

Dr. Elizabeth Pankratz

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elizabethpankratz.github.io

Education

2021–2025	PhD in Linguistics and English Language University of Edinburgh, Scotland <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, Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Thesis: <i>Morphological productivity: A Bayesian modelling approach</i>– Supervisors: Prof. Shravan Vasishth and Dr. Titus von der Malsburg
2017–2019	Master of Arts in Linguistics Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Thesis: <i>A study of diachronic changes in the productivity of several Early New High German derivational morphemes using the RIDGES corpus</i>– Supervisor: Prof. Anke Lüdeling
2013–2017	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Linguistics & German language and literature University of Alberta, Canada (with year abroad at the Freie Universität Berlin) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– First Class Honours, best of graduating class– Thesis: <i>Effects of plural semantics on linking element alternation in German nominal compounds</i>– Supervisors: Prof. Jennifer Dailey-O’Cain and Prof. Jordan Lachler
2012–2013	Certificate in Textile Arts Kootenay School of the Arts, Selkirk College, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Studio-based program on weaving, dyeing, felting, screenprinting, pattern drafting (draping), and couture sewing techniques

Teaching experience

Accreditation

2024	Associate Fellowship Advance HE
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Lecturing and course design

2023	Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Created and held an introductory lecture on frequentist methods and correctly interpreting p-values– Designed the accompanying tutorial materials
2023	Statistics and Quantitative Methods University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Held three introductory lectures on binomial models, interactions with categorical and continuous predictors, and interpreting Bayesian model estimates– Designed two of those lectures and the accompanying tutorials– Created formative and summative assessments

Tutoring

2023–2025	PPLS Skills Centre: Statistics University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– One-on-one support sessions to help Linguistics students with their statistics problems
2023–2024	Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Postgraduate course on data manipulation, visualisation, and Bayesian and frequentist inference using R

2022–2023	Data Analysis for Linguistics and English Language University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Honours (advanced undergraduate) course on data manipulation and visualisation using the Tidyverse in R
	Statistics and Quantitative Methods University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Honours (advanced undergraduate) and postgraduate course on data manipulation, visualisation, and analysis in the Bayesian framework using R
	LEL2D: Cross-linguistic Variation: Limits and Theories University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pre-honours (early undergraduate) course on typological variation and its influence on linguistic theory
	Simulating Language University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Honours (advanced undergraduate) and postgraduate course on implementing Bayesian models of language evolution using Python
	PPLS Skills Centre: Writing University of Edinburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One-on-one consultation appointments to help students improve their academic writing

Workshops

2023	Bayes, <i>stat!</i> A crash course in Bayesian inference Centre for Language Evolution annual retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two two-hour sessions giving a conceptual and practical introduction to Bayesian modelling in R using brms – Workshop website: elizabethpankratz.github.io/bayes_stat/
2022	Narrative design for academic storytelling Centre for Language Evolution annual retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A two-hour session on the fundamentals of narrative structure and how using it can improve academic writing

Previous positions

2020–2021	Researcher (“Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin”) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, CRC 1412 Register, Project A04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Applied Bayesian machine learning methods (LDA) to probabilistically identify register in corpora – Published one journal paper and presented two conference/colloquium talks
2021	Research assistant to Dr. Titus von der Malsburg Universität Potsdam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducted psycholinguistic research on the effect of single- vs. multi-trial experiment designs
2019–2021	Copy editor and proofreader of <i>Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar: The handbook</i> Language Science Press, Berlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Copy edited and proofread 30+ chapters
2018–2020	Student assistant to Dr. Bob van Tiel Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), Berlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducted psycholinguistic research on processing of scalar inferences – Proofread 5+ papers for Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 2022 – Published two journal papers and presented two conference posters
2017–2019	Student assistant to Prof. Uli Reich Freie Universität Berlin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Created an audio corpus of Conchucos Quechua using Praat, ELAN, and Python, available at the Freie Universität Refubium
2014	Student assistant to Prof. Antti Arppe (Volunteer position) University of Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conducted fieldwork and documentation of Plains Cree in Maskwacis, Alberta

Publications

Under review

- 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., Kordoni, 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). *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). *Verfugungswandel 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). <i>Statistical properties of the speed-accuracy trade-off (SAT) paradigm in sentence processing</i> . Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Pankratz, E. (2021). <i>qxoRef 1.0: A coreference corpus and mention-pair baseline for coreference resolution in Conchucos Quechua</i> . The First Workshop on NLP for Indigenous Languages of the Americas (AmericasNLP) at NAACL 2021.
2020	Pankratz, E. , & van Tiel, B. (2020). <i>Can usage of scalar adjectives predict scalar inference rates?</i> UK Cognitive Linguistics Conference 2020 (UKCLC 2020).
2019	van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E. , & Sun, C. (2019). <i>Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences</i> . XPRAG 2019.
2018	van Tiel, B., Pankratz, E. , & Sun, C. (2018). <i>Processing scalar diversity</i> . Sinn und Bedeutung 23.

Dissertation supervision

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

For journals	Cognitive Science, Language and Cognition
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 and recognition

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Rod and Judith Fraser International Undergraduate Learning Award (CAD 4500)– The Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship (CAD 2500)– The Mrs. Kathe & Mr. Siegfried Klotsche Scholarship in German (CAD 2200)– The Edelweiss-Club Scholarship (CAD 1750)– The Catherine McLean Scholarship in Arts (CAD 1500)– The Jason Lang Scholarship (CAD 1000)– The Catherine Folinsbee Memorial Scholarship (CAD 750)

Outreach

2019	What it means to know a language Pop linguistics talk to 50+ attendees at the Pint of Science Festival 2019, Berlin
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IT skills

Programming	Python, R, Stan
Statistical analysis	Bayesian methods, frequentist methods
Mark-up	LaTeX, 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
Scottish Gaelic	Basic