

Asya Achimova

Graduate School 1808
Ambiguity – Production and Perception
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| Education | Ph.D., 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) | |
| | M.S., Psychology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 2011 | |
| | B.A., 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 employment | Post-doctoral fellow | 2018 – present |
| | Neuro-Cognitive Modeling Group, University of Tübingen | |
| | Research Training Group 1808 “Ambiguity: Production and Perception” | |

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|---------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Visiting scholar | 2016 – 2018 |
| | Linguistics Program, Wayne State University | |
| | Part-time lecturer | 2015 – 2016 |
| | Institute of Linguistics, University of Leipzig | |
| | Teaching Assistant | 2009 – 2013 |
| | Psychology Department, Rutgers University | |
| | Russian Language Instructor | 2008 – 2009 |
| | Rutgers University | |
| Fellowships and awards | Equal opportunities grant to female researchers working during the pandemic (1.000 €) | 2021 |
| | Athene-Program of the University of Tübingen: grant supporting early career female researchers (20.000 €) | 2020-2021 |
| | 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 |
| | Undergraduate fellowship for freshmen for academic excellence. | 2003 |
| Publications | Achimova, A. , Stegemann-Philipps, C., Winkler, S., & M.V. Butz. Anaphoric reference in descriptions of surprising events. <i>Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26</i> . | to appear |
| | 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 43rd 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 |
| | Achimova, A. Ambiguity resolution as Bayesian Inference. <i>GRK 1808 Colloquium</i> , University of Tübingen | 2018 |
| | Achimova, A. The role of expertise: Professional linguists as subjects in a psycholinguistic experiment. <i>Linguistics Program Colloquium</i> , Wayne State University, Detroit. | 2017 |
| | Achimova, A., Musolino, J. Rethinking a classic puzzle in the acquisition of quantification. <i>Language and Cognition Lab</i> , Johns Hopkins University. | 2013 |
| Conference Presentations | 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. <i>Information Structure and Ambiguity – The Process of Integrating Sentences into Discourse</i> . 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. Naive 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
- Achimova, A. Token frequency, type frequency and phonological features of input: Influence on verb acquisition. Poster presented at the *Child Language Seminar*, Reading, Great Britain. 2007

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| | 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 | Cognitive modeling: Practicum (online course) | Summer semester 2022 |
| | Selected topics in Cognitive Science: 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 |
| | Selected topics in Cognitive Science: Social interactions (online course). Seminar co-taught with Dr. Sarah Fabi and Prof. Martin Butz | Summer 2020 |
| | Selected topics in Cognitive Science: Natural language and event representations. Seminar co-taught with Christian Stegemann and Prof. Martin Butz | Summer 2019 |
| | Selected topics in Cognitive Science: 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 - 2022 |
| | 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 Cognitive Science; Frontiers in Psychology; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research; First Language; Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Cognitive Processing, Linguistic</i> | |

Review

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 intermediate (B2)
French intermediate

**STATISTICS
AND PRO-
GRAMMING
SKILLS**

R, Python (basic skills), JavaScript