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## Faculty

Adam Albright  
Interim Section  
Head (fall 2018)

Athulya Aravind  
starting fall 2019

Luka Crnic

Michel DeGraff

Kai von Fintel  
Section Head (on  
leave fall 2018)

Edward Flemming

Suzanne Flynn

Danny Fox

Martin Hackl

Irene Heim

Sabine Iatridou  
Graduate Program  
Director


Michael  
Kenstowicz

Shigeru Miyagawa



### David Pesetsky

Ferrari P. Ward Professor of  
Modern Languages and  
Linguistics, and Margaret  
MacVicar Faculty Fellow

 617-253-0957

 32-D808

 [pesetsk@mit.edu](mailto:pesetsk@mit.edu)

 [CV](#)

### Mailing Address

MIT Linguistics and Philosophy  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, 32-  
D808  
Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

### Research Interests

Syntax (and interfaces with morphology and semantics); Syntax of Music

### Selected Publications

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Wayne O'Neil

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David Pesetsky

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Norvin Richards

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Roger  
Schwarzschild

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Donca Steriade  
Undergraduate  
Officer

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## Professors Emeriti

Noam Chomsky

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James Harris

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Jay Keyser

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Kenneth Wexler

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## In memoriam

Ken Hale

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Morris Halle

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(under construction: August 4,  
2016)

- Slides from plenary talk, [Linguistic Society of America](#), January 4, 2013: "[Что дѣлать? What is to be done?](#)"
- [Phrasal Movement and its Discontents: Diseases and Diagnostics](#) (January 2012), in Lisa Cheng & Norbert Corver (eds.), [Diagnostics in Syntax](#), Oxford University Press
- [Russian case morphology and the syntactic categories](#) (October 2010)
- [The Identity Thesis for Language and Music](#) (October 2009, with [Jonah Katz](#)) [clickable sound included in the PDF; sound files also available [here](#)]
- [Against Taking Diversity at "Face Value"](#) Invited commentary (May 2009) on "[The Myth of Language Universals](#)" by Evans & Levinson,
- a target article to appear in [Behavioral and Brain Sciences](#).
- [pedagogical chapter on Case theory](#) (with Esther Torrego) Draft of a chapter for the [Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Minimalism](#), February 2009
- [Pirahã Exceptionality: a Reassessment](#) (with Andrew Nevins and Cilene Rodrigues) [Language](#) 85.2, 355-404 (June 2009) [An earlier draft is available [here](#).] (Responds to [this paper](#), among others.)
- [Evidence and Argumentation: a Reply to Everett \(2009\)](#) (with Andrew Nevins and Cilene Rodrigues) [Language](#) 85.3, 671-681 (September 2009) (A reply to [this response](#) to the paper listed above.)
- [Property Delay: Remarks on "Phase Extension" by Marcel den Dikken](#) Solicited "peer commentary", [Theoretical Linguistics](#)., 33.1, pp. 105-120. (2007) Read the paper this is commenting on [here](#).
- [Probes, Goals and Syntactic Categories](#) (with Esther Torrego, UMass/Boston; June 2006). In [Proceedings of the Seventh Tokyo Conference on Psycholinguistics](#) (Y. Otsu, ed; 2006)

- [The Syntax of Valuation and the Interpretability of Features](#). (with Esther Torrego, UMass/Boston; October 2004).  
In [Phrasal and Clausal Architecture: Syntactic Derivation and Interpretation](#).  
Amsterdam: Benjamins. (S. Karimi, V. Samiiian and W.Wilkins, eds; 2007)

### **Manuscript versions of recently published work**

- [Cyclic Linearization of Syntactic Structure](#) (with Danny Fox, MIT; May 2004)  
[Theoretical Linguistics 31.1-2, 1-46. special issue on Object Shift in Scandinavian; Katalin É. Kiss, ed.]
- Responses to Fox & Pesetsky (2004) from Theoretical Linguistics 31.1-2: by [Elena Anagnostopoulou](#); [Jonathan Bobaljik](#); [Molly Diesing](#); [Anders Holmberg](#); [Gereon Mueller](#); [Øystein Nilsen](#); [Peter Sells](#); [Balázs Surányi](#); [Peter Svenonius](#); and [Edwin Williams](#). [links are to those drafts available on the web].
- [Reply to the responses](#) by Fox and Pesetsky.  
[Theoretical Linguistics 31.1-2, 235-262. special issue on Object Shift in Scandinavian; Katalin É. Kiss, ed.]
- Note: The Theoretical Linguistics paper contains about 1/3 of the material that will form part of a monograph, in prep.  
For some of the remaining material, the best current source is the following lengthy handout:  
["Cyclic Linearization and the Typology of Movement"](#) (with Danny Fox, MIT)

### **Related work:**

- ["Cyclic Linearization and Asymmetry in Scrambling"](#) by Heejeong Ko
- ["Pseudo-gapping and Cyclic Linearization"](#) by Shoichi Takahashi
- ["Tense, case, and the nature of syntactic categories"](#) (with Esther Torrego, UMass/Boston; 2002)  
[Final version in [The Syntax of Time](#), J. Guéron and J. Lecarme (eds.), MIT Press 2004]
- ["T-to-C Movement: Causes and Consequences \(with Esther Torrego, UMass/Boston\)"](#)

- [Final version in Michael Kenstowicz (ed.), [Ken Hale: A Life on Language](#). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (2001)]
- ["The Maturation of Grammatical Principles: Evidence from Russian Unaccusatives"](#)  
(with Maria Babyonyshev, Ronald Fein, Jennifer Ganger and Kenneth Wexler)  
[Significantly revised version appeared in *Linguistic Inquiry* 32.1 (2001)]
- [Phrasal Movement and Its Kin](#)  
[Final version appeared as an MIT Press Monograph (2000)]
- ["Principles of Sentence Pronunciation"](#)  
[Final version appeared In P. Barbosa, D. Fox, P. Hagstrom, M. McGinnis and D. Pesetsky (eds.) [Is the Best Good Enough?](#), MIT Press (1998)]

### Encyclopedia articles

- ["Linguistic Universals and Universal Grammar"](#), MIT Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science. (2000)
- ["Principles & Parameters Theory"](#) Oxford International Encyclopedia of Linguistics, 2nd edition. Ed. W. Frawley. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2003)

### Older Unpublished work

- These PDF files are made from older manuscripts, and were not prepared for publication. They contain formatting and other errors.
- ["Russian Morphology and Lexical Theory"](#) (1977)  
[General paper in phonology from my graduate student days. Of interest as the birthplace of (what later became known as) Lexical Phonology.]
- ["The Earliness Principle"](#) (1989)  
[Paper presented at GLOW in 1989, but never written up.  
Interesting data and observations about counterfactual inversion and about short verb movement in English.]
- ["Zero Syntax: vol. 2: Infinitives"](#) (1991)  
[Material intended for Zero Syntax but not included in the final publication.]

### Education-related

- ["How Psychological Science Informs the Teaching of Reading"](#), by Keith Rayner, Barbara R. Foorman,

Charles A. Perfetti, David Pesetsky, and Mark S. Seidenberg.

Psychological Science in the Public Interest 2:2 (November 2001)

- ["How Reading Should be Taught"](#)  
by Keith Rayner, Barbara R. Foorman, Charles A. Perfetti, David Pesetsky, and Mark S. Seidenberg. Scientific American, March 2002.
- ["The Battle for Language: from Syntax to Phonics"](#)  
[a handout for a talk in a USC series on Language and Mind. (2000)]
- ["If Language Is Instinctual, How Should We Write and Teach?"](#)  
[a talk delivered to a 1997 seminar organized by the American Society of Newspaper Editors]
- ["Linguistics and Learning to Read"](#)  
[ an essay prepared for a 1996 workshop of the National Council of Teachers of English]

## Talks

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- new! [Dependent Case as Binding Theory](#) (2011)  
[handout from invited talk at [NELS 42](#)]
- [The Recursive Syntax and Prosody of Tonal Music](#) (2009; with [Jonah Katz](#))  
(handout for an earlier version of the paper [The Identity Thesis for Language and Music](#) listed above)  
from a talk at the conference [Recursion: Structural Complexity in Language and Cognition](#);  
includes clickable sound (OS X users: Adobe Acrobat only, sound does not work in Preview)
- [Music Syntax is Language Syntax](#) (2007)  
[Updated version of a handout from a talk first delivered at the conference [Language and Music as Cognitive Systems](#)]

## Books

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- [Russian Case Morphology and the Syntactic Categories](#). MIT Press, 2013.
- [Phrasal Movement and its Kin](#). MIT Press, 2000.
- [Is the Best Good Enough?](#) MIT Press, 1998.
- [Zero Syntax](#), MIT Press, 1994.

## Publications

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- Pesetsky, David. To appear. [Complementizer-trace effects](#). to appear in Martin Everaert and Henk van Riemsdijk (eds.) *A Companion to Syntax*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Blackwell..
- Legate, Julie; Pesetsky, David; Yang, Charles. 2013. [Recursive Misrepresentations: a reply to Levinson \(2013\)](#). *Language* 90.2, 515–528. (DOI: 10.1353/lan.2014.0034).
- Pesetsky, David. 2013. [Phrasal Movement and its Discontents: Diseases and Diagnostics](#). in Lisa L.L. Cheng and Norbert Corver (eds.) *Diagnostics for Movement*, Oxford University Press. (2013) , pp. 123-157..
- Pesetsky, David. 2013. [Russian Case Morphology and the Syntactic Categories](#). MIT Press.
- Katz, Jonah; Pesetsky, David. 2011. [The Identity Thesis for Language and Music](#). submitted.
- Pesetsky, David; Torrego, Esther. 2011. [Case](#). in C. Boeckx, ed. *Handbook of Linguistic Minimalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 52-72.
- Pesetsky, David. 2009. [Against taking linguistic diversity at "face value"](#). invited commentary on paper by Evans and Levinson. *Brain and Behavioral Sciences* 32.5, 464-5..
- Nevins, Andrew; Pesetsky, David; Rodrigues, Cilene. 2009. [Evidence and Argumentation: a reply to Everett \(2009\)](#). *Language* 85.3, 671-681.
- Nevins, Andrew; Pesetsky, David; Rodrigues, Cilene. 2009. [Piraha Exceptionality: a Reassessment](#). *Language* 85.2, 355-404.
- Pesetsky, David. 2008. [Passive, Deponency and Tense: Comments on the Paper by Papangeli and Lavidas](#). in S. Iatridou, ed. *MIT Working Papers in Linguistics: Proceedings of the Workshop on Greek Syntax*.
- Pesetsky, David. 2007. [Property Delay](#). *Theoretical Linguistics*, 33.1, pp. 105-120.
- Pesetsky, David; Torrego, Esther. 2007. [The Syntax of Valuation and the Interpretability of Features](#). in S. Karimi, V. Samiian and W.Wilkins, eds. *Phrasal and Clausal Architecture*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

- Pesetsky, David; Torrego, Esther. 2006. [Probes, Goals and Syntactic Categories](#). in Yukio Otsu, ed. Proceedings of the 7th annual Tokyo Conference on Psycholinguistics. Tokyo: Hituzi Syobo Publishing Company..
- Fox, Danny; Pesetsky, David. 2005. [Cyclic Linearization and its interaction with other aspects of grammar: a reply](#). Theoretical Linguistics 31.1-2 (Special Issue on Object Shift). pp. 235-262 [reply to commentaries on Fox & Pesetsky 2005].
- Fox, Danny; Pesetsky, David. 2005. [Cyclic Linearization of Syntactic Structure](#). Theoretical Linguistics 31.1-45.
- Pesetsky, David; Torrego, Esther. 2004. [Tense, Case and the Nature of Syntactic Categories . .](#)
- Ratner, Keith; Foorman, Barbara R.; Perfetti, Charles A.; Pesetsky, David; Seidenberg, Mark S. 2002. [How should reading be taught?](#). Scientific American (March 1 2002).
- Rayner, Keith; Foorman, Barbara R.; Perfetti, Charles A.; Pesetsky, David; Seidenberg, Mark S. 2002. [How Psychological Science Informs the Teaching of Reading](#). Psychological Science in the Public Interest, 2:2.
- Pesetsky, David; Torrego, Esther. 2001. [T-to-C Movement: Causes and Consequences](#). M. Kenstowicz (ed.) Ken Hale: A Life in Language. Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 355-426.



About

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Diversity Statement

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Contact

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Give

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Links for  
department

MIT SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MIT Department of  
Linguistics and  
Philosophy  
77 Massachusetts  
Avenue  
Room 32-D808  
Cambridge, MA 02139



Phone: +1-617-253-4141

Fax: +1-617-253-5017

members

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Philosophy Section

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