Keny Chatain, Ph. D.

Researcher in semantics and pragmatics, specializing in plurals, scalar implicatures, presuppositions

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Overview

Interests	semantics, pragmatics, computational linguistics, formal modeling, experimental semantics
Selected Research Themes	pronouns and Anaphora in language
	scalar implicatures
	presuppositions
	game-theoretic approaches to pragmatics
	distributivity, cumulativity and Homogeneity

Employment

Sep 2021 – …	**Post-doctoral researcher**
	Institut Jean Nicod, École Normale Supérieure, Paris Sciences et Lettres
	Under the supervision of: P. Schlenker, E. Chemla, B. Spector

Education

Aug 2016 – Jul 2021	**Ph. D. in linguistics**
	Massachussetts Institute of Technology
	Thesis title: *Cumulativity from Homogeneity* 🔗
	Committee: Martin Hackl, Roger Schwarzschild, Danny Fox, Gennaro Chierchia
Sept 2013 – Aug 2017	**ENS diploma**
	École Normale Supérieure de Paris, Paris, France
Sept 2014 – Aug 2015	**1st year of CogMaster –** master in cognitive science
	University of Paris VI, Paris, France
	Advisor: Benjamin Spector
Sep 2013 – Aug 2014	**B. Sc. in Mathematics**
	University of Paris VII, Paris, France
Sep 2010 – Aug 2013	**Classes préparatoires –** mathematics, computer science, physics
	Lycée Louis-le-Grand, Paris, France
	(≈ freshman & sophomore)

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Published

K. Chatain, "Articulated Homogeneity in Cumulative Sentences", Journal of Semantics, 2021. 🔗

To appear

K. Chatain, "Reducing pronoun accessibility to presupposition satisfaction", Journal of Semantics, 2023. 🔗

K. Chatain, P. Schlenker, "Janus Sentences: A Puzzle for Theories of Local Implicatures", Journal of Semantics, 2024. 🔗

Accepted with minor revisions

K. Chatain, P. Schlenker, "On the Syntactic Reality of Pragmatic Operators: the Case of Non-Redundancy", Rivista di Grammatica Generativa, 2024.

L. Arnal, **K. Chatain**, E. Chemla, C. Pawlowitsch, L. Ravaux, R. Ryder, A. Salis, P. Schlenker, S. Steinert-Threlkeld, L. Wang, "Ancestral Meanings: A Prelude to Evolutionary Animal Linguistics", Linguistics and Philosophy, 2024. 🔗

Submitted manuscripts

K. Chatain, "Gricean equilibria in a general signaling game", Submitted to International Journal of Game Theory, 2024 🔗

K. Chatain, P. Schlenker, "Local Pragmatics Redux", Submitted to Linguistics and Philosophy, 2024. 🔗

K. Chatain, B. Spector, "Existential and universal readings of pronouns across binary connectives: an experimental investigation", Submitted to Semantics and Pragmatics, 2024.

K. Chatain, "A split in mandatory embedded implicatures", Submitted to Snippets, 2024 🔗

Proceedings of peer-reviewed conferences

K. Chatain, "Cumulative readings of every and leaks," in Proceedings of the 30th conference on Semantics and Linguistic Theory, 2020. 🔗

K. Chatain, "Reciprocating same," in Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29, 2019. 🔗

K. Chatain, "Wide-scope distributivity," in Proceedings of NELS 38, 2019. 🔗

K. Chatain, "Gaps in the interpretation of pronouns," in Proceedings of the 28th conference on Semantics and Linguistic Theory, 2017. 🔗

Presentations

Refereed presentations

2024   **Readings of pronouns across connectives are sensitive to monotony** (with B. Spector) 🔗
Sinn und Bedeutung 29
C.U.M.O., Noto, Italy

2020   **Cumulative readings of every with leaks** 🎥
30th conference on Semantics and Linguistic Theory
Cornell University, virtually

2019   **Reciprocating same** 🔗
Sinn und Bedeutung 24
Osnabrück University, Osnabrück, Germany

Reducing order-insensitivity in anaphora to accommodation 🔗
Workshop on Asymmetries in Language: Presuppositions and Beyond
Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachenwissenchaft, Berlin, Germany

Wide-scope distributivity 🔗
49th meeting of North Eastern Linguistic Society
Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

2017   **Gaps in the interpretation of pronouns** 🔗
28th conference on Semantics and Linguistic Theory
MIT, Cambridge, USA

Invited Presentations

2024   **On The Syntactic Reality Of Some Pragmatic Operators** (with P. Schlenker)
Workshop on Speech Act Related Operators
Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, Berlin, Germany

Effect of monotonicity on pronoun interpretation in discourse anaphora (with B. Spector)
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Implicature/presupposition interactions in the neo-Gricean tradition
NYU Semantics Reading Group
New York University, New York, United States

Readings of pronouns across conjunctions and disjunctions (with B. Spector)
Meaning in Language seminar
Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany

2023   **Pronouns and presuppositions**
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Reducing Pronoun Accessibility To Presupposition Satisfaction
University of Göttingen

Reducing Pronoun Accessibility To Presupposition Satisfaction
Colloquium
Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, virtually

Teaching & Advising

Classes

Fall 2024 **Semantics II**
Co-instructor: Benjamin Spector
Cogmaster, ENS, PSL, EHESS
Designed and held 2h30 lectures on distributivity, event semantics, dynamic semantics etc. Designed and graded problem sets.

Spring 2023 **Current topics in the semantics and pragmatics of plural expressions**
Co-instructor: Benjamin Spector
34th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI)
Designed and held three full 1h30 lectures on distributivity, cumulativity and number marking.

Masters course "Semantics I" (LING 202)
Course convener: Benjamin Spector
Cogmaster, ENS, PSL, EHESS
Designed and held weekly recitations

Fall 2019 **Undergraduate seminar "Introduction to Linguistics" (24.900)**
Course convener: Adam Albright
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Designed and held weekly recitations, graded essays and problem sets, advised students on elicitations.

Fall 2018 **Graduate course "Introduction to Semantics" (24.979)**
Course convener: Roger Schwarzschild and Martin Hackl
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Designed and held weekly recitations, advised students on final papers.

Students

Fall 2022 **Nina Gregorio**
Master's students
Co-advising with: Benjamin Spector
Helping the student to design an experiment to tease apart readings of cross-clausal anaphora.

Grant, Fellowship and Awards

2024 **"Jean Walter ZELLIDJA" research scholarship**
Scholarship awarded by the Académie Française to young researchers for research stays outside France, supporting a stay at ZAS in 2025

2023 **The Van Riemsdijk Foundation's workshop grant** (with N. Haslinger)

Grant awarded for the organization of the 2nd workshop on Homogeneity and Non-Maximality

Professional Service

Reviewing for Journals	Journal of Semantics Semantics and Pragmatics (editorial board) Synthese Linguistic and Philosophy Natural Language Semantics eLife
Reviewing for Conferences	Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) Student Session of the European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI StuS) Student Session of the North American Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (NASSLLI StuS)
Organization	Co-organized Gaps and imprecision in natural language semantics workshop with Nina Haslinger (ZAS) at the Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft 🔗 Co-organized the 2nd workshop on Homogeneity and Non-Maximality with Nina Haslinger (University of Göttingen) at the University of Vienna 🔗 Co-organized the 1st workshop on Homogeneity and Non-Maximality, with Nina Haslinger (University of Göttingen) and Omar Agha (University of Connecticut) 🔗 Founded and organized a reading group on the linguistics of discrimination (the Rhombus Reading Group)

Skills

Languages	French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (advanced), Modern Standard Arabic (advanced), Lebanese Arabic (advanced).
Coding	Python, R, Haskell, Rust, HTML, CSS, . . .
Tools	Amazon Mechanical Turk, PC Ibex, Git, LaTeX.

Software

Developer of the Exh package: a Python package to compute innocent exclusion exhaustification. 🔗

References

Dr. Emmanuel Chemla   Senior Research Scientist CNRS
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Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique
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Dr. Philippe Schlenker   Senior Research Scientist CNRS, Global Distinguished Professor
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75005 Paris (France)
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