



TC Spotlight

# Henry George Wolf VII

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*The hardest thing is being away from Tokyo, a large part of which is due to the Teachers College community.*

- **Hometown: Hastings, NY**
- **University of Dayton (BS)**
- **TC Tokyo Group 23**
- **Currently studying the Neurobiology of Language at the University of Connecticut (MS/PhD)**

I am currently a full-time PhD student. My research involves developing theories of literacy acquisition, and implementing those theories in computational models. One project involves running thousands of simulations and comparing them with children who have developmental dyslexia. The objective is to get a better understanding of how children learn to read and which interventions are best suited for each individual learner with reading difficulty. Another project involves expanding this type of model, which have generally been monolingual, to simulation second language acquisition and bilingualism.

**What did you learn at TC that ensured you would never be the same again?** One thing was the International Phonetic Alphabet. If you think about it, having a system for writing down any spoken language is awe inspiring. It really helped me to notice the relationships among languages, and generated much more interest in me regarding cross-language and bilingualism research.



**What class has had a lasting effect on you?** Second Language Assessment has certainly had a lasting impact. This course, more than any other, focused on conducting scientific research regarding language. Its greatest impact on me may have been pushing me toward pursuing a PhD, but it also showed me the impact that research can have on all of the stakeholders involved.

**What is your favorite thing about your current job? The hardest thing?** My favorite thing about pursuing a PhD full time is that I am able to pursue interesting and influential research. The hardest thing is being away from Tokyo, a large part of which is due to the Teachers College community.

**What motivates you?** I believe that knowledge is the highest good, and that improving the education system is the way I can make the largest impact on the world.

**What has been the biggest challenge in your career? How did you overcome it?** The biggest challenge has been learning to work entirely independently, to motivate myself when there are so many distractions. I have not overcome it entirely, but I have found apps like Freedom and BeFocused helpful in avoiding distractions and keeping to daily productivity targets.

**What would you do if you could take a one-year sabbatical?** With a one-year sabbatical, I would spend my time learning more about entrepreneurship and developing a business plan - and then start an education technology company.



**TCCUJAA**