

# Elizabeth Pankratz

e.c.pankratz@sms.ed.ac.uk  
elizabethpankratz.github.io

## Education

2021–2025	<b>PhD in Linguistics and English Language</b> University of Edinburgh, Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Thesis: <i>Segmentation, rule formation, and the emergence of generalisation</i> (successfully defended at viva on 11 February, 2025)</li><li>– Supervisors: Prof. Jennifer Culbertson and Prof. Simon Kirby</li></ul>
2019–2021	<b>Master of Science in Cognitive Systems: Language, Learning, and Reasoning</b> Universität Potsdam, Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Thesis: <i>Morphological productivity: A Bayesian modelling approach</i></li><li>– Supervisors: Prof. Shravan Vasishth and Dr. Titus von der Malsburg</li></ul>
2017–2019	<b>Master of Arts in Linguistics</b> Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Thesis: <i>A study of diachronic changes in the productivity of several Early New High German derivational morphemes using the RIDGES corpus</i></li><li>– Supervisor: Prof. Anke Lüdeling</li></ul>
2013–2017	<b>Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Linguistics &amp; German language and literature</b> University of Alberta, Canada (with year abroad at the Freie Universität Berlin) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– First Class Honours, best of graduating class</li><li>– Thesis: <i>Effects of plural semantics on linking element alternation in German nominal compounds</i></li><li>– Supervisors: Prof. Jennifer Dailey-O’Cain and Prof. Jordan Lachler</li></ul>
2012–2013	<b>Certificate in Textile Arts</b> Kootenay School of the Arts, Selkirk College, Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Studio-based program on weaving, dyeing, felting, screenprinting, pattern drafting (draping), and couture sewing techniques</li></ul>

## Teaching experience

### Accreditation

2024	<b>Associate Fellowship</b> Advance HE
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### Lecturing and course design

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

### Tutoring

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

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

## Workshops

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

## Previous positions

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

# 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	<b>Pankratz, E.</b> , 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. <b>Pankratz, E.</b> (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	<b>Pankratz, E.</b> , & 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., <b>Pankratz, E.</b> , & Sun, C. (2019). <i>Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences</i> . XPRAG 2019.
2018	van Tiel, B., <b>Pankratz, E.</b> , & Sun, C. (2018). <i>Processing scalar diversity</i> . Sinn und Bedeutung 23.

## Dissertation supervision

2023	<b>Sigurd Farstad Iversen</b> University of Edinburgh, MSc in Evolution of Language and Cognition
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## Reviewing

<b>For journals</b>	Cognitive Science, Language and Cognition
<b>For conferences</b>	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)
<b>For funders</b>	Israel Science Foundation

## Event organisation

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

## Funding

2021–2025	<b>ESRC-funded PhD Studentship</b> Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
2021–2025	<b>SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship</b> Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
2019–2021	<b>University Scholarship Potsdam (previously Deutschlandstipendium)</b> Universität Potsdam
2017–2019	<b>Konrad Adenauer Foundation</b> Scholarship Program for International Students
2017	<b>Undergraduate Research Initiative at the University of Alberta</b> 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	<b>Nominated for Student Tutor of the Year</b> University of Edinburgh
2021	<b>Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction – Master’s Level (CAD 15,000)</b> Alberta Scholarships
2019	<b>Featured as one of the <a href="#">LINGUIST List’s Rising Stars</a></b> Nominated by Dr. Roland Schäfer and Prof. Anke Lüdeling
2017	<b>The Dr. John MacDonald Medal in Arts (CAD 1100)</b> For best graduating mark in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta
2014–2017	<b>Seven awards for academic achievement and extracurricular involvement (total CAD 14,200)</b> University of Alberta <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The Rod and Judith Fraser International Undergraduate Learning Award (CAD 4500)</li><li>– The Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship (CAD 2500)</li><li>– The Mrs. Kathe &amp; Mr. Siegfried Klotsche Scholarship in German (CAD 2200)</li><li>– The Edelweiss-Club Scholarship (CAD 1750)</li><li>– The Catherine McLean Scholarship in Arts (CAD 1500)</li><li>– The Jason Lang Scholarship (CAD 1000)</li><li>– The Catherine Folinsbee Memorial Scholarship (CAD 750)</li></ul>

Outreach

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

<b>Programming</b>	Python, R, Stan
<b>Statistical analysis</b>	Bayesian methods, frequentist methods
<b>Mark-up</b>	LaTeX, HTML, Rmarkdown, Quarto, xaringan
<b>Version control</b>	Git, GitHub
<b>Experiments</b>	jsPsych, Ibex Farm, Testable, Amazon Mechanical Turk, Prolific
<b>Other software</b>	Affinity suite, Adobe suite, Microsoft Office suite

Languages

<b>English</b>	First language
<b>German</b>	Fluent (C1)
<b>French</b>	Intermediate
<b>BSL</b>	Basic
<b>Scottish Gaelic</b>	Basic