

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**
Rochester, New York **January 2016 - March 2016**

- 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 Apprenticeship Program (URAP) **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
August 2022 - May 2023

- 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