

# Brennan Dell

*Assistant Professor of Linguistics*

*University of Vermont*

## EDUCATION

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Ph.D. in Linguistics. August 2025

Dissertation: *Fine-grained Error Analysis in Machine Translation*

M.A. in Linguistics. December 2021

### **Rochester Institute of Technology**

B.S. in Computer Science, minor in German. May 2018.

## AWARDS

### **United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)**

Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August 2023 - May 2024

August 2024 - May 2025

Language: Turkish

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

*Assistant Professor of Linguistics*

Burlington VT

**University of Vermont**

**August 2025 - present**

- LING 1990 - Morphology
- LING 2610 - Introduction to Computational Linguistics

*Teaching Assistant*

Urbana, Illinois

**University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign**

**August 2019 - May 2025**

- LING 100 - Introduction to Language Science - Grader and discussion leader
- LING 270 - Language, Technology, and Society - Primary instructor and grader
- LING 304 - Elements of Morphology - Grader and discussion leader
- LING 400 - Introduction to Linguistic Structure - Primary instructor and grader
- LING 406 - Introduction to Computational Linguistics - Grader
- LING 413 - Corpus Linguistics - Grader
- Developed assignments related to the course material
- Delivered lectures on a broad array of topics to a diverse group of students

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- Led discussion sections reviewing course topics
- Developed materials for an asynchronous online course
- Led programming tutorial sessions to introduce computational concepts to students from mixed experience levels

*NLP Intern*

**AbbVie Inc.**

Urbana, Illinois

**June 2019 - September 2024**

- Developed a preliminary Spanish-English translation model using OpenNMT to translate patient narratives
- Reviewed literature to understand the state of the art for machine translation
- Researched distillation methods to reduce the size of neural machine translation models
- Developed a process to remove sensitive information from a company translation database to create a public test set for translation in the medical domain
- Applied state-of-the-art evaluation technologies to evaluate and compare company translation systems

*Graduate Assistant*

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Urbana, Illinois

**August 2018 - May 2019**

- Assisted the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program with advertising efforts and organizing summer programs
- Maintained the website for the Linguistics Department
- Collected and announced information for the Linguistics Department seminar series

*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

**Rochester Institute of Technology**

Rochester, New York

**January 2018 - July 2018**

- Studied the supernova rate in the outskirts of spiral galaxies (published in Chakrabarti et al. 2018)
- Investigated the effect of dwarf galaxy collisions on the structure of the Milky Way

*Software Test Automation Intern*

**Ortho Clinical Diagnostics**

Greece, New York

**May 2017 - December 2017**

- Independently designed, implemented and tested a C# application to automate data entry tasks for the test validation team
- Used UFT to automate regression testing for user interfaces of company products

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*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

**Center for Computational  
Relativity and Gravitation**

Rochester, New York

**September 2016 - May 2017**

- Worked with visualization software on a supercomputing cluster to create animations of black hole collisions

*Undergraduate Research Assistant*

**Rochester Institute of Technology  
January 2016 - March 2016**

Rochester, New York

- Worked with an astrophysics professor studying galaxy collisions
- Created an optimized Python program which processed a large data set of galaxies to find potential collisions

*Software Engineering Co-op*

**Lenel Systems International**

Pittsford, New York

**August 2015 - December 2015**

- Debugged an issue in a script that was used to identify and sign company written files after a company name change
- Updated the file signing script to handle changes in company names in the future
- Identified files in the build process that were no longer being used and could be removed
- Gained experience in the Agile methodology

*Student Lab Instructor*

**Rochester Institute of Technology**

Rochester, New York

**August 2014 - May 2015**

- Assisted the professor with the delivery and grading of an introductory computer science course
- Assisted various students in the course and in the tutoring center outside of the course

## MENTORSHIP

*Undergraduate  
Research*

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**August 2022 - May 2023**

*Apprenticeship Program (URAP)*

- Interviewed candidates for the mentee position
- Attended workshops on mentoring strategies
- Worked with a mentee to develop an independent research project
- Guided the mentee to present their results at a poster session

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## PUBLICATIONS

### **The Supernova Rate Beyond the Optical Radius**

Sukanya Chakrabarti, Brennan Dell, Or Graur, Alexei Filippenko,  
Benjamin Lewis, Christopher McKee

*The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, Vol 863, L1. July 2018.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07585>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### **The architecture of LabPhon: towards building a more diverse and inclusive community**

Marco Fonseca, Brennan Dell, Amana Greco

Format: Poster Presentation

*19th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*

Seoul, South Korea - June 2024

### **Efficient Pharmaceutical Machine Translation**

Brennan Dell, Mehmed Sariyildiz

Format: Poster Presentation

*Center for Data-Driven Drug and Treatment Assessment (DATA) -  
Industry Advisory Board Meeting*

Waukegan, Illinois - October 2023

### **Fine-grained Error Analysis in Machine Translation**

Brennan Dell

Format: Oral Presentation

*15th Meeting of the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society*

Urbana, Illinois - March, 2022

### **Modelling Optional Sound Variation and Obligatory Gesture Assimilation Using LSTM RNNs**

Marco Fonseca, Brennan Dell

Format: Oral Presentation

*Neural Network Models for Articulatory Gestures - Satellite workshop for  
17th Conference on Laboratory Phonology*

Online - June 2020