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Publications: 20 (+ 3 submissions)
H-Index: 9 (Source Google Scholar)
Citations: 248

Keywords: cognitive sciences, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, universals

EMPLOYMENT

FEB 2022 –	CNRS Researcher Laboratoire de Linguistique de Nantes. Nantes Université
2021– Feb 2022	Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Fellow CLIF Formal Linguistics Research Group Universitat Pompeu Fabra.
2018 — 2021	Postdoctoral researcher Centre for Language Evolution. University of Edinburgh

EDUCATION

2018	PhD in Cognitive Sciences École Normale Supérieure – ED3C “Understanding semantic ambiguities”
2016	Visiting Graduate Student Linguistics Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2015	Master in Cognitive Sciences Focus: Theoretical and Experimental Linguistics EHESS – ENS – Université Paris Descartes
2015	École Normale Supérieure Diploma International Selection ENS
2012	B.A. in Literature and Linguistics Focus: Formal Linguistics University of Buenos Aires

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

My research focuses on identifying cognitive constraints on **how human languages express meanings**. Are there learning, processing or communicative biases that can explain constraints on linguistic meaning? To get at this, I have approached different semantic phenomena by using not only traditional linguistic tools, such as corpora studies and semantic modelling, but also a range of techniques from cognitive sciences, including priming and artificial language learning experiments, mouse-/eye-tracking paradigms and computational simulations.

FULL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (forthcoming in *Glossa*). "You say yes, I say no. Investigating the link between meaning and form in response particles".

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2022) "Person of interest: Learning person systems". *Linguistics inquiry*. 53(2): 295–336.

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2021) "Nobody doesn't like negative concord". *Journal of Psycholinguistics*. 50(6): 1401–1416.

Feiman, Roman*, **Mora Maldonado*** and Jesse Snedeker (2020). "Priming quantifier scope: Reexamining the evidence against scope inversion". *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics*, 5(1), 35.

Maldonado, Mora (2020). "Plurality and d-linking in Spanish interrogatives". *Journal of Semantics*. 37-1, pp 145–170.

Maldonado, Mora, Ewan Dunbar and Emmanuel Chemla (2019). "Mouse Tracking as a window into decision making". *Behavioural Research Methods*. 51-3, pp. 1085-1101.

Maldonado, Mora, Benjamin Spector and Emmanuel Chemla (2019). "Revealing abstract semantic mechanisms through priming: the distributive/collective contrast". *Cognition*. 182, pp. 171-176.

Maldonado, Mora, Benjamin Spector and Emmanuel Chemla (2017). "Priming methods in semantics and pragmatics - Commentary on Branigan and Pickering". *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 40, p. 303.

Maldonado, Mora, Emmanuel Chemla and Benjamin Spector (2017). "Priming plural ambiguities". *Journal of Memory and Language*. 95, pp. 89-101.

Sevilla, Yamila, **Mora Maldonado** and Diego Shalom (2014). "Pupillary dynamics reveal computational cost in sentence planning". *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. 67:6, pp. 1041-1052.

Conference Proceedings

Mora Maldonado and Carmen Saldana [Interpretations of plurality in personal pronouns differ across person categories: An experimental study](#). In *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, 2022.

Jeremy Kuhn* and **Mora Maldonado*** [Generalizing NPs to positive contexts in an artificial language](#). In *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, 2022.

Mora Maldonado, Jennifer Culbertson and Wataru Uegaki. "Learnability and constraints on the semantics of clause-embedding predicates". In *44st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2022

Zaslavsky, Noga, **Mora Maldonado**, and Jennifer Culbertson. "Let's talk (efficiently) about us: Person systems achieve near-optimal compression". In *43st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 2021

Maldonado, Mora, Carmen Saldana and Jennifer Culbertson. "[Learning Biases in Person-Number Linearization](#)". In: Asatryan, M., Y. Song and A. Whitmal (Eds.). *Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*. vol. 2. pp 163-177.

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2019). "[Learnability as a window into universal constraints on person systems](#)". In: Schloeder, J., McHugh D., and Roelofsen F. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*. pp. 484-493.

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2019). "[Something about 'us': Learning first person pronoun systems](#)". In: Goel, A. C., Seifart, C. M., and Freksa, C. (Eds.). *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. pp. 749-755.

Anvari, Amir*, **Mora Maldonado*** and Andrés Soria Ruiz* (2019). "[The puzzle of Reflexive Belief in Spanish](#)". In Espinal, M.T., Castroviejo, E., Leonetti, M., McNally L., and Real-Puigdollers, C. (Eds.). *Proceedings of Sinn und*

Bedeutung 23. pp. 57–74.

Book chapters

Andrés Soria-Ruiz, **Mora Maldonado** and Isidora Stojanovic. (2022). "[Good and ought in argumentation: COVID-19 as a case study](#)" In *The pandemic of argumentation*, Springer.

Maldonado, Mora, Yamila Sevilla and Diego E. Shalom (2013). "La incrementalidad jerárquica en la codificación gramatical. Un estudio de movimientos oculares". In García, A., Orellano de Marra, V., Jaichenco, V. and Wain-selboim, A. (Eds.). *Lenguaje, cognición y cerebro*. Editorial de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras de la Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina. pp. 169-186. ISBN 978-950-774-218-7.

Manuscripts

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (under review). "[Here, there and everywhere: An experimental investigation into the semantic features of indexicals](#)".

Kriz, Manuel and **Maldonado, Mora** (manuscript). "[An experimental note on distributivity and scope](#)".

PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

- Nov 2023 Invited seminar. CoLaLa Seminar. Berkeley University (US).
- Oct 2023 Invited seminar. Semantics Circle. ZAS (GE).
- July 2023 Invited seminar. General & Theoretical Linguistics Seminar. Tuebingen University (GE).
- Jun 2023 Invited seminar. RTG "Nominal Modification" Group. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (GE).
- Dec 2022 Invited seminar. Linguae. IJN. Ecole Normale Supérieure (FR).
- June 2022 Invited seminar. LingLunch. LLF. Université de Paris (FR).
- March 2022 Invited seminar. Rutgers University (US).
- Nov 2021 Invited Seminar. LLING. Nantes Université (FR).
- Oct 2021 Invited Seminar. University of Melbourne (AU)
- Sept 2021 Invited Seminar. COLT. Universitat Pompeu Fabra (SP)
- Aug 2021 Keynote. Workshop on Computational and Experimental Explanations in Semantics. ESSLLI, Utrecht (NL)
- Apr. 2021 Invited Seminar. ILST. University of Pennsylvania (US).
- Apr. 2021 Keynote (with J. Culbertson). Keele Philosophy of Linguistics Lecture Series (UK).
- Nov. 2020 Invited Seminar. GLIF. Universitat Pompeu Fabra (SP).
- Nov. 2020 Invited Seminar. Linguistics Department. Hebrew University of Jerusalem (IS).
- Sept. 2020 Invited Seminar. DIP. ILLC, Amsterdam University (NL)
- Nov 2019 Invited seminar. LingLunch. LLF. Université de Paris (FR).
- July 2019 Keynote (with J. Culbertson). The Alphabet of Universal Grammar. British Academy (UK).
- May 2019 Invited Seminar. Laboratoire Dynamique Du Langage. Université de Lyon (FR).
- Nov. 2018 Invited Seminar. Ulster University (UK).

Selected conference presentations

M. Maldonado and C. Saldana (2022). Interpretations of plurality in personal pronouns differ across person categories: An experimental study. Poster presentation at the 43rd Amsterdam Colloquium.

J. Kuhn and M. Maldonado (2022). Generalizing NPIs to positive uses in an Artificial Language. Poster presentation at the 43rd Amsterdam Colloquium.

M. Maldonado, J. Culbertson and W. Uegaki (2022). Learnability and constraints on the semantics of clause-embedding predicates. Oral presentation at 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (virtual)

- J. Kuhn and M. Maldonado (2022). Generalizing NPIs to positive uses in an Artificial Language. Short presentation at ELM2 at U Penn (virtual)
- M. Maldonado, J. Culbertson and W. Uegaki (2022). Learnability and constraints on the semantics of clause-embedding predicates. Main presentation at ELM2 at U Penn (virtual)
- M. Maldonado, J. Culbertson and W. Uegaki (2022). Learnability and constraints on the semantics of clause-embedding predicates. Oral presentation at 45 GLOW (Workshop on Typological generalizations and semantic theory).
- M. Maldonado, L. Mayol, A. Soria-Ruiz and A. Anvari (2021). El secreto de creerse: Reflexive beliefs and thoughts in Romance Languages. Poster presentation at SENSUS 2 at U Mass (virtual)
- M. Maldonado and J. Culbertson (2021). We don't need no education: : A case study in using artificial language learning to investigate negative dependencies. Presentation at Linguistic & Cognitive Foundations of Meaning (virtual)
- N. Zaslavsky, M. Maldonado, and J. Culbertson (2021). Let's talk (efficiently) about us. Oral presentation at 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (virtual)
- M. Maldonado and J. Culbertson (2020). Nobody doesn't like negative concord. Oral presentation at workshop on The Processing of Negation and Polarity (XPRAG). Berlin, Germany. (virtual)
- M. Maldonado and J. Culbertson (2020). Here, there and everywhere: Experimental evidence for shared primitives across person and spatial indexicals. Oral presentation at 25rd Sinn und Bedeutung, London, UK. (virtual)
- M. Maldonado and J. Culbertson (2019). Learnability as a window into universal constraints on person systems. Oral presentation at the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- M. Maldonado, C. Saldana, and J. Culbertson (2019). Learning biases in the relative order of person and number markers. Oral presentation at NELS 50. Cambridge, MA.
- M. Maldonado and J. Culbertson (2019). Something about 'us': Learning first person pronouns. Oral presentation at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Montréal, Canada.
- M. Maldonado, A. Martin and J. Culbertson (2019). An experimental approach to inferences to the standard in comparative constructions. Poster at workshop on The semantics of gradable adjectives (XPRAG-ADJ19). Cologne, Germany.
- A. Anvari, M. Maldonado, and A. Soria Ruiz (2018). Reflexive belief, (anti-)factivity and neg-raising in Spanish. Oral presentation at 23rd Sinn und Bedeutung, Barcelona, Spain.
- M. Maldonado (2018). Priming semantic representations: An experimental approach to plurality. Oral presentation at Szklarska Poreba Workshop. Szklarska, Poland.
- A. Anvari, M. Maldonado, A. Soria Ruiz (2018). Reflexive belief in Spanish. Poster presentation at Szklarska Poreba Workshop. Szklarska, Poland.
- M. Maldonado, E. Chemla and B. Spector (2018). Priming as a window to the collective/distributive ambiguity. Poster presentation at Linguistic evidence. Tübiengen University, Germany.
- M. Kriz and M. Maldonado (2018). An experimental note on distributivity and scope. Poster presentation at Linguistic evidence. Tübiengen University, Germany.
- M. Maldonado (2017). Strong plurals in Spanish interrogatives. Poster presentation at 22nd Sinn und Bedeutung. Potsdam University, Postdam, Germany.
- M. Maldonado (2017). Plurality and D-linking in Spanish interrogatives. Oral presentation at CONSOLE 25. Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany.

M. Maldonado, E. Chemla, and B. Spector (2015). Priming evidence for a covert distributivity operator. Poster presentation at NELS 45. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA.

VI Workshop In Generative Grammar, Comahue University, Argentina. 2013. "El costo de procesamiento en la planificación de estructuras de orden no canónico. M. Maldonado, D. E. Shalom, and Y. Sevilla.

Y. Sevilla, M. Maldonado and D. E. Shalom (2013). Measuring processing cost in Spanish sentence planning. Poster presentation at 11th International Symposium of Psycholinguistics, Cognitive Neuroscience and Psycholinguistics Lab. University of La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain.

Y. Sevilla, D. E. Shalom and M. Maldonado (2012). Eye Movements and grammatical sentence production planning in Spanish. Poster presentation at VIth International Workshop on Language Production. New York, USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer

Course: *Acquisition and Psycholinguistics* (co-taught with Hamida Demirache).
Master SDL Sciences du Langage. Université de Nantes. Fall term 2023.

Lecturer

Course: *Methods in Linguistics* (co-taught with Olivier Crouzet).
Master SDL Sciences du Langage. Université de Nantes. Spring term 2022.

Lecturer

Course: *Current Issues in Formal Linguistics*.
Master in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and Master of Cognitive Science and Linguistics (Universitat de Barcelona). Spring term 2022.

Instructor

Graduate minicourse (with Andrés Soria Ruiz): *Experimental approaches to plurals and gradable adjectives*.
Institute of Philology, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. 11-12th November 2019.

Guest lectures on semantic universals

Course: *Universals of Language*. Instructor: Jennifer Culbertson (reference: jennifer.culbertson@ed.ac.uk)
MSc Evolution of Language and Cognition. University of Edinburgh. Fall term 2019.

Teaching assistant (TA)

Course: *Introduction à la linguistique*. Instructor: Salvador Mascarenhas salvador.mascarenhas@ens.fr).
Master in Cognitive Sciences, ENS-EHESS-Paris V. Fall term 2017.

Teaching assistant (TA)

Course: *Introduction à la linguistique*. Instructors: Benjamin Spector and Salvador Mascarenhas.
Master in Cognitive Sciences, ENS-EHESS-Paris V. Fall term 2017.

Teaching assistant (TA)

Course: *Neurolinguistics*. Instructors: Virginia Jaichenco and Yamila Sevilla (reference: yamilasevilla@gmail.com).
University of Buenos Aires. Fall term 2011.

High School Instructor

Spanish Grammar and Literature. Reference: Néstor Abramovich (nestor@colegiodelaciudad.org)
Colegio de la Ciudad (Buenos Aires, Argentina). 2011-2013

STUDENT SUPERVISION

MSc supervision

Marie-Léa Le Clainche (2024, Nantes Université)
Alice Bertin (2022, Universitat de Barcelona)

Lauren Fletcher (2020, University of Edinburgh)
Erik Gröningson (2019, University of Edinburgh)
Robin Kepple (2019, University of Edinburgh)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewing

- **Journals:** *Natural Language Semantics*, *Journal of Memory and Language*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, *Semantics and Pragmatics*, *Glossa*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Royal Society Open Science*, *Cognitive Science*, *Journal of Cognitive Sciences*, *Journal of Semantics*; *Glossa Psycholinguistics*; *Journal of Language Evolution*; *Philosophy and Psychology*; *PNAS*; *Open Mind*; *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*.
- **Funding agency:** National Science Foundation (USA).
- **Conferences:** Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), Go Romance, NELS, XPrag, Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), SALT, LAGB Annual Meeting, AM-LAP, BU, TBILLC.

Conference and workshop organisation

- Organiser of the “Revisiting LoT: New advances on Cognitive Sciences, Linguistics and Philosophy” (<https://lot2023.univ-nantes.fr/>) [2023]
- Co-organiser of the “Edinburgh virtual workshop on artificial language learning” (with A. Martin and J. Culbertson) [2021]
- Co-organiser of the workshop “Experimental approaches to language universals in structure and meaning” at ESSLLI 2021 (with A. Martin and J. Culbertson) [2021]

Other service

- Co-creator of the LingProof initiative to combat linguistic discrimination in publishing (with A. Martin and C. Saldana) (www) [2022]
- Member of PPLS Diversity Committee (University of Edinburgh, 2019-2021)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024–2027 Co-PI in Grant Agence Nationale de la Recherche: Project: Communicative efficiency, cognitive biases and lexical meaning (PI: Benjamin Spector; 133 589,50 €)

2021–2023 Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation.

2015–2018 Ph.D. Fellowship awarded by the École Normale Supérieure (Paris, France)

2013–2015 Master’s scholarship awarded by the École Normale Supérieure (Paris, France)

2011–2013 Scholarship for student research awarded by University of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

SKILLS

Technical

PYTHON, L^AT_EX, R, IBEX, HTML, GIMP, JavaScript, EyeLink, Adobe Illustrator, Git

Linguistic Skills

SPANISH: Native

FRENCH: Intermediate (B2)

ENGLISH: Advanced (TOEFL: 105/120)