

# Pablo Andrés Contreras Kallens

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## Education

- 2018 - 2023 **Ph. D., Department of Psychology, Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY 14850.  
Advisor: Morten H. Christiansen
- 2018 - 2021 **M. A., Department of Psychology, Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY 14850.  
Advisor: Morten H. Christiansen
- 2016 - 2018 **Graduate Studies, Department of Cognitive and Information Sciences, University of California, Merced**.  
Advisor: Rick Dale
- 2013 - 2016 **M. A. in Philosophy, Universidad de Chile**, Santiago, Chile, Summa cum Laude.  
Dissertation: *The Ghost's Machine. Unit of analysis in cognitive science* [In Spanish]
- 2008 - 2012 **B. A. in Philosophy, Universidad de Chile**, Santiago, Chile, Summa cum Laude.  
Dissertation: *Direct Perception. The ecological approach as an alternative to cognitivism in perception* [In Spanish]

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## Fellowships and Awards

- 2021 **Department of Psychology, Graduate Teaching Award**.
- 2018 - Pres **Sage Fellow, Cornell University**.  
Funding for Ph. D. studies
- 2016 - 2020 **Fulbright Foreign Student Program for Doctorate Studies, Fulbright Commission Chile**.  
Sponsorship for Ph. D. Studies
- 2013 - 2015 **Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Chile, CONICYT**.  
Funding for M. A. studies

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## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Under Revision **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Monaghan, P., Christiansen, M.H. “Words for actions and words for things sound different in languages across the world.”
- 2023 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Kristensen-McLachlan, R.D., Christiansen, M.H. “Large Language Models demonstrate the potential of statistical learning in language.”. *Cognitive Science*, 47(3), e13256.
- 2023 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Yoshimi, J. “A bibliometric analysis of the phenomenology literature.”. In *Horizons of Phenomenology: Essays on the State of the Field and its Applications*. Springer.
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Hicks, D. J., Jennings, C. D. “Networks in philosophy: Social networks and employment in academic philosophy”. *Metaphilosophy* 53(5), 653-684.
- 2022 Christiansen, M. H., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Trecca, F. “We Need a Comparative Approach to Language Acquisition: A commentary on Kidd and Garcia”. *First Language* 42(6), 751-755.
- 2022 Dale, R., **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Dissipation, Integration and Practical Pluralism: The Case of Cognitive Science”. In M. Belanger, P. Potvin, S. Horst, E. Mortimer and A. Shtulman (Eds.), *Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Representational Pluralism* (pp. 250-269). Routledge.
- 2022 Christiansen, M. H., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Trecca, F. “Toward a Comparative Approach to Language Acquisition”. *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 31(2), 131-138.
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Dale, R., Christiansen, M. H. “Quantifying Interdisciplinarity in Cognitive Science and Beyond” . *Topics in Cognitive Science* 14, 634–645, doi: 10.1111/tops.12609
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Christiansen, M. H. “Models of Language and Multiword Expressions”. *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* 5:781962. doi: 10.3389/frai.2022.781962
- 2019 Smaldino, P., Turner, M., **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Open science and modified funding lotteries can impede the natural selection of bad science”. *Royal Society Open Science* 6 (7), 190194

- 2018 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Christiansen, M. H., & Dale, R. “Linguistic diversity and individual variation: A comment of ‘Rethinking foundations of language from a multidisciplinary perspective’ by T. Gong et al”. *Physics of Life Reviews* 26, 164-166.
- 2018 **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Dale, R. & Smaldino, P. “Cultural Evolution of Categorization”. *Cognitive Systems Research* 52, 765:774.
- 2018 Dale, R., Galati, A., Alviar, C., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Ramirez-Aristizabal, A., Tabatabaeian, M., Vinson, D. W. “Interacting Timescales in Perspective-Taking”. *Frontiers in Psychology* 9, 1278.
- 2018 **Contreras Kallens, P.** & Dale, R. “Exploratory mapping of theoretical landscapes through word use in abstracts”. *Scientometrics* 116(3), 1641-1674.
- 2014 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Palabra y Concepto: acercamiento a un eliminativismo conceptual en ciencia cognitiva”. *Revista Colombiana de Filosofía de la Ciencia* 14 29:139-16.

## Science Communication

- 2022, October Christiansen, M. H., **Contreras Kallens, P.** “AI is changing scientists’ understanding of language learning - and raising questions about an innate grammar”. *The Conversation*.

## Technical Reports

### Academic placement in philosophy

Carried out for the Academic Placement Data and Analysis Group. Results featured in *Daily Nous*.

- 2017 Dicey-Jennings, C., Cobb, P., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Kyrilov, A. “Academic Placement Data and Analysis: 2017 Final Report”. Available [here](#).
- 2017 Dicey-Jennings, C., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, & Vlasits, J. “The Philosophical Gourmet Report and Placement”. Available [here](#).

### Higher education reform in Chile

This is a series of analyses of the reforms to higher education put forward by the Chilean government during 2016. Written as part of the research work done for the *Universidad de Chile Student Union (FECH) Study Center*, **CEFECH**, along with fellow director Fernando Carvallo Arrau. They are all available at my personal website. The results of these reports were widely reported in the media. Fernando Carvallo also presented them to the Chilean Congress in August 8th, 2016.

- 2016 Carvallo Arrau, F. & **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Minuta de analisis. Gratuidad 2016”
- 2016 **Contreras Kallens, P.** & Carvallo Arrau, F. “Minuta de Analisis de la Reforma a la Educacion Superior Parte I: Educacion de mercado y derechos sociales”
- 2016 Carvallo Arrau, F., **Contreras Kallens, P.**, Gallegos Vallejos, T., & López Orellana, D. “Minuta de analisis proyecto de ley de Educacion Superior Parte II. La ‘Reforma’: Continuidad y Perfeccionamiento”

## Invited talks

Titles of presentations given in Spanish are presented along with a translation in square brackets and italics. Only first authored presentations are included.

- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P. & M. H. Christiansen** “AI Poetry and Human Language”. *Invited AI seminar delivered to the Department of Computer, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “When Large Language Models Write Poetry”. *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Information Sciences.*
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Diversidad lingüística, uso y adquisición del lenguaje” Universidad católica de la Santísima Concepción
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Metaciencia computacional: El caso de la ciencia cognitiva” [*Computational metascience: The case of cognitive science*]. *Instituto de Filosofía y Ciencias de la Complejidad - IFICC, Chile.*
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Evidence of sound-meaning cues in a typologically and genealogically diverse dataset of two hundred languages”. *Palacky University, Department of General Linguistics, Czech Republic.*

- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Doing metascience computationally”. *ASU Machine Learning Days 2022*, Arizona State University.

## Selected Presentations

Titles of presentations given in Spanish are presented along with a translation in square brackets and italics. Only first authored presentations are included.

- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P., Christiansen, M. H., & Monaghan, P.** “Evidence of sound-meaning cues in a typologically and genealogically diverse dataset of two hundred languages”. Presentation. *Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning X-PPL, 2022*.
- 2022 **Contreras Kallens, P., Christiansen, M. H., & Monaghan, P.** “Sound-meaning patterns useful for learning available in languages from over fifty families”. Poster. *AMLaP 2022*. Online presentation.
- 2020 **Contreras Kallens, P. & Christiansen, M. H.** “Phonological patterns distinguish words for actions and things in typologically diverse languages”. Talk. *Words in The World Conference 2020*. Online conference. Abstract available in the published proceedings.
- 2020 **Contreras Kallens, P. & Christiansen, M. H.** “Phonological cues to semantic class membership across hundreds of languages”. Poster. *Evolution of Language 13*. In-person meeting cancelled because of COVID-19 Epidemic. Summary available in the published Proceedings.
- 2017 **Contreras Kallens, P. & Dale, R.** “Mapping the Theories of Cognitive Science Using LSA”. Poster. *Annual Meeting of the Society for Computers in Psychology, Vancouver, Canada*.
- 2015 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Una perspectiva metateórica para la explicación no individualista de la cognición” [*A metatheoretical view of non-individualistic explanation of cognition*]. Talk. “Aproximaciones experimentales a la Interacción Social” symposium, *Instituto de Sistemas Complejos de Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile*.

- 2014 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Perspectivas teoricas para la explicacion no individualista de la cognicion” [*Theoretical views for the non-individualistic explanation of cognition*]. Talk. IV Workshop on Philosophy and Cognitive Science, *Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Filosófico (SADAF)*, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2014 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Un lugar para el individualismo en la ciencia cognitiva” [*A role for individualism in cognitive science*]. Talk. V Coloquio Lenguaje y Cognición, *Universidad de Concepción*, Concepción, Chile.
- 2012 **Contreras Kallens, P.** “Eliminativismo conceptual: Acercamiento desde la externalizacion sensoriomotora y lingüística” [*Concept eliminativism: an approach from sensorimotor and linguistic externalization*]. Talk. III Workshop in Philosophy and Cognitive Science, *Sociedad Argentina de Análisis Filosófico*, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## Research Positions

- 2021 - 2022 **Research Assistant**, *Cornell University*.  
Working in a New Frontiers grant for professors Morten H. Christiansen and Laurent Dubreuil.
- 2017 - 2018 **Graduate Student Researcher**, *University of California, Merced*.  
Working on an agent based model of the effects of different funding schemes for science for professor Paul Smaldino.
- 2017 - 2020 **Quantitative Measures Advisor**, *Academic Placement Data and Analysis Group*, [placementdata.com/about/](http://placementdata.com/about/).  
Work in developing surveys and analyzing data regarding academic placement and other dimensions of graduate studies at the Academic Placement Data and Analysis project under professor Carolyn Dicey Jennings
- 2016 **Head researcher**, *Universidad de Chile Student Union (FECH)*.  
At the Student Union’s Study Center, CEFECH (*Centro de Estudios de la Federación de Estudiantes de la Universidad de Chile*). Worked writing and presenting research on educational policy. Helped coordinate the study groups.
- 2013 - 2015 **Graduate Dissertation Researcher**, *Universidad de Chile*.  
Took part of professor Manuel Rodriguez’s research grant, *The principle of compositionality in the light of the debates about the relationship between mind and language: a problem of choice of cognitive architecture*.

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## Teaching

### Teaching Assistantships

- Spring 2023 **Psychology of Language**, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York.  
Morten H. Christiansen
- Spring 2021 **Computational Psychology**, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York.  
Shimon Edelman
- Fall 2020 **Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience**, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York.  
Tim Devoogd
- Spring 2020 **Developmental Psychology**, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York.  
Michael Goldstein
- Fall 2018 **Applied Perception**, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York.  
David Field
- Spring 2017 **Free Will**, *University of California, Merced*, Merced, California.  
Carolyn Dicey-Jennings
- Fall 2017 **Introduction to Cognitive Science**, *University of California, Merced*, Merced, California.  
Rick Dale
- Fall 2013, 2014, 2015 **Epistemology**, *Universidad de Chile*, Santiago, Chile.  
Guido Vallejos, Rodrigo González, Manuel Rodríguez
- Fall 2015 **Introduction to Philosophy**, *Universidad de Chile*, Santiago, Chile.  
Manuel Rodríguez, Claudia Gutiérrez, María José López

### Course Design

- 2014 - 2016 **Epistemology**, *UNIACC*, Santiago, Chile.  
Course Designer and Online Tutor, Psychology Department

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## Service

### Ad-hoc reviewer

Cognitive Science  
Eidos  
Language Learning  
Synthese

Límite  
Cognitive Processing

### Editorial

- 2019 - Present **Editorial committee and web designer.** *Revista ROSA* (<http://www.revistarosa.cl/>)
- 2017 - 2019 **International editor.** *Cuadernos de Coyuntura* (<http://www.nodoxxi.cl/centro-de-estudios/>)
- 2017 **Inaugural editor.** *Fulcro*

### Organizing

- 2017 - 2018 **Graduate Delegate**, *University of California, Merced*.  
Delegate of the Cognitive and Information Sciences to the Graduate Student Association's Delegate Assembly.
- 2013 - 2015 **Representative (different levels)**, *Universidad de Chile Student Union (FECH)*.  
Representative for graduate students at different levels, including Graduate Student Delegate for the entire population of graduate students of the Universidad de Chile.

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### Affiliations

Member of the **Cognitive Science of Language Lab** at Cornell University.  
Director: Morten H. Christiansen.

Member of the Co-Mind Lab at the University of California, Los Angeles.  
Director: Rick Dale.

Member of the **Cognitive Science Society**

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### Skills

R	Advanced
Python	Intermediate
Java	Intermediate
Julia	Intermediate

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### Languages

Spanish	Native
English	Fluent