**Rachel Ryskin**

**Language comprehension adapted to the environment**

In order to understand each other across diverse contexts, humans must continuously adapt their linguistic expectations. Yet, the core of their language knowledge must remain stable. My research aims to understand how humans balance flexibility and stability in language comprehension in order to efficiently exchange information in the face of variability and noise. I will first review evidence that comprehenders learn from their environment at multiple levels including adapting to the probability of syntactic structures, the kinds of errors the speaker makes, and the noise in the input. I will then discuss work investigating the constraints on this continuous learning. For instance, studies with individuals across the lifespan indicate that word meanings and syntactic biases are learned on different timescales. And work with individuals with aphasia — a language disorder caused by stroke — suggests that they may not update their representations of errors in the environment as rapidly as healthy language users.