The paper *Tracing the INFL affix through the Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development* was presented in May at the Child Language Lab. Tom Roeper, Director).
2004. The 32d Child Language Research Forum (Stanford) (The poster *The Acquisition of Inflection and the Dual Mechanism Model* was presented. Eve Clark, Director). The full paper was published in *CLRF Proceedings* pp. 98-107.
2004. The Spring Linguistics Colloquium (California State University—Long Beach) (The paper *Notes on a Research Statement: The Gradual Development Hypothesis and The Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development* was presented).
1998. The Annual Linguistic Research Conference. (University of Essex.) (The paper *Towards a Weakening of Kayne, Wexler and Cinque* was presented).
1997. The American Speech and Hearing Association. (The paper was co-published with Andrew Radford (University of Essex) and was presented by Andrew Radford).

==REVIEWS /INTERVIEWS / BOOK CHAPTERS / CONTRIBUTIONS==

2025. Interview. 'Beyond the textbook: cracking the code of the honors mindset'. *The Honor Code Magazine*. (interview by Jayden Sandstrom, CSULB, Spr. 2025: pp. 21-23).
2022. Contributions: *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics* (Annotated bibliography on 'Acquisition of Possessives', ed. Elena Babatsouli). Oxford University Press.
2022. Review: *Investigating Your Language*. Dawn Nordquist. Cambridge University Press. (Ch.1-3).
2019. Review: *The Development of Language (10th ed)*. Jean Berko-Gleason and Nan Bernstein Ratner. Pearson.
2017. Review: *The Development of Language (9th ed)*. Jean Berko-Gleason and Nan Bernstein Ratner. Pearson.
2016. Contributions: *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics* (eds. Jeffrey L. Lidz, William Snyder, and Joe Pater).
2015. Review: *The Routledge Handbook of Noam Chomsky and Applied Linguistics* edited by Robert Barsky. (Proceedings of the 'Brains, Minds and Machines' symposium held in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

2014. Review: *An Introduction to Language Development*. S. Kennison. (Chapters 1-3) (Sage Publications).
2014. Review: *English Words and Sentences*. E.D. Eppler and G. Ozón. CUP.
2011. Review: *Second Language Acquisition: A Primer*. J. K. Hall. (Routledge)
2008. Review: *Linguistics is for Everyone*. Denham, K. & A. Lobeck. (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning).
2008. Interview: 'Lectures in Language and Linguistics'. *The Southwest Voice*. Feb. 20, 2008. (by Sigma Tau Delta CSUB, The English Honors Society. Dezember Reading Room, Walter Stiern Library).
2007. Review: *Language Development: Monolingual and Bilingual Acquisition*. (Pearson/Merrill Prentice Hall).
2006. Review: *English Language: A Linguistic Introduction* (Thomson Wadsworth/Heinle) (Chapters 4-7).
2004. Review: *Language Development* Erika Hoff (third Edition) (Chapters 1-5).
2004. Review: *Exploring English: Introduction to English Language Studies* (working title) Allyn & Bacon/Longman (Chapters 7-11).

==THESES ADVISOR==

Mileff, Milo R. (California State University, Northridge, 2004-08).

Aspects of DP-internal structure in Bulgarian. URI:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10211.3/164030> Date: 2004-08.

Phillips, Sarah (California State University, Northridge, 2017-07-19).

Re-visiting the DP hypothesis: An exploration through English/Korean codeswitching URI:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10211.3/194142> Date: 2017-07-19

Alkhazy, Lujain (California State University, Northridge, 2016-06-06).

Noun Phrases in Arabic: a Descriptive Study of Noun Phrases in Modern Standard Arabic and Najdi Arabic

URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/10211.3/171590> Date: 2016-06-06

==GRANTS/AWARDS==

- PACE Program Grant (an Integrated Grammar Website). (2001-2002)
- Polished Apple Award (2010)
- Professor Recognition for "Meaningful Impact Made in Graduating Students' Education" (Class of 2025). (Honor recognized by [Meera Komarraju](#), Ph.D. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs).
- 25-Year Public Service Award/California State University (Governor [Gavin Newsom](#)) (May 2025).
- Emeritus Faculty (Honored Faculty Award by CSUN President [Erika D. Beck](#). May 1, 2026).

==UNIVERSITY // COMMUNITY SERVICE==

•General Essays available to the public:

The Private and the Public in Education: Can we address the changing roles of our educational systems in society? AAUP (American Association of University Professors. May-June 2013).

<http://www.aaup.org/article/private-and-public-education#.UwbK8c4y98c>

•Organized several talks including one ‘Distinguished guest-speakers series’ (C-Span talk on ‘Politics and Language’ give by Hon. Henry DeSio (Deputy Chief of Staff under first Obama administration)). C-span talk is available to the public at:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?308204-1/lessons-2008-presidential-campaign>

Lecture on language of presidential elections brings insight on campaigns to...

[Gabrielle Moreira](#) - Sep 28, 2012

Henry De Sio, Jr., former deputy assistant for President Obama, spoke before 200 people at the USU Grand Salon Thursday night about his experiences...

==LINKS/BIO==

- [Webpage](#)
- [Academia Page](#)
- [Orcid Research](#)
- [Semantics Scholar \(author citations\)](#)
- [Scholar Works](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)
- [List of Works and Citations](#)

==LECTURES==

- [Lectures in Language Acquisition](#)
- [Minimalist Perspectives in Child Language Syntax](#)
- [Recent Papers on AI, Neuroscience and Basal Ganglia Grammar](#)

BIO

WorldCat Listings

1. [Reflections on syntax : lectures in general linguistics, syntax, and child language acquisition](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2021

Publisher: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., New York, NY, 2021

Also available as [eBook](#)

View All [Formats & Editions](#)

2. [Lectures in the minimalist program : syntheses & exegeses](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2022

Publisher: LINCOM Europa, Muenchen, 2022

View All [Formats & Editions](#)

3. [Speaking brains : collective papers on AI, neuro-circuitry and basal ganglia grammar](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2024

Publisher: LINCOM GmbH : [LE, LINCOM Europa, academic publications], Muenchen, 2024

View All [Formats & Editions](#)

4. [Essays on linguistic neurocircuitry : AI, recursive networks, and a merge-based theory of early child syntactic structure](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2025

Publisher: LINCOM GmbH, München, 2025

5. [From merge to move : a minimalist perspective on the design of language and its role in early child syntax](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2016

Publisher: Lincom GmbH, Muenchen, 2016

6. [Recursive syntax : a minimalist perspective on recursion as the core property of human language, and its role in the generative grammar enterprise](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2019

Publisher: Lincom GmbH, Muenchen, 2019

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7. [Minimum of English grammar : an introduction to feature theory : with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#) (Author)

Print Book, English, 2013

Publisher: Cognella, [San Diego, California], 2013

Also available as [eBook](#)

View All [Formats & Editions](#)

8. [The acquisition of functional categories](#)

Author: [Joseph Galasso](#)

Print Book, English, 2003

Publisher: IULC Publications, Bloomington, Ind., 2003

Also available as [eBookThesis, Dissertation](#)

View All [Formats & Editions](#)