

Lara Kelly-Iturriaga

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Education

PhD in Linguistics and English Language, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present

- AHRC-funded project focusing on The role of language distance in bilingual language processing
- Final data collection, semantic relatedness tasks
- Research visit at Bursa Uludağ University, Turkey (1 April – 1 June 2025)
 - Collecting data from Azeri-Turkish-English trilinguals

MA in Applied Linguistics and Language Acquisition in Multilingual Contexts, University of Barcelona, September 2021 – July 2022

- GPA: 9.4/10 (Distinction)
- MA thesis: Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? A comparison of cross-language activation in Turkish and Spanish learners of English

BA in Political Science and Public-Sector Management, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), September 2016 – June 2020

- GPA: 7.22/10 (2:1)
- Dissertation: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Policies: Multilingualism and Minority Languages in the UK

Research and Teaching experience

Academic Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present

2024-2025

- Delivering tutorials and marking assignments in Second Language Acquisition (Honours)
- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in First Language Acquisition (Honours)

2023-2024

- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in Linguistics and English Language 1B
- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in LEL2B: Phonetic Analysis and Empirical Methods

Research Assistant in Spanish Research Agency (AEI)-funded project, Department of Modern Languages, Literature and English Studies, University of Barcelona, February 2022

- Conducted audio transcription and phonetic labelling in Praat
- Assessed complexity, accuracy and fluency of speech samples

Talks

15th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB15), Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, 9-13 June 2025

The role of language distance in bilingual language processing (Poster)

Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2025, The University of Edinburgh, 4-6 June 2025

The role of language distance in bilingual language processing

Bilingualism Matters Symposium 2025, Edinburgh, 24 March 2025

Exploring the role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review (Poster)

30th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference, The University of Edinburgh, 4 June 2024

Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? Cross-language activation in L1-Turkish and L1-Spanish learners of English (Poster)

Psycholinguistics Coffee, The University of Edinburgh, 29 May 2024

Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing

Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group, The University of Edinburgh, 18 March 2024

The role of typology in the bilingual mental lexicon

Publications

Leivada, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). *The unpredictable role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review from brain to behavior*. PsyArXiv.
<https://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/29ucp>.

Organisation experience

Organising committee, University of Edinburgh Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference, September 2024 – present

Liaising with plenary speakers and workshop facilitators

Chair, Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group, September 2024 – present

Contacting speakers; organising, scheduling and chairing sessions; budgeting

Organising committee, 30th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, September 2024

Coordinated attendee poster printing, set up posters, registered attendees and provided information

Organising committee, Language Lunch @ Edinburgh, September 2023 – June 2024

I read and selected abstracts on language-related research for poster presentations and planned events

Grants and awards

AHRC PhD Scholarship managed by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH), September 2024 – present, £24,454.40

Studentship covering maintenance and tuition fees, as well as additional funding for participant payment and Visiting Doctoral Researcher Scheme

Training & Development Grant, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, October 2024 – present, £785.56

Grant to facilitate the running of the Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group

Research Support Grants, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, September 2023 – present, £1,330.90

Grants for research costs (e.g., participant payment) and research-related travel (e.g., conference and summer school attendance)

Additional work experience

Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, June – July 2023

EFL Teacher, STEP Language Services, October 2022 – June 2023

EFL Teacher & Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, July – August 2022; June – July 2021

EFL Teacher, Language School Bilbao, October 2020 – June 2021

EFL Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, July 2019

EFL Teacher, Laboratorio de Idiomas – Jesuitak Indautxu, September 2019 – June 2020; September 2016 – June 2018

Languages

- English (native)
- Spanish (native)
- Italian (B2)
- Basque (intermediate)
- French (B1)
- Turkish (A1)

Skills

RStudio, Testable, Praat