

---

## Joseph GALASSO (American Linguist)



[Joseph Galasso](#)'s main research involves issues surrounding [early child language development](#). He is interested in pursuing certain '[Minimalist Program](#)' assumptions ([Chomsky](#) 1995) and to ask how such assumptions might explain observed early stages of morphosyntactic development in children. His research specifically asks how/when the requirements and conditions placed on '[Merge](#)' over '[Move](#)' operations come on-line in child language and whether or not these operations are open to maturation factors having to do with a brain-to-language corollary. His work has appeared in '[The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics](#)' (2016) (Radford & Galasso) (eds. Jeffrey L. Lidz, William Snyder, and Joe Pater). His latest contributions have been to: [Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics](#) Annotated Bibliography on '[Acquisition of Possessives](#)' (by Elena

Babatsouli) Oxford University Press (Mark Aronoff, Editor in Chief). The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) has referenced his research on Minimalist Approaches to Early Child Language Acquisition, citing his work on 'Headedness' ([PMID: 32457672](#)) 'Fragments Along the Way: Minimalism as an Account of Some Stages in First Language Acquisition' (by Helen Goodluck, Nina Kazanina) as part of the Research Topic: *The Biology of Language Under a Minimalist Lens: Promises, Achievement, Limits*. His most recent writings involve [Basal Ganglia Grammar](#).

"Joseph Galasso" (born August 21, 1964) is an American linguist and researcher in the fields of [\[\[Generative Grammar\]\]](#), [\[\[Syntax\]\]](#) [\[\[Child Language Acquisition\]\]](#) [\[\[Minimalist Program Syntax\]\]](#)  
|main\_interests = [\[\[Child Language Acquisition\]\]](#), [\[\[Syntax\]\]](#)  
|workplaces = [\[\[California State University, Northridge\]\]](#)  
|alma\_mater = [\[\[Essex University, UK\]\]](#)  
|doctoral\_advisors = [\[\[Andrew Radford\]\]](#), [\[\[Harald Clahsen\]\]](#)  
|known\_for = [\[\[Merge-based theory of early child syntax](#)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language\\_acquisition#cite\\_note-62](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_acquisition#cite_note-62) ]]

Joseph Galasso is on the Faculty of Theoretical Linguistics at [California State University, Northridge](#). (Ph.D. in Linguistics from the [University of Essex](#), 1999).

==RESEARCH/CITATIONS==

| [ORCID RESEARCH](#) [CENTER For OPEN SCIENCE](#)  
| [semantics scholar](#) (citing authors)  
| NIH Citation: [PMID: 32457672](#)

==EXTENAL LINKS=

| [csun webpage](#)  
| [academia page](#)  
| [google scholar](#)  
| [scholar work](#)  
| [list of works and citations](#)  
| notable graduate students [\[\[Sarah Phillips\]\]](#), [\[\[Lujain Alkhazy\]\]](#).

==CV==

==EDUCATION==

University of Essex. Ph.D. 1999. Linguistics

(Dissertation under the supervision of Andrew Radford, and Harald Clahsen. Dissertation Defense:

[Michelle Aldridge](#) (Bangor), [Vivian Cook](#) (Essex))

Dissertation: [The Acquisition of Functional Categories](#) (Indiana University IULC Publications, 2003)

==PUBLICATIONS==

2024 (in press) *Speaking Brains: Recent Papers on AI, Neuroscience and Basal Ganglia Grammar*.

**LINCOM Studies in Neurolinguistics (LSNL)**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany.

2022. Contributions to: *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics*. Annotated Bibliography on ‘Acquisition of Possessives’ (By Elena Babatsouli). **Oxford University Press**. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199772810-0292

<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199772810/obo-9780199772810-0292.xml#obo-9780199772810-0292-bibItem-0005>

•[Galasso 2011](#) discusses the fundamental syntactic notion ‘movement’ linking the rate of grammatical development to production rates of morphosyntactic inflection.

•[Galasso, Joseph. 2011. \*Children first start with a single processing model—“Merge,” then move to a dual processing model—“Move”\*](#).

This study has been influential in capturing how the theoretical notion of syntactic movement influences child language development of possessives. The findings add to previous postulations that production rates of morphosyntactic inflection are optionally variable by further contending that children go through an initial stage characterized by complete lack of access to inflectional morphology.

2022. *Lectures in the Minimalist Program: Syntheses & Exegeses*. **LINCOM Coursebooks in Linguistics, 25**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany. ISBN 9783969390887. (147pp. Book: Hardcover).

[LCL 25: Lectures in the Minimalist Program \(lincom-shop.eu\)](#)

<https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/006333/current.pdf>

2021. *Reflections on Syntax: Lectures in General Linguistics, Syntax, and Child Language Acquisition*, **Berkeley Insights in Linguistics and Semiotics Series**. **Peter Lang Publishing**:

Berlin, Bern, Oxford. ISBN: 9781433184321 (Book: Hardcover). [Reflections on Syntax - Peter Lang Verlag](#)

2021. *Minimum of Language Acquisition*. Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego.

[Minimum of Language Acquisition \(cognella.com\)](#)

2021. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory*. New Revised Edition, Vol. 1.

Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego. [Minimum of English Grammar \(cognella.com\)](#)

2021. *Recursive Syntax: A Minimalist Perspective on Recursion as the Core Property of Human Language, and Its Role in the Generative Grammar Enterprise (with special notes on The Dual Mechanism Model, Problems of projection, Proto-language, and Recursive implementation in AI and the Brain)*. **LINCOM Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, 61**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany.

ISBN: 9783862889884 (268pp. Book: Hardcover). <https://www.amazon.com/Recursive-Syntax-Minimalist-Perspective-Generative/dp/3969390877>

2016. *From Merge to Move: A Minimalist Perspective on the Design of Language and its Role in Early Child Syntax*. **LINCOM Studies in Theoretical Linguistics, 59**. LINCOM EUROPA: Munich Germany.

ISBN 9783862887569. (238pp. Book: Hardcover). <https://www.amazon.com/Merge-Move-Joseph-Galasso/dp/3862887561>

2016. Contributions to: *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics* (eds. Jeffrey L. Lidz, William Snyder, and Joe Pater). Section **19: Acquiring Possessives** by Theo Marinis. Print Publication Date: Jul

2016 Subject: Linguistics Online Publication Date: Nov 2016

DOI:10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199601264.004.0001. **Oxford University Press**.

<https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/38688/chapter-abstract/335936280?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

2015. 'Small Children's Sentences are "Dead on Arrival": Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax'. *Journal of Child Language Acquisition and Development*, Vol 3, no.4 2015. pp. 184-226.  
[http://jclad.science-res.com/archives\\_full\\_issu/Vol%203%20Issue%204%20FULL%20ISSUE.pdf](http://jclad.science-res.com/archives_full_issu/Vol%203%20Issue%204%20FULL%20ISSUE.pdf)
2013. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. Vol. 1. Revised. Cognella Academic Publishing: San Diego.
2013. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. Vol. 2. Revised. Cognella Academic Publishing.
2009. *Minimum of English Grammar: An Introduction to Feature Theory (with a special note on the nature of early child grammars of English)*. University Readers Publications.
2009. 'Some New Perspectives on Lexical and Functional Categories: Revisiting "Brown's Fourteen Grammatical Morphemes" '. *GLOSSA*, Vol. 4, no.2 Oct. 2009.
2004. 'The Acquisition of Inflection and the Dual Mechanism Model'. *Proceeding of the CLRF, CSLI Publications, Stanford*. [CSLI Publications, Stanford](http://www.cslipublications.com).
2003. *The Acquisition of Functional Categories*. IULC Publications, Indiana University.  
[https://www.academia.edu/49082880/The\\_Acquisition\\_of\\_Functional\\_Categories](https://www.academia.edu/49082880/The_Acquisition_of_Functional_Categories)
1998. 'Children's Possessive Structures: A Case Study'. (Paper presented by Andrew Radford to the 'Annual Convention of the American Speech and Hearing Association' in November 1997. *Essex Research Reports in Linguistics 19*: April 1998, (with Andrew Radford).  
[https://www.academia.edu/775439/Childrens\\_possessive\\_structures\\_A\\_case\\_study](https://www.academia.edu/775439/Childrens_possessive_structures_A_case_study)
1998. 'Towards a Weakening of Kayne, Wexler and Cinque: Three Cases for a Pre-functional Stage in Language Acquisition', *Essex University Working Papers/Abstracts*.

==DOWNLOADABLE PAPERS/TALKS==

2023. *Speaking Brains: Recent Papers on AI, Neuroscience and Basal Ganglia Grammar*.  
[https://www.academia.edu/109211401/Speaking\\_Brains\\_Recent\\_Papers\\_on\\_AI\\_Neuroscience\\_and\\_Basal\\_Ganglia\\_Grammar\\_working\\_papers\\_and\\_squibs\\_on\\_the\\_topic\\_of\\_an\\_artificial\\_language\\_neuro\\_circuitry\\_natural\\_language\\_interface](https://www.academia.edu/109211401/Speaking_Brains_Recent_Papers_on_AI_Neuroscience_and_Basal_Ganglia_Grammar_working_papers_and_squibs_on_the_topic_of_an_artificial_language_neuro_circuitry_natural_language_interface) <https://osf.io/kqmvx>
2023. The Basal Ganglia, Astrocyte-Ca<sup>2+</sup> Neuronal Circuit, and Artificial Intelligence. <https://osf.io/tvhhmp/>  
<https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007664>
2023. Basal Ganglia Grammar: The Neuronal Substrate as Common-Denominator Interface for Language.  
[Basal Ganglia Grammar: The Neuronal Substrate as Common-Denominator Interface for Language - lingbuzz/007426 \(auf.net\)](https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007426)  
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/AQ5GH>
2023. The Pursuit of Recursive Neurons <> Squibbing Against Continuity Claims in Artificial Intelligence: Why We Can't Get There From Here. <https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/007354>  
 DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.33018.06087](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.33018.06087)
2023. Problems of Projection: A Note on Chomsky's 2013 *Lingua Paper*. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007267>
2022. A Note on 'Reprojection' and the Dual-Merge Status of DP as a Phase. Complex Nominal Expressions.  
<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007079>
2022. The Recursive Linguistic Mind (Revised). <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007176>
2021. Lecture Notes on Experiments, Explorations and Methods for Data Collection (EEM-Paper).  
[https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling\\_438\\_538\\_Lecture\\_Notes\\_on\\_Experiments\\_Explorations\\_and\\_Methods\\_for\\_Data\\_Collection\\_Psycholinguistics\\_EEM](https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling_438_538_Lecture_Notes_on_Experiments_Explorations_and_Methods_for_Data_Collection_Psycholinguistics_EEM)  
[Explorations for Lecture 1 Structure and Lecture 2 Phonology](https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling_438_538_Lecture_Notes_on_Experiments_Explorations_and_Methods_for_Data_Collection_Psycholinguistics_EEM)
2020. The Myth of 'Function defines Form' as the Null-Biological Adaptive Process and the Counter Linguistics-based Response: Accumulative Lecture. <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/005298>

2021. Notes on a Biological Basis for Language.  
[\(PDF\) Notes on the Biological Basis for Language: The Brain, The Dual Mechanism Model and the Two Stages of Early Child Syntax. 1 | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2019. A Note on Artificial Intelligence and the critical recursive implementation: The lagging problem of 'background knowledge' <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006410>  
[\(PDF\) Note 4 A Note on Artificial Intelligence and the critical recursive implementation: The lagging problem of 'background knowledge' 1 | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2020. From Merge (items) to Sets (categories) = Move. Movement-based Theoretical Applications: Morphology down to Phonology.  
[https://www.academia.edu/42273106/From\\_Merge\\_items\\_to\\_Sets\\_categories\\_Movement\\_based\\_Theoretical\\_Applications\\_Morphology\\_down\\_to\\_Phonology](https://www.academia.edu/42273106/From_Merge_items_to_Sets_categories_Movement_based_Theoretical_Applications_Morphology_down_to_Phonology)
2019. Vertical v Horizontal, Language Acquisition v Learning and the Bell-Shape Curve.  
[https://www.academia.edu/75446189/Lecture\\_4\\_Lang\\_Acq\\_Vertical\\_vs\\_Horizontal\\_Processing\\_Leaning\\_vs\\_Acquisition\\_and\\_the\\_Bell\\_Shape\\_Curve](https://www.academia.edu/75446189/Lecture_4_Lang_Acq_Vertical_vs_Horizontal_Processing_Leaning_vs_Acquisition_and_the_Bell_Shape_Curve)
2018. [A Merge-based Theory of Child Language Acquisition.](#)
2015. Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax. (ms, California State University Northridge). [\(PDF\) Remarks on a Minimalist Approach to Early Child Syntax | joseph galasso - Academia.edu](#)
2014. To be a Split VP or To Be a Multi-Spec vP: That is the Question.  
[https://www.academia.edu/6424434/To\\_Be\\_a\\_Split\\_VP\\_or\\_To\\_Be\\_a\\_Multi\\_Spec\\_vP\\_That\\_is\\_the\\_Question](https://www.academia.edu/6424434/To_Be_a_Split_VP_or_To_Be_a_Multi_Spec_vP_That_is_the_Question)
2012. Why Move? Preliminary Thoughts and Overview: How Merge over Move informs early child syntax. [https://www.academia.edu/5421727/Why\\_Move](https://www.academia.edu/5421727/Why_Move)
2012. Some New Perspectives on Lexical and Functional Categories: Revisiting Brown's 'Fourteen Grammatical Morphemes' (Talk: guest speaker, paperpresented at CSUB). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/webupdateCSUBLecture.pdf>
2006. The Nature of the Input: Outline for talk (Talk: presented at UCLA). Paper presented on potential 'brain-to-language' models for early child language syntactic development (UCLA). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/Thenatureoftheinputfullpaper.pdf>
2006. The Nature of the Input: Tracing INFL through the Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development. (Talk: Presented at UMass, May 2006).
2005. Towards a Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development. [https://www.academia.edu/775453/Towards\\_a\\_Dual\\_Mechanism\\_Model\\_of\\_Language\\_Development](https://www.academia.edu/775453/Towards_a_Dual_Mechanism_Model_of_Language_Development)
2003. The Dual Mechanism Model: Towards a Converging Theories Hypothesis of Language Acquisition <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/discount.pdf>
2003. Notes on a Research Statement: The Gradual Development Hypothesis and The Dual Mechanism Model of Language Development. (Talk: Paper presented at the 32d Stanford Child Language Research Forum).
- 2003 Notes on a Research Statement: The Gradual Development Hypothesis and the Dual Mechanism Model. [https://www.academia.edu/109621182/Notes\\_on\\_a\\_Research\\_Statement\\_The\\_Gradual\\_Development\\_Hypothesis\\_1\\_and\\_The\\_Dual\\_Mechanism\\_Model\\_2\\_of\\_Language\\_Development](https://www.academia.edu/109621182/Notes_on_a_Research_Statement_The_Gradual_Development_Hypothesis_1_and_The_Dual_Mechanism_Model_2_of_Language_Development)
- 2003 Notes on a Research Statement for Child First Language Acquisition: *Twin Working Papers* (2003a/b). (Ms. CSU-Northridge). <http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/statement.htm>
2003. Verbs and Nouns: INFL and the Emergence of DP. (Chapter 5 of PhD Dissertation, 1999).  
[https://www.academia.edu/775440/Verbs\\_and\\_Nouns\\_INFL\\_and\\_the\\_Emergence\\_of\\_DP\\_The\\_Acquisition\\_of\\_Functional\\_Categories](https://www.academia.edu/775440/Verbs_and_Nouns_INFL_and_the_Emergence_of_DP_The_Acquisition_of_Functional_Categories)
2003. Towards a Converging-Theories Model of Language Acquisition.  
[https://www.academia.edu/109620473/Towards\\_a\\_Converging\\_Theories\\_Model\\_of\\_Language\\_Acquisition\\_Continuing\\_Discontinuity](https://www.academia.edu/109620473/Towards_a_Converging_Theories_Model_of_Language_Acquisition_Continuing_Discontinuity)

==UNDERGRADUATE LECTURES==

[https://www.academia.edu/100648401/Lectures\\_in\\_Language\\_Acquisition\\_series](https://www.academia.edu/100648401/Lectures_in_Language_Acquisition_series)

<https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso/Lectures-Introduction-to-Linguistics>

<https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso/Lectures-in-Minimalist-Syntax>

<https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso/Minimalist-Perspectives-on-Child-Syntax> <https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso/Evo-Devo-&-AI>

==GRADUATE SEMINARS==

(99+) [joseph galasso | California State University, Northridge - Academia.edu](https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso) Seminars in Minimalist Syntax

<https://csun.academia.edu/josephgalasso/Seminar--Psychology-of-Language-'Class-Directives'>

[https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling\\_438\\_538\\_Lecture\\_Notes\\_on\\_Experiments\\_Explorations\\_and\\_Methods\\_for\\_Data\\_Collection\\_Psycholinguistics\\_EEM](https://www.academia.edu/44797271/Ling_438_538_Lecture_Notes_on_Experiments_Explorations_and_Methods_for_Data_Collection_Psycholinguistics_EEM) Explorations for Lecture 1 Structure and Lecture 2 Phonology

Seminars in PsychoLing

webpage/joseph galasso

## bio. Joseph Galasso



(American Linguist)

Joseph Galasso (b. August 21, 1964) is on the Faculty of Linguistics at California State University Northridge. His main theoretical research involves asking how assumptions made in the *Minimalist Program* (Noam Chomsky 1995) might reveal underlying implications to the development of child syntax. Hence, his work has led to extending the so-called morphological *Dual Mechanism Model* (Steven Pinker) towards providing an account of child language acquisition. In 1990-91, he was accepted to study Semiotics under Umberto Eco (Bologna), but due to extended periods of unrest and militant protests throughout Italian universities that year— as a result of newly-written draconian legislation called the *Ruberti Reforms* of 1990<sup>1</sup>—he revised his plan of study, left Italy and went to England to pursue a PhD in Child Language Acquisition under the mentorships of Andrew Radford and Harald Clahsen (University of Essex, UK). His recent writings are on *Artificial Intelligence & the Recursive Implementation*. His research can be found in *Oxford's Bibliographies in Linguistics*, and *The Handbook of Developmental Linguistics*.

Hobbies: Joseph was introduced to both the piano and the classical guitar at an early age and went on to pursue formal classical guitar studies (1985) with David Grimes (former President of the Guitar Foundation of America, tutelage under Oscar Ghiglia), and (1982) with Peter Kraus (Score for the Movie '10', Ravel's Bolero transcribed for solo guitar). He has composed several pieces for chamber orchestra, piano and solo guitar, and most recently a Guitar Concerto entitled 'Fragments on a Waltz' (2022). Joseph had a brief one-year stint as a part-time studio composer (1985, Lion Share recording studio) with collaborations with Vocalist/Song-writer Kin Vassy (The First Edition), Guitarist Eric McClure (Secret Sity), and Tata Vega (The Film 'Lion King', Spanish Language, 1994). His first preoccupation with language was vetted through modern playwrights, contrasting language styles of Henrik Ibsen with that of Samuel Beckett (see Introduction and Foreword to 'Open Works on Poetry' (Umberto Eco) 1989-1991)<sup>1</sup> which later manifested into the formal study of Semantics & Semiotics (1991), which in turn led to theoretical pursuits in Child Language Acquisition (1994).

[Guitar](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> Antonio Ruberti, Italian Minister of University & Research at the time.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/44103006/Open\\_Works\\_on\\_Poetry\\_Umberto\\_Eco\\_Homage\\_to\\_Paul\\_Celan\\_Soft\\_Words\\_Will\\_Break\\_Your\\_Bones\\_draft](https://www.academia.edu/44103006/Open_Works_on_Poetry_Umberto_Eco_Homage_to_Paul_Celan_Soft_Words_Will_Break_Your_Bones_draft)