

# Tiwalayo Eisape

Psycholinguistics, Natural language processing, Machine learning  
[eisape@mit.edu](mailto:eisape@mit.edu) | [eisa.pe](http://eisa.pe)

## Education

- 2019 – Ph.D, Cognitive Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Advisors: Roger Levy, Yoon Kim
- 2015 – 2019 B.S, Computer Science, Boston College  
Advisors: Joshua Hartshorne, Stefano Anzellotti

## Academic Positions

- 2022 – Student Representative to the Board, Cognitive Science Society

## Other Positions

- 2024 FAIR Labs (Meta AI), Research Scientist Intern  
Supervisors: Adina Williams, Karen Ullrich
- 2023 Google AI, Student Researcher  
Supervisors: Tal Linzen, Fei Sha
- 2019 Vimeo Applied Machine Learning, Research Scientist Intern

## Honors and Awards

- 2021 Graduate Research Fellowship (National Science Foundation)
- 2019 GEM Full Fellowship (InterActiveCorp/GEM Consortium)
- 2016 Ronald E. McNair Scholarship (TRIO)
- 2019 Dean of Sciences Fellowship (MIT)
- 2019 Presidential Fellowship (MIT)  
*awarded & declined*
- 2019 Matthew R. Copithorne Scholarship (Boston College)
- 2021 Walle Nauta Teaching Award (MIT)
- 2019 Order of the Cross and Crown (Boston College)

## Advising

### Master's

- 2022 – 2023 Jesus Crespo, Computation and Cognition (MIT): *Head-Seeking RNNs: On the Relationship between Top-down Prediction and Evidence Integration in Parsing*.  
2023 Zhe Su, Machine Learning (CMU)

### Undergraduate

- 2022 – 2023 Vineet Gangireddy, Applied Mathematics (Harvard): *A Computational Approach to Recontextualization in Human Reading Behavior*.  
2022 Nicole Wong, Computer Science (MIT)  
2022 Heidi Lei, Mathematics (MIT)  
2021 Vinh Le, Computation and Cognition (MIT)  
2020 Robert Chen, Computer Science (MIT)  
2020 Carl Joshua Quines, Mathematics (MIT)

## Professional Service

- 2024 Founding Organizer of the Graduate Student Steering Committee of the Cognitive Science Society  
2022 – Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Cognitive Science Society  
2022 – Membership Committee, Cognitive Science Society  
2022 Organizer, MIT CompLang  
2019 Organizer, Vimeo ML seminar  
2021 Technical Session Chair, Conference of the Cognitive Science Society  
2020 – Diversity Ambassador, Office of Graduate Education (MIT)  
2022 MIT Summer Research Program Mentor, Office of Graduate Education (MIT)  
2020 Reviewer, DataKind/Data.org Inclusive Growth & Recovery Challenge  
2017 Tutor, Resilient Coders  
2018 Preceptor, Options Through Education (Boston College)  
2017 Council Member, PULSE Program for Service Learning (Boston College)

**Reviewing (journals):** OpenMind ('21, '23)

**Reviewing (conferences):** CogSci ('20, '21, '23, '24)

## Talks

- 2024 Brain & AI (PI: Jean Remi-King), Meta AI  
2024 Reasoning, Attention, & Memory ("RAM" group; PI: Jason Weston), Meta AI  
2023 Stanford NLP Seminar, Stanford  
2021 How Can Findings about the Brain Improve AI Systems workshop, ICLR  
2021 Wehbe Lab, Carnegie Mellon University  
2021 EdinburghNLP, The University of Edinburgh  
2021 Psycholinguistics Coffee, The University of Edinburgh

2019 Machine Learning Reading Group, Vimeo

## Teaching

### Graduate courses

(Spring) 2021 Teaching Assistant, Cognitive Science (MIT)  
(Fall) 2020 Teaching Assistant, Computational Cognitive Science (MIT)  
(Fall) 2018 Teaching Assistant, Computational Models of Cognition (Boston College)

### Undergraduate courses

(Fall) 2018 Teaching Assistant, Data Mining (Boston College)  
(Spring) 2019 Teaching Assistant, Algorithms (Boston College)  
(Spring) 2018 Teaching Assistant, Computer Science I (Boston College)  
(Spring) 2018 Teaching Assistant, Personal and Social Responsibility (Boston College)  
(Fall) 2018 Teaching Assistant, Personal and Social Responsibility (Boston College)  
(Fall) 2017 Teaching Assistant, Personal and Social Responsibility (Boston College)

## Publications

Undergraduate and Master's Advisees are underlined

**Eisape, T.**, Tessler, M., Dasgupta, I., Sha, F., Steenkiste, S., & Linzen, T. (2024). A Systematic Comparison of Syllogistic Reasoning in Humans and Language Models. In Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL).

Zhou, X., Su, Z., **Eisape, T.**, Kim, H., & Sap, M. (2024). Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy? The Misleading Success of Simulating Social Interactions With LLMs. In Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP).

**Eisape, T.**, Gangireddy, V., Levy, R. & Kim, Y. (2022). Probing for Incremental Parse States in Autoregressive Language Models. Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP).

Liu, Z., **Eisape, T.**, Prud'hommeaux, E., & Hartshorne, J. (2022). Data-driven Crosslinguistic Syntactic Transfer in Second Language Learning. In Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

Tucker, M., **Eisape, T.**, Qian, P., Levy, R., & Shah, J. (2022). When Does Syntax Mediate Neural Language Model Performance? Evidence from Dropout Probes. In the proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL).

Chen, R., Levy, R., & Eisape, T. (2021). On Factors Influencing Typing Time: Insights from a Viral Online Typing Game. In Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society and the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

**Eisape, T.,** Zaslavsky, N., & Levy, R. (2020). Cloze Distillation: Improving Neural Language Models with Human Next-Word Predictions. In Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning.

**Eisape, T.,** Levy, R., Tenenbaum, J., & Zaslavsky, N. (2020). Toward human-like object naming in artificial neural systems. In The Bridging AI and Cognitive Science workshop at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Representation Learning.

### **Abstracts & Preprints**

**Eisape, T.,** Merrill, W., Dietz, S., & Hartshorne, J. (2020). Grammatical Accents: Using Machine Learning to Quantify Language Transfer. In In the proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society and the proceedings of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.

**Eisape, T.,** Grasso, S., Kurt, L., Lim, C., & Hartshorne, J. K. (2022). Replication of Conway and Christiansen (2005) Modality-Constrained Statistical Learning of Tactile, Visual, and Auditory Sequences.

Choong, H., **Eisape, T.,** ... & Hartshorne, J. K. (2018). Fourth Replication of Saffran, Newport, & Aslin (1996) Word segmentation: The role of distributional cues.

### **Miscellaneous**

2016 Captain, Boston College Varsity Men's Rowing