

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: designing Turkish Lextale and 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 L2 speech samples

Talks

Authors	Title	Event	Date
Lara Kelly-Iturriaga	The role of language distance in bilingual language processing (Poster)	15th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB15), Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL), Donostia-San Sebastián	13 June 2025
Evelina Leivada*, Esti Blanco-Elorrieta, Lara Kelly-Iturriaga, Camilla Masullo, Marit Westergaard & Jason Rothman	The impact of language similarity on cognitive adaptations to bilingualism (Poster)	15th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB15), BCBL, Donostia-San Sebastián	12 June 2025
Lara Kelly-Iturriaga	The role of language distance in bilingual language processing	Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2025, The University of Edinburgh	4-6 June 2025
Evelina Leivada, Esti Blanco-Elorrieta, Lara Kelly-Iturriaga*, Camilla Masullo, Marit Westergaard & Jason Rothman	Exploring the role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review (Poster)	Bilingualism Matters Symposium 2025, Edinburgh	24 March 2025

Lara Kelly-Iturriaga	Do you eat <i>pasta</i> for dessert and <i>tender</i> your clothes? Cross-language activation in L1-Turkish and L1-Spanish learners of English (Poster)	30th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference , The University of Edinburgh	4 June 2024
Lara Kelly-Iturriaga	Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing	Psycholinguistics Coffee , The University of Edinburgh	29 May 2024
Lara Kelly-Iturriaga	The role of typology in the bilingual mental lexicon	Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group , The University of Edinburgh	18 March 2024

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) Basque (intermediate) French (B1) Italian (B2) Turkish (A1)

Skills

RStudio, Testable, Praat