

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
- Data collection from Azeri-Turkish-English trilinguals in progress

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

Guest Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, January 2026

- Delivered lecture on ‘The bilingual lexicon’ for Second Language Acquisition (MSc & Honours)

Research Assistant, University of Edinburgh, September 2025 – present

- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded project on ‘Predicting language under difficult conditions: Effects of cognitive load, noise, and hearing impairment’ – PI: Martin Pickering
- Designed sentence stimuli for eye-tracking experiments exploring the effects of cognitive load (syntactic complexity) on language prediction

Academic Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present

2025-2026

- Delivering tutorials in Second Language Acquisition (Honours)
- Delivered workshops and marked self-reflections and final assignment in Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language (Honours and MSc)
- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in First Language Acquisition (Honours)

2024-2025

- Delivered tutorials and marked 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, Department of Modern Languages, Literature and English Studies, University of Barcelona, February 2022

- Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities-funded project on ‘Pronunciation and phono-lexical representations in Spanish EFL learners: assessing the benefits of phonetic training and form-focused instructed SLA (PhonLex-iSLA)’ – PI: Joan C. Mora
- Conducted audio transcription and phonetic labelling in Praat
- Assessed complexity, accuracy and fluency of L2 speech samples

Conference presentations

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2026). Does language distance affect bilingual lexical processing? *35th Annual Conference of the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA 35)*, Research Center for Linguistics (CLUNL) at NOVA University Lisbon, 25-27 June 2026.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2026). Language distance effects on bilingual lexical processing: evidence from interlingual homographs. *6th International Symposium on Bilingual and L2 Processing in Adults and Children (ISBPAC 2026)*, University of Reading, 18-19 June 2026.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2025). The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing. *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2025 (AMLaP2025)*, Charles University, Prague, 6th September 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL), Donostia-San Sebastián, 13th June 2025. Poster presentation.

Leivada, E.*, **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). The impact of language similarity on cognitive adaptations to bilingualism. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, BCBL, Donostia-San Sebastián, 12th June 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2025*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2025.

Leivada, E., Blanco-Elorrieta, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.***, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). Exploring the role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review. *Bilingualism Matters Symposium 2025*, Edinburgh, 24th March 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? Cross-language activation in L1-Turkish and L1-Spanish learners of English. *30th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2024. Poster presentation.

Invited talks

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2026). Does language distance affect bilingual lexical processing? *Dr Simone Sulpizio's lab meeting*, The University of Milano-Bicocca. 27th February 2026.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2026). The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing. *Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group*, The University of Edinburgh. 26th February 2026.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual lexical processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th June 2025.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 29th May 2024.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). The role of typology in the bilingual mental lexicon. *Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th March 2024.

Publications

Leivada, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. and Rothman, J. (2025). The unpredictable role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review from brain to behavior. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728925100746>

Organisation experience

Organising committee, Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (LELPGC25), University of Edinburgh, September 2024 – June 2025

Organised the event; secured Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) Postgraduate Student Committee funding for students from underrepresented backgrounds to attend the event; chaired plenary talks and sessions on psycho-, socio- and developmental linguistics; participated in a panel discussion on 'Making the most of your PhD' and liaised with plenary speakers and workshop facilitators

Chair, Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group (BDLRG), University of Edinburgh, September 2024 – June 2025

Contacted internal and external speakers; organised, scheduled and chaired sessions; managed budget and secured funding for external speakers' travel and accommodation costs and catering

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

Coordinated attendee poster printing, set up posters, registered and assisted attendees during the event

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

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, £35,820.35

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

Research Support Grants, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, September 2023 – present, £2,218.69

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

Training & Development Grant, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, October 2024 – June 2025, £785.56

Grant to facilitate the running of the BDLRG, providing funds for external speakers' travel and accommodation and catering for talks

Student Conference Funding, LAGB Postgraduate Student Committee, March 2025, £150

Grant for travel/accommodation for students from underrepresented backgrounds to present at LELPGC25

Erasmus+ Grant, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE), September 2018 – June 2019, €2,250

Mobility grant for Erasmus+ programme at Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Italy

Accreditations

Associate Fellowship Advance HE, University of Edinburgh, June 2025

Received teaching accreditation after completing the Introduction to Academic Practice course delivered by the Institute for Academic Development at the University of Edinburgh; demonstrating effective and inclusive teaching practice and evidence of PSF 2023 Dimensions: Professional Values V1 and V3, Core Knowledge K1, K2 and K3, and Areas of Activity A2 and A3.

Training

Eye-tracking technical training, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, November 2025

Completed eye-tracking training with SR Research EyeLink 2000 and successfully positioned the participant, adjusted camera focus, set thresholds for pupil and corneal reflection detection, and completed calibration and validation.

Additional work experience

Insights Facilitator, University of Edinburgh Careers Service, January 2026 – present

The Insights Programme supports University of Edinburgh undergraduate students from a Widening Participation background to gain work experience, providing students with opportunities to improve their professional and communication skills and expand their network by visiting alumni at their workplace in Scotland, the UK or globally (Insights Immersion). My responsibilities include facilitating coaching sessions to support students to prepare for Insights Immersion and to reflect on their student development; facilitating discussions at Insights development events; supporting my students by providing advice on professional behaviours and communication

Employ.ed Project Development Intern (Employ.ed for PhDs), University of Edinburgh Careers Service, August – December 2025

Supervised and mentored two undergraduate interns; evaluated and provided feedback on the Employ.ed on Campus Summer and Semester (pilot) programmes; updated and maintained webpages and Sharepoint sites, making content accessible; promoted Employ.ed programmes to staff and students; collaborated with the Internships and Work Experience team and other colleagues at the Careers Service

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) 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, Github, Eye-tracking, Testable, Praat