

# ADÈLE HÉNOT-MORTIER

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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### Broad:

Semantics, Pragmatics, Experimental and Computational Linguistics.

### Narrow:

Theory and processing of scalar implicatures;

Semantics of questions;

Syntactic/semantic assessment of statistical models of language.

## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Linguistics, MIT** 2019 – current

Thesis title: *Oddness under Discussion*

Committee: Amir Anvari; Athulya Aravind; Daniel Fox; Martin Hackl

Expected graduation date: August 2025

**Master’s (“M2”) in Cognitive Science Science (CogMaster) @ENS** 2018 – 2019

Specialization: Linguistics

Thesis title: *Semantics and Pragmatics of numerical approximation expressions*

Advisors: Paul Égré & Benjamin Spector.

**Master’s (“M2”) in Computer Science (MPRI) @Paris 7** 2017 – 2018

Specialization: Logic and Semantics of Programming Languages

Thesis title: *Incremental dialogue modeling*

Advisor: Jonathan Ginzburg

**B.A. (“M1”) in Modern & Comparative Literature @Paris 3** 2014 – 2018

Specialization: Comparative Literature

**Dual Bachelor (“M1”) @Télécom Paris & HEC Paris** 2014 – 2017

Specializations: Algorithmics, Cryptography & Management

**Classes préparatoires (freshman/sophomore) @Lycée Saint Louis** 2012 – 2014

Specialization: Physics and Engineering Science

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

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**The 6th Crete Summer School of Linguistics (as TA)** Summer 2024

**The 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics** Summer 2022

**The 33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information** Summer 2022

**The 2nd Crete Summer School of Linguistics** Summer 2018

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

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- ◆ It’s tough to be pretty: on the semantic relatedness between *tough* and *pretty* predicates. Under review.
- ◆ Highs and Lows of the French diminutive suffix *-et(te)*. *Lingue e linguaggio*, to appear. [[Preprint](#)]
- ◆ With Paul Égré, Benjamin Spector, and Steven Verheyen. On the optimality of vagueness: “around”, “between” and the Gricean maxims. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46, 1075–1130 (2023). [[Paper](#)]

## PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS IN PROCEEDINGS

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### 2024

- ◆ Scalarity, information structure and relevance in varieties of Hurford Conditionals. *Proceedings of the 2024 Amsterdam Colloquium (AC2024)*, to appear. [\[Paper\]](#).
- ◆ “One tool to rule them all”? An integrated model of the QuD for Hurford sentences. *Proceedings of the Special Session “Does semantics have a ‘too many tools’ problem?” of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, to appear. [\[Draft\]](#).
- ◆ Unifying the French evidential construction *on di(rai)t que*. *Proceedings of the Special Session “Evidentials in non-canonical Speech Acts” of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, to appear [\[Draft\]](#).
- ◆ Redundancy under Discussion. *Proceedings of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, to appear. [\[Draft\]](#)
- ◆ The French demonstrative paradigm: structurally transparent but semantically intricate. *Proceedings of the 54rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54)*, to appear. [\[Preprint\]](#)

### 2023

- ◆ Shallowly accurate but deeply confused – how language models deal with antonyms, *Proceedings of the 28th Sinn und Bedeutung Conference*, to appear. [\[Preprint\]](#)
- ◆ Do Language Models discriminate between relatives and pseudorelatives? *Proceedings of the 2023 CLASP Conference on Learning with Small Data*, 55–61, Gothenburg, Sweden. Association for Computational Linguistics. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ◆ “Bridging the gap” between French tough-constructions and pseudorelatives, *Proceedings of the 25th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*, 156–167. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ◆ Superiority effects and the French Plural Pronoun Construction, *Proceedings of the 47th Penn Linguistics Conference*, 67–76. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ◆ With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. Distinguishing levels of morphological derivation in word-embedding models, *Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, 63–76. [\[Paper\]](#)

### 2022

- ◆ Alternatives are blind to some but not all kinds of context: the view from Hurford Disjunctions, *Proceedings of Sinn Und Bedeutung*, 27, 291–308. [\[Paper\]](#).
- ◆ An AGREE-based account of the gap distribution in tough-constructions vs gapped-degree phrases, *Proceedings of the 24th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*, 40–58. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ◆ With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. Word-embeddings distinguish denominal and root-derived verbs in Semitic, *Proceedings of End-to-End Compositional Models of Vector-Based Semantics*, 35–49. [\[Paper\]](#)

### 2015

- ◆ With Sergey Kabanikhin, Olga Krivorotko, Dmitriy Voronov and Darya Yermolenko. A numerical algorithm of parameter estimation for dynamic model for HIV infection of CD4+ t cells. *2015 International Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Computational Technologies (SIBIRCON)*, 180–185, IEEE. [\[Paper\]](#)

## INVITED TALKS

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- ◆ *How do Large Language Models process scalar Hurford Disjunctions?*, Harvard's Language and Cognition Series, November 19, 2024.
- ◆ (Upcoming) *Exhaustification and the QuD in Sobel Sequences*, Invited talk at Humboldt University in Berlin, January 28, 2024.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- ◆ *On the QuD-dependence of conditionals* [\[Poster\]](#)
  - ♥ 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, January 9-12, 2025, Philadelphia, USA.
  - ♥ CreteLing 2024, July 18, 2024, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece.
- ◆ *A QuD-driven approach to incremental constraints on exhaustification*, Workshop in Honor of Irene Heim, December 7, 2024, MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA. [\[Poster\]](#)
- ◆ *A corpus study of the acquisition of French “se faire” passives*, 17th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 17), September 26-28, 2024, Center for Cognitive Science of Language, Nova Gorica, Slovenia. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ◆ *Dealing with relevance and redundancy via a compositional model of QuDs*, BerlinBrnoVienna Workshop 2024, June 28, 2024, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ◆ *Morpho-semantics of the French diminutive suffix -et(te)* [\[Slides\]](#)
  - ♥ 16th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 16), September 23, 2023, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
  - ♥ International Symposium of Morphology (ISMo) 2023, September 15, 2023, Université de Lorraine & CNRS, Nancy, France.
- ◆ *Do Large Language Models learn the specificity of parasitic gaps?* Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2023 (AMLaP 29), August 31, 2023, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ◆ *Versatile presuppositions in counterfactual conditionals*, Rencontres Autour de la Linguistique Formelle 2023 (RALFE 2023), May 25, 2023, Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ◆ With Paul Egré, Benjamin Spector, and Steven Verheyen. *An experimental investigation of the around/between contrast*, Amsterdam Colloquium 2022 (AC2022), December 19, 2023, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. [\[Poster\]](#)[\[Manuscript\]](#)
- ◆ *A dynamic alternative-pruning account of asymmetries in Hurford disjunctions*, Student Session of the ESSLLI 2022, August 18, 2022, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland. [\[Slides\]](#)[\[Poster\]](#)
- ◆ *Evidence for an encoding of morphological blocking effects within two English word embedding models*. Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2022 (AMLaP 28), September 7, 2022, University of York, UK. [\[Poster\]](#)
- ◆ With Rachel Stacey, Cindy Torma and Athulya Aravind. *Two kinds of adjective-infinitive constructions in acquisition*, Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2022 (AMLaP 28), September 7, 2022, University of York, UK. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ◆ With Paul Egré, Benjamin Spector and Steven Verheyen. *Precisifying approximation: Around vs Between*, CreteLing 2022, July 21, 2022, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece. [\[Poster\]](#)

- ♦ *It's tough to be pretty: semantic relatedness between tough and pretty predicates*, 45th Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), April 28, 2022, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK. [\[Handout\]](#)[\[Manuscript\]](#)

## TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

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<b>Introduction to Syntax</b> (graduate & undergraduate), CreteLing Summer School Instructor: Raffaella Zanuttini	Summer 2024
<b>Computational Psycholinguistics</b> (graduate & undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Roger Levy	Fall 2023
<b>Introduction to Linguistics</b> (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Donca Steriade	Spring 2023
<b>Undergraduate Language Acquisition</b> (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Athulya Aravind	Spring 2022
<b>Introduction to Linguistics</b> (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Adam Albright	Fall 2020

## SERVICE

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<b>Reviewer for <i>Snippets</i></b>	Fall 2024 – current
<b>Reviewer for <i>Sinn und Bedeutung</i></b>	Spring 2024 – current
<b>Reviewer for <i>Actes des Journées de linguistique</i></b>	Spring 2023 – current
<b>MIT Working Papers in Linguistics staff</b>	Spring 2023 – current

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>Intern @Heuritech</b> Benchmark of various clustering methods applied to pictorial word embeddings, for the purposes of image classification in the fashion industry.	Summer 2017 (3 months)
<b>Intern @Novossibirsk State University</b> Genome analysis of Parkinson and HCM patients, in order to identify relevant mutations.	Summer 2016 (2 months)
<b>Intern @Novossibirsk State University</b> Modeling of within-host HIV infection using differential equations and optimization.	Summer 2015 (2 months)

## SKILLS

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<b>Programming Languages</b>	Python, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X (advanced), R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript (basic)
<b>Natural languages</b>	French (native), English (fluent), German, Russian (basic)

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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- ♦ Fixing bikes
- ♦ Collecting and repairing vintage Nintendos
- ♦ Biking, swimming, hiking