

Asya Achimova

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| Department of Linguistics | Neuro-Cognitive Modeling Group |
| Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen | Department of Computer Science |
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| | 72076 Tübingen |

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| Education | <i>Ph.D.</i> , Psychology (Cognitive) Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, May 2014 Thesis: Resolving <i>wh</i> -quantifier ambiguities: Integrating theoretical and experimental perspectives Advisors: Julien Musolino & Viviane Déprez Committee members: Kristen Syrett (Rutgers University), John Trueswell (University of Pennsylvania) <i>M.S.</i> , Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 2011 <i>B.A.</i> , English Language and Literature, Perm State University, Perm, Russia, 2007. <i>Summa cum laude</i> |
| Additional training | Bayesian Modeling for Cognitive Science Summer School (Amsterdam). 2022 Fifth Summer School on Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology (Bayesian track). 2021 European Summer School for Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI, online). 2021 Web Summer School for Language, Logic, and Information (NASSLLI). 2020 European Summer School for Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI, Riga, Latvia). 2019 Leipzig Spring School on Linguistic Diversity. 2006 St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture. Summer school. 2005 St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture. Summer school. 2004 |
| Certificates | Certificate program “Leadership in Academia, Industry, and Society”. University of Tübingen 2022 Certificate in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University 2013 Certificate in Language Learning and Teaching, Rutgers University 2012 |
| Research interests | Computational modeling of pragmatic reasoning, ambiguity resolution, quantifier scope, experimental linguistics, atypical language development, first and second language acquisition |
| Academic positions | <i>Post-doctoral fellow</i> 2018 – present Neuro-Cognitive Modeling Group, University of Tübingen Research Training Group 1808 “Ambiguity: Production and Perception” |

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| | <i>Visiting scholar</i> | 2016 – 2018 |
| | Linguistics Program, Wayne State University | |
| | <i>Part-time lecturer</i> | 2015 – 2016 |
| | Institute of Linguistics, University of Leipzig | |
| | <i>Teaching Assistant</i> | 2009 – 2013 |
| | Psychology Department, Rutgers University | |
| | <i>Russian Language Instructor</i> | 2008 – 2009 |
| | Rutgers University | |
| Fellowships and awards | Emmy Noether junior research group | 2024-2030 |
| | Equal opport. grant for researchers working during the pandemic (1.000 €) | 2021 |
| | Athene-Program (support for early career female researchers) (20.000 €) | 2020 |
| | Paula Menyuk Travel Award for conference expenses, awarded at BUCLD 38. | 2013 |
| | Paula Menyuk Travel Award for conference expenses, awarded at BUCLD 38. | 2012 |
| | Undergraduate fellowship for seniors for academic excellence. | 2006 |
| | Undergraduate federal fellowship of the Government of the Russian Federation. | 2005 |
| | Undergraduate regional fellowship of the Governor of Perm Region. | 2004 |
| Publications | Undergraduate fellowship for freshmen for academic excellence. | 2003 |
| | Achimova, A. , Scontras, G., Eisemann, E., & M.V. Butz. Active iterative social inference in multi-trial signaling games. <i>Open Mind</i> , 7. | 2023 |
| | Achimova, A. , Stegemann-Philipps, C., Winkler, S., & M.V. Butz. Anaphoric reference in descriptions of surprising events. In Gutzmann, D. & S. Repp (eds.) <i>Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26</i> , pp. 20–34. Universität zu Köln. | 2022 |
| | Achimova, A. , Scontras, G., Stegemann-Philipps, C., Lohmann, J., & M.V. Butz. Learning about others: Pragmatic social inference through ambiguity resolution. <i>Cognition</i> , 218, 104862. | 2022 |
| | Butz, M.V., Achimova, A. , Bilkey, D., & Knott, A. Event-predictive cognition: a root for conceptual human thought. <i>Topics in Cognitive Science</i> , 13(1). | 2021 |
| | Stegemann-Philipps, C., Butz, M.V., Winkler, S., & Achimova, A. Speakers use more informative referring expressions to describe surprising events. <i>Proceedings of the 43^rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> . | 2021 |
| | Hartmann, J., Achimova, A. , Ebert, L., Ebert-Rohleder, M., Elxnath, N., Geiger, L., Hofmaier, L., Klenk, J., Lahrsow, M., Metzger, S., Schole, G., Reid, M., Stegemann-Philipps, C., Titt, R., Vollstedt, T., Wagner, W., & S. Winkler. TInCAP User Manual, GRK 1808 Ambiguity Database. | 2021 |

- Achimova, A.**, Déprez, V. Specificity affects determiner choice even when definiteness transfers. In Deborah Arteaga (Ed.): *L2 grammatical representation and processing. Theory and practice* p. 12 – 27, Second Language Acquisition: 136, Bristol; Blue Ridge Summit: Multilingual Matters. 2019
- Achimova, A.**, Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Structural asymmetry in question/quantifier interactions. In Katalin E. Kiss & Tamás Zétényi (Eds.): *Linguistic and cognitive aspects of quantification* p. 13 – 30, Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics, vol. 47, Springer, Cham. 2018
- Achimova, A.**, Syrett, K., Musolino, J., Déprez, V. Children’s developing knowledge of wh-/quantifier question-answer relations. *Language Learning and Development*, 1. p. 80 – 99 2017
- Achimova, A.**, Staroverov, P., Déprez, V. & Musolino, J. Pair-list answers in naive speakers and professional linguists. In Arkadiev, P.M., Kapitonov, I.S., Lander, Y.A., Rakchilina, E.V., Tatevosov, S.G. (Eds.) *Donum semanticum: Opera linguistica et logica in honorem Barbarae Partee a discipulis amicisque Rossicis oblata* p. 21 – 35. Moscow: [Jaziki slavyanskoy kultury] Languages of slavic culture. 2015
- Achimova, A.**, Crosby, C., Déprez, V., Syrett, K., Musolino, J. Which account of wh-/quantifier interaction should everyone adopt: a new take on a classic developmental puzzle. In S. Baiz, N. Goldman, & R. Hawkes (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 37th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, p. 1 – 12. Boston, MA: Cascadilla Press. 2013
- Achimova, A.**, Déprez, V., Musolino, J. What makes pair-list answers available: an experimental approach. In LaCara, N., Fainleib, L. & Park, Y. (Eds.) *NELS 41: Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, Amherst, MA.: GLSA. 2013
- Achimova, A.** Verb Innovations in Spontaneous Speech of Children. In T. Marinis, A. Papangeli, & V. Stojanovik. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Child Language seminar 2007 – 30th Anniversary*, p.4 - 14. Reading, UK. 2008
- Achimova, A.** Polyphony in the novel “A room with a view” by E.M. Forster. In N.S. Bochkareva (Ed.), *Problems of Method and Poetics in World Literature*, p. 119 – 122. Perm, Russia: Perm State University Press. 2004
- Achimova, A.** Innovations in the formation of verbs in spontaneous speech of English-speaking children, I.G. Ovchinnikova (Ed.), *Topics in Socio- and Psycholinguistics. Variability of Language Development*, p. 153 – 158. Perm, Russia: Perm State University Press. 2004
- Achimova, A.** English loanwords in Perm local newspapers. *Philologist*, 2, p. 18 – 23. Perm, Russia: Perm State School of Education Press. 2003

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| Invited talks | Belief inference in verbal communication. <i>Human and Machine Cognition Lab</i> , Cluster of Excellence – Machine Learning for Science, University of Tübingen | 2022 |
| | Ambiguity resolution as Bayesian Inference. <i>GRK 1808 Colloquium</i> , University of Tübingen | 2018 |
| | The role of expertise: Professional linguists as subjects in a psycholinguistic experiment. <i>Linguistics Program Colloquium</i> , Wayne State University, Detroit. | 2017 |
| | Rethinking a classic puzzle in the acquisition of quantification. <i>Language and Cognition Lab</i> , Johns Hopkins University. | 2013 |
| Conference Presentations | Dietrich, S., Achimova, A., Butz, M.V., & B. Rolke. Was it the bear or the lion? Evaluating different disambiguation cues in pronoun interpretation. Poster presented at <i>TeaP 2023 (Conference of Experimental Psychologists)</i> , Trier, Germany. | 2023 |
| | Achimova, A., Musolino, J., Pasquinelli, R., Butz, M.V., & B. Landau. Semantic meaning of scalar terms in speakers with Williams Syndrome. Paper presented at <i>XPrag 2022: 9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference</i> . Pavia, Italy | 2022 |
| | Achimova, A., & M. Beukman. Ambiguity remains a rare skill for learning about others even when stimuli carry social relevance. Paper presented at <i>KogWis 2022: 5th Biannual Conference of the German Society for Cognitive Science</i> . Freiburg, Germany | 2022 |
| | Achimova, A., Musolino, J., Pasquinelli, R., Butz, M.V., & B. Landau. Understanding of linguistic scales in speakers with Williams Syndrome. Flash talk and poster presented at the <i>44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> Hybrid conference, Toronto, Canada. | 2022 |
| | Achimova, Asya & Martin V. Butz. Social inferencing in communication. Poster presented at the <i>Meaning in Context Workshop</i> at the <i>Thirty-fifth Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021)</i> . | 2021 |
| | Achimova, Asya & Martin V. Butz. Discovering shared reality in ambiguity resolution. <i>Moscow HSE Pragmatics Workshop</i> . | 2021 |
| | Achimova, Asya, Stegemann-Philipps, Christian, Butz, Martin V., & Susanne Winkler. Referring to agents in an artificial world: The role of predictability. <i>Sinn und Bedeutung</i> 26. https://osf.io/wu329/ | 2021 |
| | Stegemann-Philipps, C., Butz, Martin V., Winkler, Susanne & Achimova, A. Speakers use more informative referring expressions to describe surprising events. Poster presented at the <i>43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> Virtual conference | 2021 |
| | Achimova, A., Ebert-Rohleder, M., Elxnath, N., Geiger, L., Hofmaier, L., Klenk, J., Vollstedt, T., & Zirker, A. Ambiguity in Discourse: The Tübingen Interdisciplinary Corpus of Ambiguity Phenomena. Paper presented at the <i>17th International Pragmatics Conference</i> , Winterthur, Switzerland. July 1, 2021. Virtual conference | 2021 |
| | Achimova, A., and M.V. Butz. Ambiguous descriptions facilitate information gain. Flash-talk presented at the workshop <i>From Efficient Coding to Information Gain: Information-Theoretic Principles in Models of Human Decision Making</i> held at the <i>42st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> . Virtual conference | 2020 |
| | Achimova, A., Eisemann, E., and M.V. Butz. Bayesian preference inference in dialogue. Poster presented at the <i>42st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society</i> . Virtual conference | 2020 |

- Achimova, A., Staroverov, P., Scontras, G., and M. Butz. Topics take wide scope: An empirical test of a theoretical claim. *Information Structure and Ambiguity – The Process of Integrating Sentences into Discourse*. Tübingen, Germany. 2019
- Scontras, G., Achimova, A., Stegemann, C., and M. Butz. The added informativity of ambiguous utterances. Poster presented at *Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG)* Edinburgh, UK. 2019
- Scontras, G., Achimova, A., Stegemann, C., and M. Butz. On the purpose of ambiguous utterances. Poster presented at the *41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Montreal, Canada. 2019
- Achimova, A., Butz, M., Déprez, V., Musolino, J. More ambiguous questions: Discourse licensing of inverse scope *Workshop on Ambiguity as Information Gaps: Processes of Creation and Resolution*, Tübingen, Germany. 2018
- Achimova, A., Déprez, V., Musolino, J. The subject/object asymmetry in questions with quantifiers: syntax or discourse? *Workshop on Linguistic and Cognitive Aspects of Quantification*, Budapest, Hungary. 2015
- Musolino, J., Achimova, A., Landau, B. Logic and felicity in the face of mental retardation: Evidence from linguistic quantification in Williams Syndrome. Paper presented at *Boston University Conference on Language Development 38 (BUCLD)*, Boston, Massachusetts. 2013
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V. Specificity matters even when definiteness transfers, *International Congress of Linguistics (CIL 19)*. Geneva, Switzerland. 2013
- Achimova, A., Crosby, C., Deprez, V., Syrett, K., Musolino, J. Which account of wh-/quantifier interaction should everyone adopt: a new take on a classic developmental puzzle. Paper presented at *Boston University Conference on Language Development 37 (BUCLD)*, Boston, Massachusetts. 2012
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Informal judgments in formal settings: pair-list answers in naïve speakers and professional linguists. Paper presented at *Penn Linguistic Colloquium (PLC 36)*, UPenn, Philadelphia, PA. 2012
- Crosby, C., Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. How did every child answer each question? Wh-/quantifier interaction in children. Poster presented at *Aresty Undergraduate Symposium*. 2012
- Huang, S., Ortega, M., Patel, A., Achimova, A., Deprez, V. Determiner acquisition in L2 French. Poster presented at *Aresty Undergraduate Symposium*. 2012
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Naïve speakers vs. professional linguists: same or different. Paper presented at the *6th Annual Rutgers Linguistic Conference (RULing)*, NJ. 2011
- Venezia, F., Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. How to answer which questions: an experimental approach. Poster presented at *Aresty Undergraduate Symposium*. 2011
- Kon, M., Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Who can participate in an experiment: a study on linguistic methodology. Poster presented at *Aresty Undergraduate Symposium*. 2011
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. What makes pair-list answers available: an experimental approach. Paper presented at the *41th Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*, UPenn, Philadelphia, PA. 2010
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Reinterpreting wh-/quantifier interaction: what can experimentation tell us about grammar. Poster presented at the *Fourth International Conference on Cognitive Science*, Tomsk, Russia. 2010
- Achimova, A., Deprez, V., Musolino, J. Resolving wh-/quantifier ambiguities: an experimental approach. A talk presented at the *5th Annual Rutgers Linguistic Conference (RULing)*, NJ. 2010

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| | Achimova, A. Token frequency, type frequency and phonological features of input: Influence on verb acquisition. Poster presented at the <i>Child Language Seminar</i> , Reading, Great Britain. | 2007 |
| | Achimova, A. Verb form building innovations in child speech (5-7-year-olds). Paper presented at the <i>Problems of Child Language Studies Seminar</i> , St. Petersburg, Russia. | 2006 |
| | Achimova, A. Factors determining the choice of verb paradigm in child speech. Paper presented at the <i>International Symposium on Psycholinguistics</i> , Moscow, Russia. | 2006 |
| | Achimova, A. Classification of verb innovations in child speech (evidence from English). Paper presented at the <i>Students conference in Linguistics</i> , Perm, Russia. | 2004 |
| | Achimova, A. Polyphony in the novel “A room with a view” by E.M. Forster. Paper presented at the <i>Students conference in World Literature</i> , Perm, Russia. | 2003 |
| Teaching | Language learnability. Seminar co-taught with Prof. Martin Butz | Winter 2022 |
| | Cognitive modeling: Practicum | Summer semester 2022 |
| | Typical and atypical language development. Seminar co-taught with Prof. Martin Butz | Winter 2021 |
| | Cognitive modeling: Practicum (online course) | Summer semester 2021 |
| | Cognitive modeling: Practicum (online course) | Summer semester 2020 |
| | Social interactions (online course). Seminar co-taught with Dr. Sarah Fabi and Prof. Martin Butz | Summer 2020 |
| | Natural language and event representations. Seminar co-taught with Christian Stegemann and Prof. Martin Butz | Summer 2019 |
| | Conceptual spaces. Seminar co-taught with Christian Stegemann and Prof. Martin Butz | Winter 2018 |
| | Academic skills for Linguists. B.A. course | Winter 2016 |
| | Bilingualism and second language acquisition. M.A. course | Summer 2015 |
| | Experimental methods in Linguistics. Graduate seminar. Co-taught with Dr. Peter Staroverov (University of Leipzig) | Winter 2015 |
| | Cognition Lab | 2009 – 2013 |
| | Russian Language, Introductory course. | 2008 – 2009 |
| Mentoring | Maren Ebert-Rohleder. Ph.D. thesis “Rhetorical questions in political speeches” | 2020 - 2023 |
| | Sebastian Knoblich. BSc thesis “Top-down influence of world knowledge on speech comprehension”. | Summer 2022 |
| | Marei Bukman. Lab project in Cognitive Science: “Belief inference in reference games” | Winter Semester 2021 |
| | Yul Wegner. Lab project in Cognitive Science: “Social effects of ambiguity resolution” | Winter Semester 2020 |
| | Team project in Cognitive Science: “Ambiguity creation as a complex cognitive skill” | Summer semester 2020 |
| | Team project in Cognitive Science: “Inferring speaker preferences through the use of ambiguous utterances” | Summer semester 2019 |
| | Ella Eisemann, BSc. thesis “Ambiguities in Dialogue: The Strategic Use of Ambiguous Utterances in Dialogues and the Rational Speech Act Model” | Summer semester 2019 |
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| Professional Service | Ad hoc reviewer for <i>Applied Psycholinguistics; Language Acquisition; Topics in Cog-</i> | |

nitive Science; Frontiers in Psychology; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research; First Language; Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Cognitive Processing, Linguistic Review, NSF

Equal opportunities representative, search committee for W3 professorship, University of Tübingen

Project leader for the Tübingen Interdisciplinary Corpus of Ambiguity Phenomena (TInCAP) <https://tincap.uni-tuebingen.de/>

Languages

Russian native
English fluent
German advanced (C1 Telc Hochschule Prüfung, November 2022)
French intermediate

**STATISTICS
AND PRO-
GRAMMING
SKILLS**

R, Python (basic skills), JavaScript, HTML

Updated April 21, 2023