ATHULYA ARAVIND

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APPOINTMENTS

Yale University

July 2025 -	Associate Professor (on term) of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
July 2025 -	Director, Child Language Development Lab at Yale
	www.childlanguage.yale.edu
Jan 2026 -	Affiliated faculty, Wu Tsai Institute
2024 - 2025	Research Scientist, Department of Linguistics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2024-2025	Alfred Henry (1929) & Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development Associate Professor
2023 - 2025	Associate Professor (without tenure) of Linguistics
2019 - 2023	Assistant Professor of Linguistics
2019 - 2025	Co-director, MIT Language Acquisition Lab

Harvard University

2018 - 2019	Post-doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Psychology
	Lab for Developmental Studies, PI: Elizabeth Spelke

EDUCATION

2018	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
	Ph.D in Linguistics, Thesis: *Presuppositions in context*
2011	Northeastern University
	BA in Linguistics and English, *Summa cum Laude* with Honors

GRANTS & AWARDS

2023	Evaluating the effectiveness of AI-identification in human-AI communication. MIT Funding for impact papers on Generative AI, $50,000

2022 - 2023	Doctoral Dissertation Research: Presupposition projection in conditionals and conjunctions: Developmental and psycholinguistic evidence. NSF (BCS-2140399; Co-PI: Sherry Chen); $14,269
2021	Levitan Prize: In search of the meaningless: Investigating children's learning of dummy words. MIT SHASS; $28,180
2021	Committed to Caring Award, MIT
2021 - 2024	Semantics for Language. Pilot funding, MIT Quest for Intelligence. With Jacob Andreas, Roger Levy, Evelina Fedorenko
2021 - 2024	Context dependence across categories: Bridging developmental, experimental, and theoretical perspectives. NSF. (BCS-2016963/2016895). With Kristen Syrett, Rutgers; $192,850
2016	Noam Chomsky Fellowship, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT.

PUBLICATIONS

*advisee, † equal contributions

IN THE PIPELINE

submitted	Patel, Premvanti*, Kristen Syrett, and **Athulya Aravind**. "Children's and adults' treatment of partial objects in bounded quantificational contexts"
under review	Alstott, Johanna* and **Athulya Aravind**. "A cautionary note on word learning paradigms and presupposition triggering"
in revision	**Aravind, Athulya** and Megan Gotowski*. "Non-canonical agreement in early grammars"
manuscript	Chen, Sherry Yong* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Processing asymmetries and presupposition projection: the case of binary connectives". *preprint:* lingbuzz/009063
manuscript	Brody, Gabor, Daniel Asherov* and **Athulya Aravind**. "How humans process language (they think) is machine generated." *preprint:* psyarxiv/uqpf2_v1

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

accepted	**Aravind, Athulya**, Karissa Sanchez* and Kristen Syrett. "When and why parts count: Linking categorization and counting of partial objects". *Language Learning and Development*
2025	Gotowski, Megan* and **Athulya Aravind**. "No Referential Bias in Children's Interpretation of 'It' and 'There'". *Language Acquisition*
2024	Brody, Gabor, Roman Feiman[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "Why do children think words are mutually exclusive?". *Psychological Science*
2023	**Aravind, Athulya**, Danny Fox and Martin Hackl. "Principles of presupposition in development". *Linguistics and Philosophy.* doi:10.1007/s10988-022-09364-z

2023	**Aravind, Athulya**[†] and Loes Koring[†]. "Experiencer troubles: A reappraisal of the predicate-based asymmetry in child passives". *Language Acquisition*. `doi:`[10.1080/10489223.2022.2115373](#)
2021	Syrett, Kristen[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "Context sensitivity and the semantics of count nouns in the evaluation of partial objects by children and adults". *Journal of Child Language*. `doi:`[10.1017/S0305000921000027](#)
2020	Rasin, Ezer[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "The nature of the semantic stimulus: the acquisition of every as a case study". *Natural Language Semantics*.
2019	**Aravind, Athulya**. "Successive cyclicity in DPs: Evidence from Mongolian nominalized clauses." *Linguistic Inquiry.* `doi:`[10.1162/ling_a_00373](#)
2018	**Aravind, Athulya**, Jill de Villiers, Amy Pace, Hannah Valentine, Roberta Golinkoff, Kathy Hirsch-Pasek, Aquiles Iglesias, and Mary Wilson. "Fast mapping word meanings across trials: young children forget all but their first guess." *Cognition* 177, 177-188. `doi:` [10.1016/j.cognition.2018.04.008](#)
2017	**Aravind, Athulya**, Martin Hackl and Ken Wexler. "Syntactic and pragmatic factors in children's comprehension of cleft constructions". *Language Acquisition*, `doi:` [10.1080/10489223.2017.1316725](#)
2017	**Aravind, Athulya.** "Licensing long-distance *wh*-in-situ in Malayalam." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory.* `doi:` [10.1007%2Fs11049-017-9371-2](#)
2017	**Aravind, Athulya**, Jill de Villiers, Peter de Villiers, Christopher Lonigan, Beth Phillips, Jeanine Clancy, Susan Landry, Paul Swank, Michael Assel, Heather Taylor, Nancy Eisenberg, Tracy Spinrad and Carlos Valiente. "Children's Quantification with *every* over time." *Glossa* 2(1): 43. 1-16. `doi:` [0.5334/gjgl.166](#)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

to appear	**Aravind, Athulya** and Gabor Brody[†]. "Pragmatic Development". *The Cambridge Companion to Child Syntax*
2025	**Aravind, Athulya**. "Malayalam long-distance anaphor *taan*: a null theory". *Proceedings of FASAL 14.*
2025	Patel, Premvanti*, Kristen Syrett and **Athulya Aravind**. "Using the lower bound set by the universal modal to investigate the status of partial objects and count nouns". *Proceedings of ELM 3*
2024	New, Keely*, Premvanti Patel* and **Athulya Aravind**. "How toddlers answer multiple *wh*-questions". *Proceedings of BUCLD 48.*
2024	Brody, Gabor, Vincent Rouillard*, Daniel Asherov* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Evaluating the Effectiveness of AI Source Disclosure in Human–AI Communication". *An MIT Exploration of Generative AI..*
2023	Staniszewski, Frank*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Overly strong interpretations of modal verbs in child language". *Proceedings of BUCLD 47.*

2022	Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Non-uniformities in the Development of Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals". *Proceedings of BUCLD 46.*
2021	**Aravind, Athulya**."Locality in Malayalam Anaphor Binding." *Proceedings of WCCFL 29.*
2021	Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. "More than the sum of its parts: Acquiring semantically complex quantifiers". *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Vol. 43. No. 43.*
2017	**Aravind, Athulya.** "A-bar interactions and feature geometries." In Halpert, C., Kotek, H. and van Urk, C. (*Eds.*) *A Pesky Set: Papers for David Pesetsky.*
2017	**Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Against a unified treatment of obligatory presupposition effects." *Proceedings of SALT 27.*
2017	**Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Factivity and at-issueness in the acquisition of *forget* and *remember*." *Proceedings of BUCLD 41.*
2017	Boyce, Veronica*, **Athulya Aravind**, and Martin Hackl. "Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." *Proceedings of BUCLD 41.*
2016	**Aravind, Athulya**, Eva Freedman, Martin Hackl and Ken Wexler. "Subject-object asymmetries in the acquisition of clefts." *Proceedings of BUCLD 40.*
2016	**Aravind, Athulya**. "Minimality and *wh*-licensing in Malayalam." *Proceedings of NELS 46.*

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

INVITED

2025	"Undiscoverable Meanings". Computational Cognition Group,Yale University, December 4 2025.
2025	"Non-canonical agreement in early grammars". Linguistics Colloquium, CUNY Graduate Center, October 16, 2025.
2025	"Non-canonical agreement in early grammars". Linguistics Colloquium, Yale University, September 15, 2025.
2025	"Language Acquisition." GLOWing Lecture Series, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (virtual), May 16, 2025.
2025	"Under-agreement in early grammars." ZAS Berlin, January 14, 2025.
2024	"Picturing language: a language blueprint." Catalyst Conversations, Cambridge, MA. April 25, 2024.
2024	"Malayalam long-distance anaphor *taan*: a null theory." Keynote, 14th Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages Conference, Stony Brook University, April 6, 2024.

2024	"Presuppositions: from theoretical idealization to mental representation." Cognitive Science of Language Colloquium, Yale University, March 29, 2024.
2023	"Non-canonical agreement in early grammars". Linguistics Colloquium, University of Southern California, January 22, 2024.
2023	"Non-canonical agreement in early grammars". Linguistics Colloquium, Rutgers University, October 20, 2023.
2022	"Alternatives in word learning". Linguistics Colloquium, Tel Aviv University, December 2, 2022.
2022	"Alternatives in word learning". Language and Cognition Talk Series, Harvard University, October 11, 2022.
2022	"Presupposition and accommodation in child language". Linguistics Colloquium, UCLA, May 20, 2022.
2022	"Asymmetries in presupposition projection". Linguistics Colloquium, University of Maryland, College Park, April 8, 2022.
2021	"Pragmatics in quantifier acquisition". Linguistics Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 28, 2021.
2020	"Presupposition and accommodation in child language". LingLangLunch, Brown University, October 28, 2020.
2020	"Presupposition and accommodation in child language". Linguistics Colloquium, New York University, October 16, 2020.
2018	"Knowing when to presuppose". Colloquium, McMaster University, October 26, 2018.
2018	"Context-sensitivity and count nouns: the view from child language." Linguistics Colloquium, Boston University, October 6, 2018.
2018	"Principles of presupposition in development." MIT, March 8, 2018.
2018	"Principles of presupposition: The view from child language." McGill University, January 26, 2018.
2017	"Reflexes of successive cyclicity in Mongolian DPs." SUSSURUS, UMass, Amherst, December 1, 2017.
2016	"A/A-bar distinction in development: the view from child clefts." The Conference in Honor of Ken Wexler, April 30, 2016.

REFEREED

2025	Brody, Gabor, **Athulya Aravind**[†] and Roman Fieman[†]. "Infants' mutual exclusivity expectations are modulated by information structure". Talk presented at BUCLD 50, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2024	Janek Guerreni*, Kate Kinnaird* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Generalizations in child language: implicit and explicit adverbial quantification". Poster presented at BUCLD 49, Boston University, Boston, MA.

2024	Premvanti Patel*, Kristen Syrett and **Athulya Aravind**. "Using bounds set by modals to investigate the status of partial objects and count nouns". Poster presented at ELM 3, University of Pennsylvania, PA.
2023	Gotowki, Megan* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Non-Canonical Agreement in Early Grammar". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2023	**Athulya Aravind** and Gotowki, Megan*. "Children's Interpretations of Referential and Expletive *It*". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2023	New, Keely*, Premvanti Patel* and **Athulya Aravind**. "How toddlers answer multiple *wh*-questions". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2023	Roversi, Giovanni*, Kate Kinnaird* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Acquisition of *ABA paradigms in a child Artificial Language Learning Experiment". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2022	Brody, Gabor, Roman Fieman[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "2-year-olds derive mutual exclusivity inferences from contrastive focus". Talk presented at BUCLD 47, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2022	Staniszewski, Frank*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Overly strong interpretations of modal verbs in child language". Poster presented at BUCLD 47, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2022	Mortier, Adele*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Two kinds of adjective-infinitives in acquisition". Talk presented at AMLaP 2022, University of York, United Kingdom.
2022	Brody, Gabor, Roman Fieman[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "2-year-olds derive mutual exclusivity inferences from contrastive focus". Talk presented at ELM 2, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
2021	Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Non-uniformities in the Development of Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals". Talk presented at BUCLD 46, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2021	Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Asymmetry in Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals: Evidence from Acquisition". Talk presented at NELS 52, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
2021	Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. "More than the sum of its parts: Acquiring semantically complex quantifiers". Poster presented at CogSci 2021, Vienna.

2021	**Aravind, Athulya**. "Locality in Malayalam Anaphor Binding". Poster presented at WCCFL 39, University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ.
2020	Torma, Cindy[*], Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. Decomposing *both*" Talk presented at BUCLD 45, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2020	**Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "*Maximize Presupposition!* in development". Talk presented at BUCLD 45, Boston University, Boston, MA.
2017	**Aravind, Athulya**[†] and Kristen Syrett[†]. "Investigating Context Sensitivity and Vagueness in Nominals in Child and Adult Language." Poster presented at NELS 48, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.
2017	**Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Against a unified treatment of obligatory presupposition effects." Talk presented at SALT 27, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
2016	**Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Factivity and at-issueness in the acquisition of *forget* and *remember*." Talk presented at BUCLD 41, Boston University, Boston MA.
2016	Veronica Boyce[*], **Athulya Aravind** and Martin Hackl. "Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." Talk presented at BUCLD 41, Boston University, Boston MA.

TEACHING

<u>YALE UNIVERSITY</u>

LING 1160/CGSC 2160/PSYC 1316: Cognitive Science of Language, Spring 2026

LING/CGSC/PSYC 3610: Language Acquisition, Fall 2025

<u>MIT</u>

24.979: Topics in Semantics: Experimental Semantics (grad), Spring 2025 (w/ Kathryn Davidson)

24.904: Language Acquisition (undergrad), Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025

24.949: Language Acquisition (grad), Fall 2019 (w/ Martin Hackl), Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Fall 2024

24.952: Advanced Syntax (grad), Spring 2021, Spring 2022 (w/ David Pesetsky), Spring 2024 (w/ David Pesetsky)

24.956: Topics in Syntax (grad), Fall 2019 (w/ David Pesetsky)

24.921: Workshop on Professional Skills in Linguistics (grad), Summer 2020 (w/ David Pesetsky).

24.S94, Linguistics for Researchers in Computer Science, Cognitive Science, and Related Fields, Fall 2019 (w/ Adam Albright, Martin Hackl and David Pesetsky)

<u>SUMMER SCHOOLS</u>

Topics in Language Acquisition, CreteLing Summer School. Summer 2026 (w/ Roman Feiman)

Language Acquisition: Developmental issues in Semantics, CreteLing Summer School. Summer 2024 (w/ Roman Feiman)

Acquiring word meanings, LSA Summer Institute. Summer 2023 (w/ Kristen Syrett)

ADVISING

POST-DOCTORAL ADVISING

2025 -	Imane Bou-Saboun, Yale University
2025 -	Magdalena Roszkowski, Yale University
2023 - 2024	Daniel Asherov, MIT
2023	Vincent Rouillard, MIT
2022 - 2023	Megan Gotowski, MIT

POSTGRAD/LAB MANAGER ADVISING

2023 -	Premvanti Patel, Yale University/MIT
2022 - 2025	Kate Kinnaird, MIT
2021 - 2023	Rachel Stacey MIT
2019 - 2021	Cindy Torma, MIT

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE (CO-)CHAIR

2025	Adele Mortier. *Oddness under discussion.* MIT
2025	Yash Sinha. *Plurals of politeness and the morphosyntax of number.* MIT
2022	Sherry Chen. *Asymmetries in Presupposition Projection: Processing & Acquisition.* MIT
2022	Frank Staniszewski. *Modality and Time in Logical Context.* MIT

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

2026	Keely New. TBD. MIT
2025	Giovani Roversi. *Locality: a case study from Äiwoo.* MIT

EXTERNAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

2025	Andrew Morrison. Linguistics, Macquarie University
2025	Magdalena Roszkowski. Cognitive Science, Central European University

MASTERS THESIS ADVISOR

2024   Karissa Sanchez. *Gradability in Count Nouns: Categorizing and Counting Part and Whole Objects in Children and Adults*. MIT

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISOR

2026   Daniela Pena. TBD. Yale University

PRE-DISSERTATION GRADUATE ADVISING

Yale University

Qualifying paper committee member: Clara Terlaak, Miranda Zhu

Pre-dissertation general advising: María Teresa Borneo, Manasvi Chaturvedi, Yitong Luo, Alessandra Pintado-Urbanc, Clara Terlaak, Miranda Zhu

MIT

Generals paper committee member: Agnes Bi, Boer Fu, Eunsun Jou, Yeonjun Kim, Haoming Li, Keely New, Giovanni Roversi, Cynthia Zhong

Pre-dissertation general advising: Johanna Alstott, Yurika Anouki, Filipe Hisao Kobayashi, Katie Martin, Chelsea Tang, Jad Wehbe, Danfeng Wu

External

Pre-dissertation general advising: Janek Guerrini (ENS), Le'an Luo (Tsinghua University), Yourdanis Sedarous (University of Michigan), Christine Soh (University of Pennsylvania), Simge Topaloglu (Harvard)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Yale University

Rowan Cain (2025–), Jaelyn Jackson (2026–), Ella Moran (2025–), Payton Pelletier (2025–), Maya Petterson (2025–)

MIT

Megan Allen (2021), Toluwalase Asade (2020), Suji Balfe (2020), Katherine Chan (2020–2021), Benjamin Dever-Mendenhall (2023), KD Dretler (2019–2020), Gracie Evans (2022–2023), Emily Fang (2020), Gabriella Garcia (2021), Annick Gills (2023), Eva Goldie (2021), Stella Ho (2020), Olivia Honeycutt (2022–2023), Michika Ito (2022), Denley Kofoed (2024), Pauline LeGrand (2021), Kelsey Lin (2022–2023), Hsi-Er Liu (2023–2024), Jasmine Lunia (2023), Mercy Oladipo (2020), David Phan (2024), Coco Plasencia (2021), Sofia Pronina (2023), Loren Rubio (2020–2022), Abigail Sandy (2022), Tara Sarma (2021), Annika Schafer (2021), Ayato Shigihara (2021–2022), Vivian Tan (2022), Nerine Uyanik (2023), Sanaa Walker (2021), Elaine Wang (2020–2022), Jennifer Yu (2021–2022), Alicia Zhang (2023), Tina Zhang (2023), Ann Zhao (2023)

SERVICE

EDITORSHIPS/EDITORIAL BOARDS

2025 -	Associate Editor, *Language Acquisition*
2024 -	Associate Editor, *Linguistics and Philosophy*
2020 -	Editorial Board Member, *Semantics and Pragmatics*

JOURNAL REVIEWING (AD-HOC)

Acta Linguistica Academica, Cognition, First Language, Glossa, Glossa Psycholinguistics, Isogloss, Journal of Child Language, Journal of Pragmatics, Language, Languages, Language Acquisition, Language Learning, Language Learning and Development, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Natural Language Semantics, Open Generative Syntax, Semantics and Pragmatics.

GRANT REVIEWING (AD-HOC)

National Science Foundation

CONFERENCE REVIEWING

Regularly: BUCLD, ELM, FASAL, GLOW, NELS, SALT, WCCFL
On occasion: CUNY, Sinn und Bedeutung, CLS, GALANA

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ORGANIZING

2025	Organizer, Language Acquisition Workshop of New England, Yale University
2024	Faculty co-organizer, North East Linguistics Society 54, MIT
2023	Co-organizer (with Kristen Syrett), Workshop on Gradability and Measurement Across Domains, Rutgers University
2019	Co-organizer (with Martin Hackl), Language Acquisition Workshop of New England, MIT

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

2025 -	Cognitive Science Program Executive Committee, Yale University
2024	COD Faculty advisor, MIT
2023	Panelist, SHASS Faculty Panel on Research Statements, MIT
2017	Graduate Student Panelist, The Institutional Intelligence Forum (i-Squared), MIT

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2025 -	Member, Historical Linguistics Lecturer Search Committee, Yale University
2024	Organizer, Random Linguistics Dinners, MIT
2023	Member, Computational Linguistics Lecturer Search Committee, MIT
2021-2022	Member, Computational Linguistics Postdoc Search Committee, MIT

| *2019 -* | Departmental Liason, MIT Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects (COUHES) |
| *2019 -* | Member, Student Grants Committee |

SOCIETIES

| *2019 -* | Cognitive Science Society |
| *2011 -* | Linguistic Society of America |