Mora MALDONADO

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Publications: 20 (+ 3 submissions)
H-Index: 9 (Source Google Scholar)
Citations: 375

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

EMPLOYMENT

SEP 2025 –	**Ramón y Cajal Fellow Researcher** Department of Translation and Language Sciences Universitat Pompeu Fabra
FEB 2022 –	**CNRS Researcher** (on Leave from Sep 2025) Laboratoire de Linguistique de Nantes. Nantes Université
2021– Feb 2022	**Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Fellow** GLIF 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.

Publications

Carmen Saldana, Chundra Cathcart, Jessica Ivani, Balthasar Bickel, and **Mora Maldonado** (2025). Cross-linguistic regularities in pronominal number neutralisation are not driven by learning biases: Limits of the Typological Prevalence Hypothesis for morphosyntactic categories. In revision.

Jeremy Kuhn and **Mora Maldonado** (2025). The many meanings of an NPI: The view from artificial language learning.. In revision.

Mora Maldonado and Jennifer Culbertson (2025). Here, there and everywhere: An experimental investigation into the semantic features of indexicals. To appear as chapter.

Ruizhe Zhou, Benjamin Spector, and **Mora Maldonado** (2024). An experimental assessment of the 'nall' lexical gap. In *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, pp. 463–472.

Mora Maldonado and Orin Percus (2024). Another look at contrafactive predicates: The case of Spanish 'creerse'. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29*, pp. 512–529.

Carmen Saldana and **Mora Maldonado** (2024). Exploring horizontal homophony in pronominal paradigms: A case study where cross-linguistic regularities defy individual learning biases. In *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, pp. 2712–2718.

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2023). *You say yes, I say no: Investigating the link between meaning and form in response particles. Glossa*, 8(1): 1–28.

Mora Maldonado, Noga Zaslavsky, and Jennifer Culbertson (2023). Evidence for a language-independent conceptual representation of pronominal referents. In *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Sydney, Australia, pp. 2324–2330.

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

Andrés Soria-Ruiz, **Mora Maldonado**, and Isidora Stojanovic (2022). Good and ought in argumentation: COVID-19 as a case study. In S. Oswald and T. Herman (Eds.), *The Pandemic of Argumentation*. Springer, Cham.

Mora Maldonado, Jennifer Culbertson, and Wataru Uegaki (2022). Learnability and constraints on the semantics of clause-embedding predicates. In *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Toronto, Canada, pp. 2739–2745.

Mora Maldonado and Carmen Saldana (2022). Interpretations of plurality in personal pronouns differ across person categories: An experimental study. In *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, pp. 291–300.

Jeremy Kuhn* and **Mora Maldonado*** (2022). Generalizing NPIs to positive contexts in an artificial language. In *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, pp. 301–310.

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

Zaslavsky, Noga, **Mora Maldonado**, and Jennifer Culbertson (2021). Let's talk (efficiently) about us: Person systems achieve near-optimal compression. In *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, Vienna, Austria, pp. 2663–2669.

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): 145–170.

Maldonado, Mora, Carmen Saldana, and Jennifer Culbertson (2020). Learning biases in person-number linearization. In Asatryan, M., Song, Y., and Whitmal, A. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 50)*, pp. 163–177.

Maldonado, Mora, Ewan Dunbar, and Emmanuel Chemla (2019). *Mouse tracking as a window into decision making.* *Behavior Research Methods*, 51(3): 1085–1101.

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

Maldonado, Mora and Jennifer Culbertson (2019). Learnability as a window into universal constraints on person systems. In Schloder, J., McHugh, D., and Roelofsen, F. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 22nd Amsterdam Colloquium*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 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*, Montreal, Canada, 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*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, pp. 57–74.

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

Maldonado, Mora, Benjamin Spector, and Emmanuel Chemla (2017). *Priming methods in semantics and pragmatics – Commentary on Branigan and Pickering.* *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 40: e303.

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

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 Wainselboim, A. (Eds.), *Lenguaje, cognición y cerebro*. Editorial de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina, pp. 169–186. ISBN 978-950-774-218-7.

Presentations

Selected Invited Talks (Last 7)

Sep 2025	*An artificial language learning approach to cross-linguistic regularities in meaning.* Workshop *Artificial Languages in the Linguist's Toolbox*, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
Jun 2025	*Us and Them: Semantic primitives underlying the typology and learnability of indexicals.* Workshop on *Person, Binding, Presupposition and Agreement*, University of Geneva, Switzerland.
Feb 2025	*Another look at contrafactive predicates: The case of Spanish 'creerse'.* Workshop *How We Do (Not) Talk About Mistaken Beliefs*, Department of Philosophy, University of Düsseldorf, Germany.
Jan 2025	*Do learning biases explain the typology of negation? Insights from ALL.* ILLC Colloquium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Sep 2024	*Uncovering representational constraints in functional domains: How can experiments help?* Workshop *The Future of Artificial Language Learning in Linguistics*, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.
Jun 2024	*Constraints on modals and clausal embedding predicates: An experimental investigation.* Workshop on *Advances in the Semantics of Clause-Embedding Predicates: Theories, Cross-Linguistic Data, and Experimentation*, University of Konstanz, Germany.
Jun 2024	*Negative dependencies: An artificial language learning approach.* SFB Colloquium, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

Selected Conference Presentations (Last 5)

Sep 2025 M. Maldonado and A. Soria Ruiz. *Can I quote you on that? Mixed quotation in the wild.* Talk, SEFA (Sociedad Española de Filosofía Analítica), Sevilla, Spain.

Aug 2025 A. Bernard and M. Maldonado. *Processing non-maximal readings of sentences with plural definites.* Poster, *CogSci 2025*, San Francisco, USA.

Apr 2025 M. Maldonado and B. Spector. *An experimental assessment of the 'nall' lexical gap.* Talk, Workshop I: *Typological Generalizations and Semantic Theory*, GLOW 48, Göttingen, Germany.

Dec 2024 M. Maldonado and B. Spector. *An experimental assessment of the 'nall' lexical gap.* Talk, *Amsterdam Colloquium 2024*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Sep 2024 M. Maldonado and O. Percus. *Another look into contrafactive predicates: Spanish 'creerse'.* Talk, *Sinn und Bedeutung 29 (SuB29)*, Sicily, Italy.

Grants and Awards

2025–2030: Ramón y Cajal Fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, including salary (€35,000/year) and €50,000 research funding.

2024-2028: PI in the project Uncovering Universality in Semantics: Cross-Linguistic Patterns in Indexicality and Negation (UNIVSEM) awarded by the Agence National de la Recherche (€340,000)

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 Fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, including salary (€31,000/year) and €6,000 research funding.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer
Course: *Methods in Linguistics* (co-taught with Oana Lungu).
Master SDL Sciences du Langage. Université de Nantes. Fall term 2024

Lecturer
Course: *Acquisition and Psycholinguistics* (co-taught with Hamida Demirache).
Master SDL Sciences du Langage. Université de Nantes. Fall term 2023, Fall term 2024

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 Theorical 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

Supervision

PhD Supervision

- Angèle Bernard (expected 2026), Nantes Université

MSc Supervision

- Aurore Pamier (2025), Nantes Université

- Ruizhe Zhou (2024), École Normale Supérieure

- 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

Jury Duties

Dec 2025 – Antoine Cochard. PhD Thesis: *Acquiring the Many Meanings of Simple, Negated and Modal Disjunction*.
University of Groningen.

Oct 2023 – Elizabeth Heredia Murillo. PhD Thesis: *The Semantics and L1 Acquisition of Scalar (Focus) Particles: The
Case of Spanish (ni) siquiera and incluso*. University of Groningen.

Reviewing and Evaluation

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 Evolu-
tion, Philosophy and Psychology, PNAS, Open Mind, Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, Language*.
Funding Agencies: 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, AMLAP, BU, TBILLC.

Conference and workshop organisation

- Organizer of Sinn und Bedeutung 31 (2026)

- Chair of Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (2025–2026)

- 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)