

Dr. Elizabeth Pankratz

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Employment

from 2025	Lecturer in Psychology (Statistics) University of Edinburgh
2022–2025	Tutor University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language (incl. one guest lecture)– Statistics and Quantitative Methods (Bayesian) (incl. three guest lectures and lecture, tutorial, and assessment design)– LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories– Simulating Language– PPLS Skills Centre: Writing– PPLS Skills Centre: Statistics
2020–2021	Researcher (“Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin”) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, CRC 1412, Project A04

Education

2021–2025	PhD in Linguistics and English Language University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Thesis: <i>Segmentation, rule formation, and the emergence of generalisation</i>– Supervisors: Prof. Jennifer Culbertson and Prof. Simon Kirby
2019–2021	Master of Science in Cognitive Systems: Language, Learning, and Reasoning Universität Potsdam
2017–2019	Master of Arts in Linguistics Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
2013–2017	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Linguistics & German language and literature University of Alberta (with year abroad at the Freie Universität Berlin)
2012–2013	Certificate in Textile Arts Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College

Publications

Under review

- 2025 Sun, C., **Pankratz, E.**, & van Tiel, B. (Submitted February 11, 2025 to *Journal of Memory and Language*). Polarity and the online processing of scalar inferences.
- 2024 **Pankratz, E.**, Culbertson, J., & Kirby, S. (Submitted November 24, 2024 to *Open Mind*). Linguistic rule generalisation creates the same distributional structure that feeds it.

Journal papers

- 2024 **Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2024). Evaluating the relative importance of wordhood cues using statistical learning. *Cognitive Science*, 48(3), e13429. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13429>
- 2023 Pescuma, V. N., Serova, D., Lukassek, J., Sauermann, A., Schäfer, R., Adli, A., Bildhauer, F., Egg, M., Hülk, K., Ito, A., Jannedy, S., Kordonio, V., Kuehnast, M., Kutscher, S., Lange, R., Lehmann, N., Liu, M., Lütke, B., Maquate, K., ... Knoeferle, P. (2023). Situating language register across the ages, languages, modalities, and cultural aspects: Evidence from complementary methods. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.964658>
- 2022 **Pankratz, E.**, Arppe, A., & Lachler, J. (2022). Low hanging fruit and the Boasian trilogy in digital lexicography of morphologically rich languages: Lessons from a survey of Indigenous language resources in Canada. *Nordlyd*, 46(1), 193–204. <https://doi.org/10.7557/12.6441>

- 2021 **Pankratz, E.**, & van Tiel, B. (2021). The role of relevance for scalar diversity: A usage-based approach. *Language and Cognition*, 13(4), 562–594. <https://doi.org/https://www.doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2021.13>
- van Tiel, B., & **Pankratz, E.** (2021). Adjectival polarity and the processing of scalar inferences. *Glossa*, 6(1), 32. 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.1457>
- 2019 van Tiel, B., **Pankratz, E.**, & Sun, C. (2019). Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 105, 93–107. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2018.12.002>
- 2018 Schäfer, R., & **Pankratz, E.** (2018). The plural interpretability of German linking elements. *Morphology*, 28(4), 325–358. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11525-018-9331-5>

Conference proceedings

- 2024 **Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2024). The key property of frequency distributions that facilitates linguistic rule generalisation is long-tailedness. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 6433.
- Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2024). Why are languages skewed? A Bayesian account for how skew and type count, but not entropy, facilitate rule generalisation. *Proceedings of Evolang XV*, 1–3.
- 2023 Keogh, A., **Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2023). Does production facilitate learning morphosyntactic generalisations? *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 45, 3919.
- 2021 **Pankratz, E.**, Yadav, H., Smith, G., & Vasishth, S. (2021). Statistical properties of the speed-accuracy trade-off (SAT) paradigm in sentence processing. *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 43, 2176–2182.
- Pankratz, E.** (2021). qxoRef 1.0: A coreference corpus and mention-pair baseline for coreference resolution in Conchucos Quechua. *Proceedings of the First Workshop on Natural Language Processing for Indigenous Languages of the Americas*, 1–9.
- 2019 van Tiel, B., **Pankratz, E.**, Marty, P., & Sun, C. (2019). Scalar inferences and cognitive load. *Proceedings of Sinn Und Bedeutung 23*, 427–441.
- 2017 Lachler, J., & **Pankratz, E.** (2017). Moving towards value-added digital repatriation in lexicography for Indigenous languages in Canada. In N. Ostler, V. Ferreira, & C. Moseley (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 21st FEL Conference: Communities in Control: Learning tools and strategies for multilingual endangered language communities* (pp. 107–114).

Resources

- 2021 **qxoRef 1.0: A coreference corpus for Conchucos Quechua**
<https://github.com/epankratz/qxoRef>

Presentations

Invited

- 2025 **Pankratz, E.** (2025). *A Bayesian mechanism for rule generalisation in language*. Keynote at Bayes in Bayonne 2025.
- Pankratz, E.** (2025). *Simulation as a tool for formalising null hypotheses in cognitive scientific research*. University of Edinburgh CogSciCon.
- 2021 **Pankratz, E.** (2021). *An entropy-based approach to measuring morphological productivity*. Humboldt-Universität Colloquium for Corpus Linguistics.
- Pankratz, E.** (2021). *Coreference resolution for Conchucos Quechua*. Freie Universität Berlin Romanistisches Forschungskolloquium.

Talks

- 2024 **Pankratz, E.** (2024). *Explicit rule learning prompts overhypothesis formation, while implicit distributional learning does not*. Centre for Language Evolution talk series.
- Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2024). *Why are languages skewed? A Bayesian account for how skew and type count, but not entropy, facilitate rule generalisation*. Evolang XV.
- Pankratz, E.** (2024). *Linguistic rule generalisation produces the same distributional structure that feeds it*. Centre for Language Evolution talk series.
- 2022 **Pankratz, E.** (2022). *Do entropy, type count, and distribution shape influence the learning of non-adjacent dependencies?* Centre for Language Evolution Talk Series.

- Pankratz, E.**, von der Malsburg, T., & Vasishth, S. (2022). *An entropy-based approach to measuring morphological productivity*. How productive is derivational morphology? (Workshop at the 44th annual DGfS conference).
- 2021 Sun, C., **Pankratz, E.**, & van Tiel, B. (2021). *Polarity modulates the processing cost of scalar implicatures*. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP 2021).
- Bildhauer, F., **Pankratz, E.**, & Schäfer, R. (2021). *Corpora, inference, and models of register distributions*. Contrastive corpus methodology for language modeling and analysis (Workshop at the 43rd annual DGfS conference).
- Lüdeling, A., Schäfer, R., **Pankratz, E.**, Krause, T., Bildhauer, F., & Golcher, F. (2021). *What is a good corpus?* Humboldt-Universität Register Colloquium (CRC 1412).
- Hübener, C., & **Pankratz, E.** (2021). *Verfügungswandel von Determinativ- und Rektionskomposita – ein Fall von Regularisierung?* Humboldt-Universität Colloquium for Corpus Linguistics.
- 2020 van Tiel, B., & **Pankratz, E.** (2020). *Adjectival polarity and the processing of scalar implicature*. Sinn und Bedeutung 25.
- van Tiel, B., & **Pankratz, E.** (2020). *Polarity in scalar inference processing*. Degree expressions and polarity effects (Workshop at Leibniz ZAS).
- 2019 **Pankratz, E.**, Lachler, J., & Arppe, A. (2019). *A survey of Indigenous language tools: The emergence of two lexicographical approaches among Indigenous languages of Canada*. 6th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC6).
- Pankratz, E.** (2019). *Derivational morphology in Early New High German*. Humboldt-Universität Colloquium for Corpus Linguistics.
- 2017 Lachler, J., & **Pankratz, E.** (2017). *Moving toward value-added digital repatriation in lexicography for Indigenous languages in Canada*. 21st FEL Conference: Communities in Control: Learning tools and strategies for multilingual endangered language communities.
- Pankratz, E.** (2017). *Language maintenance in a global world: Creating a middle ground for Plautdietsch in 21st-century Canada*. University of Alberta MLCS Undergraduate Conference.

Posters

- 2024 Keogh, A., & **Pankratz, E.** (2024). *Simulation as a tool for formalising null hypotheses in cognitive science research*. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2024). *The key property of frequency distributions that facilitates linguistic rule generalisation is long-tailedness*. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- 2023 Keogh, A., **Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2023). *Does production facilitate learning morphosyntactic generalisations?* Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Keogh, A., **Pankratz, E.**, Kirby, S., & Culbertson, J. (2023). *The role of production for morphosyntactic generalisation*. 77th Language Lunch at Edinburgh.
- 2021 **Pankratz, E.**, Yadav, H., Smith, G., & Vasishth, S. (2021). *Statistical properties of the speed-accuracy trade-off (SAT) paradigm in sentence processing*. Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Pankratz, E.** (2021). *qxoRef 1.0: A coreference corpus and mention-pair baseline for coreference resolution in Conchucos Quechua*. The First Workshop on NLP for Indigenous Languages of the Americas (AmericasNLP) at NAACL 2021.
- 2020 **Pankratz, E.**, & van Tiel, B. (2020). *Can usage of scalar adjectives predict scalar inference rates?* UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (UKCLC 2020).
- 2019 van Tiel, B., **Pankratz, E.**, & Sun, C. (2019). *Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences*. XPRAG 2019.
- 2018 van Tiel, B., **Pankratz, E.**, & Sun, C. (2018). *Processing scalar diversity*. Sinn und Bedeutung 23.

Dissertation supervision

- 2023 **Sigurd Farstad Iversen**
University of Edinburgh, MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition

Reviewing

For journals	Cognitive Science, Language and Cognition, Open Mind
For conferences	Evolang XV; CogSci 2022, 2023, 2025; First Language and Interaction Network event (LINK) 2022; Complexity and Register 2021 (CAR21); 12th Web as Corpus Workshop (WAC-XII)
For funders	Israel Science Foundation

Event organisation

2022–2025	Centre for Language Evolution talks Weekly hybrid talk series with 15+ attendees (University of Edinburgh)
2022	Linguistic Circle Biweekly hybrid talk series with 30+ attendees (University of Edinburgh)
2022	Edinburgh Lectures in Language Evolution (ELLE) 2022 Four-lecture hybrid talk series with hundreds of attendees (University of Edinburgh, June 2–23, 2022)
2021	Complexity and Register 2021 (CAR21) Hybrid workshop with 30+ attendees (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, November 19, 2021)
2019	XXII. Deutscher Hispanistentag Conference with 600+ attendees (Freie Universität Berlin, March 27–31, 2019)

Funding

2021–2025	ESRC-funded PhD Studentship Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
2021–2025	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
2019–2021	University Scholarship Potsdam (previously Deutschlandstipendium) Universität Potsdam
2017–2019	Konrad Adenauer Foundation Scholarship Program for International Students
2017	Undergraduate Research Initiative at the University of Alberta CAD 5000 funding for the summer research project <i>Digital lexicography of Canadian Indigenous languages</i> with Prof. Jordan Lachler and Prof. Antti Arppe

Awards, recognition, accreditation

2025	Associate Fellowship (AFHEA) Advance HE
2024	Nominated for Student Tutor of the Year University of Edinburgh
2021	Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction – Master's Level (CAD 15,000) Alberta Scholarships
2019	Featured as one of the LINGUIST List's Rising Stars Nominated by Dr. Roland Schäfer and Prof. Anke Lüdeling
2017	The Dr. John MacDonald Medal in Arts (CAD 1100) For best graduating mark in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta
2014–2017	Seven awards for academic achievement and extracurricular involvement (total CAD 14,200) University of Alberta

Outreach

2019 | **What it means to know a language**

Pop linguistics talk to 50+ attendees at the Pint of Science Festival 2019, Berlin

IT skills

Programming	Python, R, Stan
Statistical analysis	Bayesian methods, frequentist methods
Mark-up	L ^A T _E X, HTML, Rmarkdown, Quarto, xaringan
Version control	Git, GitHub
Experiments	jsPsych, Ibex Farm, Testable, Amazon Mechanical Turk, Prolific
Other software	Affinity suite, Adobe suite, Microsoft Office suite

Languages

English	First language
German	Fluent (C1)
French	Intermediate
BSL	Basic (A1)
Scottish Gaelic	Basic