

Dylan Bumford

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EMPLOYMENT

2023– Associate Professor
University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Linguistics
2017– Assistant Professor
University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Linguistics

EDUCATION

2017 Ph.D. Linguistics, New York University
Dissertation: Split-scope effects in definite descriptions
Chair: Chris Barker
2014–15 Visiting Researcher, Stanford University
2010 B.S. Psychology, University of Texas
2010 B.A. Mathematics, Linguistics, and Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, University of Texas

BOOKS

To appear Effect-driven interpretation: Functors for natural language composition.
With Simon Charlow.
Cambridge University Press.

ARTICLES

Subm. Dynamic semantics with static types.
With Simon Charlow.
2022 Polymorphic distributivity.
Natural Language Semantics 30(3), 239–268.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11050-022-09195-5>
2022 Composition under distributive natural transformations: Or, When Predicate Abstraction is impossible.
Journal of Logic, Language, and Information 31(3), 287–307.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10849-022-09361-2>

- 2022 Negative Polarity Items in definite superlatives.
With Yael Sharvit.
Linguistic Inquiry 53(2), 255–293.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00409
- 2021 Rationalizing Evaluativity.
With Jessica Rett.
Sinn und Bedeutung 25, 187–204.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.18148/sub/2021.v25io.931>
- 2019 Donkeys under discussion.
With Lucas Champollion and Robert Henderson.
Semantics & Pragmatics 12(1), 1–50.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/sp.12.1>
- 2018 Binding into superlative descriptions.
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 28, 325–344.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/salt.v28io.4412>
- 2017 Parsing with Dynamic Continuized CCG.
With Michael White, Jordan Needle, and Simon Charlow.
13th International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammar and Related Formalisms, 71–83.
<http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W17-6208>
- 2017 Split-scope definites: Relative superlatives and Haddock descriptions.
Linguistics & Philosophy 40(6), 549–93.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10988-017-9210-2>
- 2015 Incremental quantification and the dynamics of pair-list phenomena.
Semantics & Pragmatics 8(9), 1–70.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/sp.8.9>
- 2015 A cross-linguistic study of the non-at-issueness of exhaustive inferences.
With Emilie Destruel, Dan Velleman, Edgar Onea, Jingyang Xue, and David Beaver.
In Florian Schwarz (ed.) *Experimental Perspectives on Presuppositions*. Springer, Dordrecht.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-07980-6_6
- 2014 Universal quantification as iterated dynamic conjunction.
19th Amsterdam Colloquium, 67–74.
http://www.illc.uva.nl/AC/AC2013/uploaded_files/inlineitem/09_Bumford.pdf
- 2013 Association with distributivity and the problem of multiple licensors for singular *different*.
With Chris Barker.
Linguistics & Philosophy 36(5), 355–369.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10988-013-9139-z>

- 2012 It-clefts are IT (inquiry-terminating) constructions.
With Dan Velleman, David Beaver, Emilie Destruel, Edgar Onea, and Elizabeth Coppock.
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 22, 441–460.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3765/salt.v22io.2640>

PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Rationalizing evaluativity. *Sinn und Bedeutung*.
- 2020 Superlative updates. Invited talk, NYU.
- 2019 Superlative scope, comparison classes, and negative polarity. Invited colloquium, USC.
- 2019 Superlative scope, comparison classes, and negative polarity. Invited colloquium, UC Irvine.
- 2019 Superlative scope, comparison classes, and negative polarity. Invited colloquium, University of Arizona.
- 2018 Effectful composition in natural language. With Simon Charlow. Invited talk, *North American Summer School of Logic, Language, and Information*, CMU.
- 2018 Binding into superlative descriptions. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 28, MIT.
- 2017 Proofs as programs (and programs as proofs). Invited lecture, “Computational Semantics” graduate seminar (Simon Charlow, instructor), Rutgers University.
- 2017 Parsing with Dynamic Continuated CCG. With Michael White, Jordan Needle, and Simon Charlow. *13th International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammar and Related Formalisms*, Umeå.
- 2017 Split-scope effects in definite descriptions. Invited colloquium, Boston University.
- 2017 Split-scope effects in definite descriptions. Invited colloquium, UCLA.
- 2016 Polyadicity in descriptions. Invited talk, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2016 Monadic dynamic semantics: Side effects and scope. With Simon Charlow. *Natural Language and Computer Science* 4, Columbia University.
- 2016 The rabbit in the hat is back: Definites with joint uniqueness presuppositions. With Lucas Champollion and Linmin Zhang. *Definiteness Across Languages*, UNAM.
- 2016 Decomposing definiteness: Effects of delayed quantification in descriptions. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 26, UT Austin.
- 2016 Split-scope definites. Invited talk, Queen Mary University.
- 2015 Temporal modification without pronouns. Invited talk, NYU Continuations Workshop.
- 2015 Adjectives of comparison. With Chris Barker. Invited talk, UCSC S-Circle.
- 2014 Incremental quantification and the dynamics of pair-list phenomena. Invited talk, Stanford Construction of Meaning Workshop.
- 2013 Universal quantification as iterated dynamic conjunction. *19th Amsterdam Colloquium*.
- 2013 Generalized association with distributivity. With Chris Barker. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 23, UCSC.

- 2012 It-clefts are IT (inquiry-terminating) constructions. With Dan Velleman, David Beaver, Emilie Destruel, Edgar Onea, and Elizabeth Coppock. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 22*, University of Chicago.
- 2011 “Yes, but...” — Exhaustivity and at-issueness across languages. With Dan Velleman, David Beaver, Emilie Destruel, and Edgar Onea. *Workshop on Projection, Entailment, Presupposition, and Assertion*.
- 2009 Effects of grammatical form and familiarity on metaphor comprehension. With Lauretta Reeves. *Metaphor Festival*, Stockholm.

TEACHING

Primary instructor at UCLA

- 2025 Ling 185c: Computational Semantics (undergraduate)
Ling 185a: Computational Linguistics I (undergraduate)
- 2024 Ling 185a: Computational Linguistics I (undergraduate)
Ling 222: Semantic Theory III, Dynamic Semantics (graduate)
Ling 165c: Semantics II (undergraduate)
Ling 200c: Semantic Theory I (graduate)
Ling 120c: Semantics I (undergraduate)
- 2023 Ling 208: Mathematical Structures in Language (graduate)
Ling 222: Semantic Theory III, Dynamic Semantics (graduate)
Ling 165c: Semantics II (undergraduate)
Ling 185a: Computational Linguistics I (undergraduate)
- 2022 Ling 252: English as a programming language (graduate seminar)
- 2021 Ling 200c: Semantic Theory I (graduate)
Ling 120c: Semantics I (undergraduate)
Ling 252: New issues for the semantics of questions (graduate seminar)
- 2020 Ling 200c: Semantic Theory I (graduate)
Ling 222: Semantic Theory III, Dynamic Semantics (graduate)
Ling 120c: Semantics I (undergraduate)
- 2019 Ling 200c: Semantic Theory I (graduate)
Ling 165c: Semantics II (undergraduate)
Ling 252: Relative clauses (graduate seminar)
- 2018 Ling 200c: Semantic Theory I (graduate)
Ling 180: Mathematical Structures in Language (undergraduate)
Ling 252: Definiteness and Degrees (graduate seminar)
Ling 165c: Semantic Theory II (graduate)
Ling 201c: Semantics II (undergraduate)
- 2017 Ling 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (undergraduate)

Primary instructor elsewhere

- 2025 Effectful composition in natural language semantics (North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information), co-taught with Simon Charlow
- 2022 Effectful composition in natural language semantics (European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information), co-taught with Simon Charlow
- 2015 Monads and Natural Language (European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information), co-taught with Chris Barker

Teaching assistant

- 2016 Introduction to Semantics (NYU, Chris Barker)
- 2015 Introduction to Semantics (NYU, Chris Barker)
- 2013 Language and Mind (NYU, Anna Szabolcsi and Brian McElree)
- 2013 Grammatical Analysis (NYU, Mark Baltin)
- 2009 Mind and Reason (UT, David Beaver)
- 2008 Punishment in Society (UT, Robert Pitman)

ADVISING

Faculty mentor

- 2022 Laurel Perkins, UCLA Linguistics

PhD dissertation chair

- ongoing Boram Kim, *Out of focus*
- ongoing Kalen Chang, *Semantics as a metric for strong generative capacity*
- 2020 Maayan Abenina-Adar, *Expressing ignorance with determiner phrases*

MA thesis chair

- 2024 Anand Abraham, *Donkey anaphora is complicated, but quantifiers don't have to be*
- 2022 Kalen Chang, *Restrictiveness and the scope of adjectives*

Committee member

- ongoing Christian Muxica, *In search of alternatives: Issues for retrieval in the comprehension of linguistic focus*, PhD
- ongoing Arthur Mateos, *Disjunction, plurality, and agreement*, PhD
- ongoing Huilei Wang, *Not All Quantifiers are Alike: Exceptional Behaviors of EVERY*, PhD
- 2023 Christian Muxica, *On the role of semantic priming in selecting contextually relevant focus-alternatives during comprehension*, MA
- 2022 Bethany Sturman, *The semantics of quotation intonation*, PhD

- 2022 Maura O’Leary, *The Evaluation Times of Nominal Predicates*, PhD
- 2021 Deborah Wong, *Wh-in situ sluicing in Minimalist Grammars*, PhD
- 2021 Yang Wang, *Regular languages extended with reduplication: Formal models, proofs and illustrations*, MA
- 2020 Iara Mantenuto, *Alternate Particles in San Sebastián del Monte Mixtec and Beyond*, PhD
- 2020 Richard Stockwell, *The contrast condition on ellipsis*, PhD
- 2020 Mia Teixeira, *Against Exclusion-Based Counterfactuality*, MA
- 2020 Phillip Barnett, *Arc-Eager Effects on Probabilistic Left-Corner Language Models*, MA
- 2019 Madeleine Booth, *Reconstruction and Resumptive Pronouns in Cairene Arabic*, MA

Research project supervisor

- 2023 Anand Abraham, *The formal learnability of meaning representations*, UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship
- 2023 Ian White, *Permutation Power in MGs and CCGs*, UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship
- 2022 Kalen Chang, *Nonrestrictive Adjective Modification and Not-At-Issue Meaning*, UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship

Other advising

- 2022 Pop-up mentor, North American Summer School of Logic, Language, and Information
- 2020 Florence Verity, *Implicatures in continuation-based dynamic semantics by reasoning in the context*, External examiner, ANU MPhil thesis
- 2019–20 Isabel Zhou, CollegeBoard AP Research Course, Expert Advisor

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2018 Dean’s Discretionary Fund, \$1,000
- 2013–16 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
 - 3-year grant covering tuition, research expenses, and living stipend
- 2013 NYU Curricular Development Challenge Fund (with Lucas Champollion, PI)
 - \$4,800 grant to develop pedagogical software for semantics courses
- 2011–16 Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship
 - 5-year funding package from NYU, including tuition and stipend
- 2011 George H. Mitchell Grand Prize for Academic Research
 - \$20,000 prize awarded to one UT undergraduate per year for thesis research

SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE

Journal reviewing

ongoing *Journal of Logic, Language, and Information; Natural Language & Linguistic Theory; Glossa; Linguistic Inquiry; Language; Synthese; Semantics & Pragmatics; Linguistics & Philosophy; Natural Language Semantics; Journal of Semantics; Journal of Language Modelling*

Conference reviewing

ongoing *Chicago Linguistic Society; Society for Computation in Linguistics; Computational and Experimental Explanations in Semantics and Pragmatics; Semantics and Philosophy in Europe; North East Linguistic Society; West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics; Semantics and Linguistic Theory; Sinn und Bedeutung; Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics; Amsterdam Colloquium*

Professional service

2022– Technology Coordinator, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*
2022–22 Co-organizer, *California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics 13*
2019– Steering Committee, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory*
2018–19 Co-organizer, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 29*
2017–18 Program Committee, *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 36*
2013–14 Program Committee, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 24*

Departmental service

2023–25 Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2022, 24–25 Teaching Evaluations Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2021 Climate Survey Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2021 Iranian Post-Doc Search Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2020–21 Visiting Students and Scholars Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2019–20 Computational Linguistics Job Search Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2019–20 Merit Review Committee, UCLA Linguistics
2018, 21 Linguistics and Computer Science Faculty Advisor, UCLA Linguistics
2018–20 Website Committee, UCLA Linguistics

University service

2024–27 Legislative Assembly, Dept of Linguistics Representative
2023 Holistic Evaluation of Teaching working group