

November 1, 20XX

To the NYU Linguistics Search Committee:

I am writing to apply for your Assistant Professor faculty position in semantics. I have a broad foundation both in linguistics and in computer science, and I am scheduled to receive my Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania in December 20XX. Dr. Cleo Condoravdi supervised my dissertation while I was an exchange scholar at Stanford. Currently, I am a postdoctoral researcher for Dr. Sigrid Beck at the University of Tu'bingen.

The primary purpose of my current research lies in connecting and unifying a number of research domains under the general heading of distributivity. These domains are: (a) plurals and mass terms; (b) inner aspect and telicity; (c) degrees and measurement. Although some parallels between domains (a) and (b) have been noted previously, much theoretical work considers phenomena in each of these domains separately. Analyses of these phenomena that ignore these connections are therefore exposed to the risk of missed generalizations and duplication of efforts. In the future, I hope to exploit this pattern to develop a compelling assortment of analyses spanning several areas of research.

Productive collaboration even between neighboring linguistic subfields requires a deep mutual understanding of each other's methods and goals. Through Penn's emphasis on a broad curriculum and through my dual background as a linguist and computer scientist, I have had many opportunities to work in interdisciplinary settings. I have enjoyed these opportunities and I look forward to the prospect of such collaborations with faculty and graduate students at NYU. Closer to my own discipline, I have met with Dr. Anna Szabolcsi on numerous occasions. We had the chance to work together as early as 20XX, when I helped her prepare a manuscript for journal submission. Her endeavors to synthesize disparate sources of semantic knowledge, as evidenced in her survey monograph on quantification, remind me of the driving force for my own research; I look forward to the possibility of working with her. I am interested in working with Dr. Chris Barker on combining his insights on the compositional modeling of long-distance semantic dependencies with my observations on the crosslinguistic phenomenon of distance distributivity (Project 2 in my research statement). The New York area is also attractive to me for another reason. Dr. Chung-chieh Shan of Rutgers encouraged me to apply for this position. He has frequently published with Dr. Barker on transferring insights between linguistics and computer science. Given my own dual background, I would be delighted to contribute to this collaboration.

My pedagogical experience goes beyond being a teaching assistant at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In joint work, I have also developed an educational software tool for formal semantics. The Penn Lambda Calculator is both a classroom aid and an interactive calculator that provides instant feedback to students. After successful field tests and positive reviews from semantics instructors worldwide, I feel encouraged to use it in courses I will be teaching.

I have enclosed my CV, three writing samples, a research statement, testimonials, and a list of my reference contacts. I look forward to meeting with you. Please feel free to contact me at NAME@gmail.com, or at (tel) _____.

Thank you for your consideration,

NAME