# 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 in progress
- Designed Turkish vocab test (LexTurk), 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

**Academic Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present**

2025-2026

- Delivering workshops and marking self-reflections in Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language (Honours and MSc)
- Delivering tutorials and marking 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 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

## Conference presentations

**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.

## Talks

**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. M.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (in press). The unpredictable role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review from brain to behavior. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*.

## 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, £29,626.40**
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

## 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.

## Additional work experience

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

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, Testable, Praat