October 27, 2018

Department of Linguistics
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Dear members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the faculty position in syntax at ████. I am currently a Lecturer in Semantics at Yale University. I was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor in Syntax at New York University, and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at McGill University. I received a PhD in Linguistics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2014. My main research specialties lie in generative syntax and formal semantics. My research employs a variety of experimental techniques, including sentence processing and large-scale grammaticality surveys. These techniques are supplemented by elicitation work on understudied languages, focusing most recently on Chuj (Mayan, Guatemala) and Dharamsala Tibetan (India), alongside traditional judgment work focusing on English, Hebrew, German, and Japanese.

Some of my recent research topics include the syntax and semantics of *wh*-questions, Association with Focus, and *wh*-intervention effects; relative clauses and free relatives; non-interrogative uses of *wh*-words; ellipsis licensing; derivational economy and timing; questions under discussion; and the semantics of comparative and superlative quantifiers. My dissertation motivates a new syntax and semantics for *wh*-questions, allowing for a broader empirical coverage than previous theories. A book based on my dissertation will be published with MIT Press, the Linguistic Inquiry Monographs series, in Spring 2019. I am currently working on a second book project concerning *wh*-intervention effects.
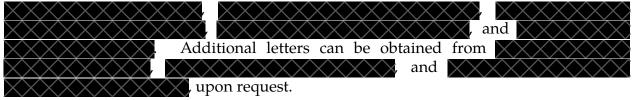
Apart from research, I am passionate about teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate level. As a teacher, my objective is to develop skills to allow students to formulate their own questions and make their own discoveries. I aim to engage students with the core puzzles of our field, allowing them to discover linguistic data and theories through independent investigation. My classes often combine short experiments and elicitation exercises, to emphasize the breadth of tools available to the working linguist. In the past few years I have taught several high-enrollment undergraduate introductory courses, introduction to syntax, introduction to semantics, freshman seminars, and advanced graduate and undergraduate seminars in syntax and semantics. These past teaching experiences have prepared me to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in syntax and semantics at all levels, as well as to advise students in these areas.

I view mentoring students as a key aspect of my work, and one that I find particularly rewarding. I feel strongly that supporting students in early years is crucial to their scholarly development. I am particularly passionate about encouraging minority and first generation students to make the most of their education, and I see great value in involving

students in my own research while also helping them to develop their own individual projects. Since January 2015, I am serving as a member of the LSA Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics (COSWL), focusing in particular on a data initiative whose goal is to gather and analyze data on the representation of women in a range of areas in our field. Some preliminary results were presented at a special session of the LSA 2018.

As a scholar, I enjoy working on multiple projects simultaneously, most often in productive collaborations. I believe that my broad research interests have the potential to interface with much of the currently ongoing research at ▓▓▓▓ and to enhance it. At the moment, I have interests in core syntax, in particular in the nature of the probing system, economy, and the timing and directionality of structure building; as well as in syntax/semantics, in defining the operations available for structure building and scope-taking, in particular in question- and relative clause formation, in ellipsis licensing, and in the status of Questions under Discussion as a potential syntactic object. I have no doubt that I would find shared interests with ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, ▓▓▓▓▓▓, and ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, as well as ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ and ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓. My established experience in researching, teaching, and advising in syntax and semantics, including using empirical work on understudied languages and experimental techniques, will allow me to act as a resource for many students and faculty across the department, to build new bridges, and enhance existing ones.

Enclosed please find my CV, teaching and research statements, teaching evaluations, and two writing samples, exemplifying my research in syntax: (a) "Covert partial *wh*-movement and the nature of derivations," 2016, *Glossa*; (b) "*Wh*-fronting in a two-probe system," 2014, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. A draft of my forthcoming LI monograph is available upon request. Other publications are available on my website, at: http://hkotek.com/publications.html.

Letters of recommendation in support of my application will be submitted by ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, ▓▓▓▓▓▓ ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, and ▓▓▓▓▓ ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓. Additional letters can be obtained from ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, and ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓ ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓, upon request.

Please let me know if there are any other materials or information that will assist you in evaluating my application. I will attend the LSA 2019 and will be available for an interview there. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Hadas Kotek