Guillermo Montero-Melis

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Updated: 6th November, 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Language and thought, linguistic relativity, conceptual representation, semantic typology, second language acquisition, bilingualism, cross-linguistic influence, mechanisms underlying language learning

EMPLOYMENT

Post-doctoral fellow

2019-present

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen (Netherlands) and Department of Linguistics at Stockholm University, Stockholm (Sweden)

Post-doctoral researcher

2017 - 2018

Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm University, Sweden

PhD candidate 2011–2017

Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm University, Sweden

EDUCATION

Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

2011 - 2017

Ph.D. in Bilingualism, June 2017

Centre for Research on Bilingualism and Special Doctoral Programme in Language and Linguistics

Dissertation title: "Thoughts in Motion: The Role of Long-Term L1 and Short-Term L2 Experience when Talking and Thinking of Caused Motion"

Main advisors: Emanuel Bylund, T. Florian Jaeger

Paternity leave: 01-04/2013, 12/2013-02/2014, 10/2014-05/2015 (c 15 months)

Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

2010-2011

Master of Arts in Education (Spanish and French)

Paris-Sorbonne University, Paris, France

2002-2007

Master de recherche, Etudes Romanes — Espagnol Licence Espagnol, Mention Français Langue Étrangère

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Donders (f)MRI Tool-kit, Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 3–7 June 2019
- Professional Development Course on Teaching and Learning (7.5 ECTS), Stockholm Univ, Spring 2018

- Functional magnetic resonance imaging: data analysis and experimental design (doctoral course, 1.5 ECTS), Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, Nov 2017
- Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, UC Davis / UC Santa Barbara, June–July 2017
- Research stays in Florian Jaeger's lab, Dep. of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Univ. of Rochester, USA; April—May 2014 and Oct 2015
- Mathematics/statistics: Fundamental algebra and analysis (30 ECTS), Probability Theory (7.5 ECTS), Linear algebra (7.5 ECTS), Factor analysis with applications (7.5 ECTS)
- Summer School in Bilingualism, Bangor University, July 2012
- IMPRS NeuroCom Summer School, London, July 2011
- Foundation Research Methods in Psychology, Middlesex University London, 15 ECTS, June–July 2011

SUBMITTED / ACCEPTED / IN PRESS

- 1. Montero-Melis, G., Isaksson, P., Paridon, J. van, & Ostarek, M. (accepted). Does using a foreign language reduce mental imagery? *Cognition*.
- 2. Montero-Melis, G., Paridon, J. van, Ostarek, M., & Bylund, E. (2019). Does the motor system functionally contribute to keeping words in working memory? A pre-registered replication of Shebani and Pulvermüller (2013, Cortex). *PsyArXiv*. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/pqf8k

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Ostarek, M., van Paridon, J., & Montero-Melis, G. (2019). Sighted people's language is not helpful for blind individuals' acquisition of typical animal colors. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 201912302. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1912302116
- 2. Montero-Melis, G., & Jaeger, T. F. (2019). Changing expectations mediate adaptation in L2 production. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728919000506
- 3. Montero-Melis, G. (2017). Thoughts in Motion: The Role of Long-Term L1 and Short-Term L2 Experience when Talking and Thinking of Caused Motion (Doctoral dissertation). Stocholm University, Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm. Retrieved from http://su.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2:1092276
- Montero-Melis, G., Eisenbeiss, S., Narasimhan, B., Ibarretxe-Antuñano, I., Kita, S., Kopecka, A., Lüpke, F., Nikitina, T., Tragel, I., Jaeger, T. F., & Bohnemeyer, J. (2017). Talmy's framing typology underpredicts nonverbal motion categorization: Insights from a large language sample and simulations. Cognitive Semantics, 3, 36–61. http://doi.org/10.1163/23526416-00301002

- 5. Montero-Melis, G., & Bylund, E. (2017). Getting the ball rolling: the cross-linguistic conceptualization of caused motion. Language and Cognition, 9(3), 446–472. http://doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2016.
- 6. Montero-Melis, G., Jaeger, T.F., & Bylund, E. (2016). Thinking is modulated by recent linguistic experience: Second language priming affects perceived event similarity. *Language Learning*, 66(3), 636–665. http://doi.org/10.1111/lang.12172
- 7. Athanasopoulos, P., Bylund, E., **Montero-Melis, G.**, Damjanovic, L., Schartner, A., Kibbe, A., Riches, N., & Thierry, G. (2015). Two languages, two minds: Flexible cognitive processing driven by language of operation. *Psychological Science*, 26(4), 518–526. http://doi.org/10.1177/0956797614567509

CONFERENCE TALKS & POSTERS

- Isaksson, P., Ostarek, M., & Montero-Melis, G. (2019). Does visual imagery impede reasoning? Evidence from L2 speakers. Poster presented at the 21st Meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCoP 2019), Tenerife, Spain.
- 2. Montero-Melis, G. (2017, October) Thoughts in motion: Effects of language experience on motion cognition. Oral presentation at the workshop Event Representations in Brain Language and Development, MPI for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, Netherlands.
- 3. Montero-Melis, G., & Jaeger, T. F. (2017, September). Non-native (and native) adaptation to recent input during motion event lexicalization. Paper presented at EuroSLA 27, University of Reading, Reading, UK.
- 4. Montero-Melis, G., & Bylund, E. (2016, September). Getting the ball rolling: Cross-linguistic differences and commonalities in the representation of caused motion. Poster presented at AMLaP, Bilbao.
- 5. Montero-Melis, G., Buz, E., & Jaeger, T. F. (2016, March). Does syntactic flexibility in production facilitate or inhibit planning? Poster presented at the 29th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Gainesville, Florida.
- 6. Montero-Melis, G. (2016, March). What you('d) say is what you focus on: language effects on motion event conceptualization. Poster presented at the pre-CUNY worshop on Events in Language and Cognition, Gainesville, Florida.
- 7. Montero-Melis, G. (2013, October). A data-driven approach to comparing semantic similarity of event descriptions across languages. Paper presented at Investigating Semantics: Empirical and Philosophical Approaches, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany.

INVITED TALKS

1. Montero-Melis, G. (2018, June). Is the neural coding of concepts affected by the language we speak? Neurobiology of Language Department, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, Netherlands.

- 2. Montero-Melis, G. (2017, November). Linguistic experience and conceptual representation of motion events. Department of Linguistics, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
- 3. Montero-Melis, G. (2017, October). A different manner of understanding motion events across languages? Effects of language experience on motion cognition. Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.
- 4. Montero-Melis, G. (2016, April). Ways of talking, ways of thinking: How language affects event representation. Speech Production and Bilingualism Research Group (Cognition and Brain Research Unit), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- 5. Montero-Melis, G. (2015, October). Is learning a language a path towards new manners of thinking?. Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (HLP Lab), University of Rochester, NY.
- 6. Montero-Melis, G. (2015, October). Is learning a language a path towards new manners of thinking?. Department of Linguistics (Semantic Typology Lab), University at Buffalo, NY.
- 7. Montero-Melis, G. (2015, May). Getting the ball rolling: Cross-linguistic differences in the representation of caused motion. Department of Experimental Psychology (ConCat Research group), University of Leuven, Belgium.
- 8. Montero-Melis, G. (2014, April). Cross-linguistic differences in event descriptions and similarity judgments: Caused motion events in Spanish and Swedish. Department of Linguistics, University of Rochester, NY.
- 9. Montero-Melis, G. (2014, April). Cross-linguistic differences in event descriptions and similarity judgments: Caused motion events in Spanish and Swedish. Department of Linguistics (Semantic Typology Lab), University at Buffalo, NY.
- Montero-Melis, G. (2014, April). Cross-linguistic differences in similarity judgments: Caused motion events in Spanish and Swedish. Psychology Department (Experience and Cognition Lab), University of Chicago, IL.

Funding

Travel grant from Wenner-Gren Foundation for participation at ESCoP conference (Tenerife, Spain), 8 000 SEK (750 EUR), September 2019.

Three-year International Postdoctoral grant from the Swedish Research Council for the project "Do concepts in our brain depend on the language we speak?", 3.15 million SEK (315 000 EUR), 2019–2021.

Travel grant from the IDO foundation for a research stay at the MPI for Psycholinguistics (Nijmegen, NL) during Spring 2018, 13840 SEK (1400 EUR), November 2017.

Travel grant from Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien for participation at the workshop Event Representations in Brain Language and Development at the MPI for Psycholinguistics (Nijmegen, NL), 10 000 SEK (1 040 EUR) October 2017.

Travel grant from Stiftelsen Elisabeth och Herman Rhodins minne for participation at EuroSLA 27 (Univ. of Reading), 11 000 SEK (1 130 EUR), 2017

Travel grant from Gunvor och Josef Anérs stiftelse for participation at the Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience 2017 (UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara), 13 000 SEK (1 330 EUR), 2017

Travel grant from Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien for participation at CUNY 2016 (Univ. of Florida), 17 000 SEK (1820 EUR), 2016

Travel grant from Helge Ax:son Johnsons Stiftelse for research stay at Univ. of Rochester (USA), 17 000 SEK (1820 EUR), 2015

Travel grant from Gålöstiftelsen for study trip to the USA (Univ. of Rochester, Univ. at Buffalo, Univ. of Chicago), 18 000 SEK (2 000 EUR), 2014

REVIEWING

Ad hoc reviewer: Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, Cognitive Linguistics, eLife, International Journal of Multilingualism, John Benjamins series Language Learning and Language Teaching, Language and Cognition, Language Learning, Lingua, Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism, National Science Foundation (NSF)

Teaching

- Statistics and statistical methods (individual reading course). Doctoral course at Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm Univ., Spring 2018
- Theory and Method in Second Language Research (shared with other instructor). Undergraduate course at Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm Univ., Spring 2018
- Data analysis for master's students. Workshop in three sessions, Stockholm Univ., Spring 2016
- Second language acquisition. Undergraduate course at Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm Univ., Fall 2015
- Statistics and statistical methods (shared with other instructor). Doctoral course at Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm Univ., Spring 2015
- Second language research. Undergraduate course at Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm Univ., Fall 2013

MENTORSHIP

- Teun van Gils, PhD advisor (co-promotor), IMPRS Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics; Fall 2019–ongoing
- Pia Järnefelt, MA thesis advisor, Stockholm University; Spring 2019

- Petrus Isaksson, undergraduate thesis advisor, Stockholm University; fall 2018
- Gaston Prieto, undergraduate thesis advisor, Stockholm University; fall 2018

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE & OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Statistical support for researchers at the departmental level. Fall 2013– 2018
- Responsible for statistical analyses in Tisus (Test in Swedish for university studies). Fall 2013–2016
- Launcher and organizer of the weekly psycholinguistic lab meetings at Centre for Research on Bilingualism (started January 2016)
- Launcher and organizer of the Data Analysis and Statistics Study Group (2014–2015)
- Organized graduate student workshop *Challenges in Quantitative Semantics*, together with Jussi Karlgren and Susanne Vejdemo (Stockholm University, June 2013)

Outreach and Media

- Popular science talk on language and thought at Cervantes Institute, Stockholm; 2 October 2018. Video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uJ3vpFz1qU
- Popular science talk on whether learning a new language reshapes our way of thinking, for teachers of Spanish as a foreign language, organized by the Centre for Professional Development and Internationalisation in Schools (Uppsala University, Sweden), 3 February 2018.
- Josephson, O. (2017, June 21). Uppfattar svensk- och spansktalande världen olika? [Do Swedish and Spanish speakers perceive the world differently?] Svenska Dagbladet. Retrieved from https://www.svd.se (A column on my PhD dissertation in one of the major Swedish daily newspapers)
- Skolverket, & Sayehli, S. (2017, June 21). Språk och tanke en avhandling om språklig relativism och flerspråkighet [Language and thought: a dissertation on linguistic relativity and multilingualism]. Retrieved 22 June 2017, from https://www.skolverket.se (A summary of my PhD dissertation by The Swedish National Agency for Education)
- Athanasopoulos, P. (2015, April 27). Think your world view is fixed? Learn another language and you'll think differently. *The Guardian*. (Opinion piece based on Athanasopoulos, Bylund, Montero-Melis et al., 2015.)

EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

Language teacher:

Kungstensgymnasiet (secondary school), Stockholm: Spanish and French. 2009–2010

Folkuniversitetet (adult education), Stockholm: Spanish and French. 2009 Centro Cultural Rafael de León, Madrid (adult education): German. 2008 Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (adult education), Madrid: German. 2007–2008

LANGUAGES Spanish: First language

German: C1 (primary and secondary school in Berlin and Luxembourg) French: C1 (secondary school in Luxembourg, university studies in Paris)

English: C1

Portuguese (Brazil): B1

Swedish: B2

PROGRAMMING R, SPSS, E-Prime, Python, SQL

AND SOFTWARE