

Fausto Carcassi

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<https://thelogicalgrammar.github.io>

Employment

- 08/23-Present **University of Amsterdam**
Assistant Professor in Experimental and Computational Approaches to
Semantics and Pragmatics
- 08/22-08/23 **University of Tübingen**
Judging Plausible Deniability (PlauDe)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship
Supervisor: Michael Franke
- 02/22-08/22 **University of Tübingen**
Postdoctoral researcher
Department of General Linguistics and Pragmatics
PI: Michael Franke
- 04/20-02/22 **University of Amsterdam**
Postdoctoral researcher
Cognitive Semantics and Quantities (ERC n. STG 716230)
PI: Jakub Szymanik

Education

- 09/16-07/20 **University of Edinburgh**
Link Ph.D., Linguistics and English Language
The Cultural Evolution of Scalar Categorization: How cognition and
communication affect the structure of categories on scalar conceptual
domains.
Supervisors: Prof Simon Kirby, Dr Marieke Schouwstra
Examiners: Dr Wataru Uegaki (Internal), Dr Michael Franke (External)
- 09/15-08/16 **University of Edinburgh**
MSc, Philosophy
- 09/12-08/15 **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**
B.A., Philosophy

Journal Publications

- 2023 Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2023) The Boolean Language of Thought is
Link recoverable from learning data. *Cognition*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2023.105541>
- 2022 Carcassi F., Sbardolini G. (2022) Assertion, Denial, and the Evolution of
Link Boolean Operators. *Mind and Language*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12448>
- 2022 Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2022) Neural Networks Track the Logical
Link Complexity of Boolean Concepts. *Open Mind*.
https://doi.org/10.1162/opmi_a_00059
- 2022 Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2022), Heavy Tails and the Shape of Modified
Link Numerals. *Cognitive Science*, 46: e13176.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13176>
- 2021 Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2021) An Alternatives Account of ‘Most’ and
Link ‘More Than Half’. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 6(1).
<https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.5764>
- 2021 Carcassi, F., Steinert-Threlkeld, S. and Szymanik, J. (2021), Monotone
Link Quantifiers Emerge via Iterated Learning. *Cognitive Science*, 45: e13027.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13027>

Proceedings

- 2023 Carcassi F., Franke M. (2023) How to handle the truth: A model of
Link politeness as strategic truth-stretching. *Proceedings of the 45st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2021 Carcassi F., Szymanik, J. (2021) ‘Most’ vs ‘More Than Half’: An
Link Alternatives Explanation, *Proceedings of the Society for Computation in Linguistics: Vol.4, Article 30*.
- 2021 Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2021) The Shape of Modified Numerals.
Link *Proceedings of the 43st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2020 Carcassi F., Schouwstra M., Kirby S. (2020) The Advantage of Extreme
Link Meanings in Cultural Evolution. *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 13th International Conference (EvoLang13)*.

- 2019 Carcassi F., Steinert-Threlkeld S., Szymanik J. (2019) The Emergence of
 Link Monotone Quantifiers via Iterated Learning. Proceedings of the 41st
 Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- 2018 Carcassi F., Kirby S., Schouwstra M. (2018) The Evolution of Adjectival
 Link Monotonicity. Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23.

Invited Talks

- Language Evolution and Meaning Space*
 09/01/24 Meaning, Language, and Cognition (MLC) talk series, Amsterdam
- Open-ending Cognitive Models with LLMs*
 15/12/23 ACLC talk series, Amsterdam
- Active Inference and the probabilistic Language of Thought*
 11/07/23 LOT2023, Nantes
 07/07/23 Computational Phenomenology Fridays
- Modelling argumentation with quantifiers*
 23/09/22 9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPRAG), Pavia
 18/05/22 CoSaQ Closing workshop, Amsterdam
- The importance of being earnest: Compositionality in the Arena of Use*
 02/04/22 The Third Tsinghua Interdisciplinary Workshop on Logic, Language, and
 Meaning
- Updates and Boolean Universals*
 29/01/21 EXPRESS Workshop Non-Assertoric Speech Acts, Amsterdam
- An Alternatives Account of ‘Most’ and ‘More Than Half’*
 14/12/20 Donders Computational Cognitive Science group, Nijmegen
- The role of learning in the evolution of semantic extremeness*
 08/05/20 Computation, Language, and Meaning Band of Researchers, Washington
 15/04/20 Cognitive Semantics and Quantities, Amsterdam
- The evolution of a semantic universal through iterated learning*
 25/02/19 Mind and Cognition Group, Edinburgh
- The semantic structure of gradable adjectives: an experiment and a
 Bayesian model*
 23/04/19 Centre for Language Evolution, Edinburgh

- Monotonicity in gradable adjectives: an evolutionary model and some experimental results*
 22/11/18 Cognitive Semantics and Quantities seminar, Amsterdam
- The evolution of adjectival monotonicity*
 19/06/18 Centre for Language Evolution, Edinburgh

Reviewed Talks & Posters

- How to handle the truth: A model of politeness as strategic truth-stretching*
 28/07/23 Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Sydney
- The Shape of Modified Numerals*
 29/07/21 Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Montreal
- The Advantage of Extreme Meanings in Cultural Evolution*
 16/04/20 Evolang XIII (Cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- The Emergence of Monotone Quantifiers via Iterated Learning*
 03/08/21 Experimental approaches to language universals in structure and meaning (ExUni virtual Workshop at ESSLLI)
- 12/06/20 Meaning, Logic and Cognition, Amsterdam
- 27/07/19 Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Montreal
- The Evolution of Adjectival Monotonicity*
 06/09/18 Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Barcelona
- The Evolution of Scalar Terms' Semantic Structure*
 30/08/18 Societas Linguistica Europaea, Tallin
- The Evolution of Monotonicity in the Semantics of Gradable Adjectives*
 7/12/17 60th Language Lunch (Poster), Edinburgh

Teaching

University of Amsterdam

- 2023 *Introduction to Linguistics* (tutorial group): We guided groups of students through designing and running their own variation of a Wug test.
- 2021, 2023 *Cognitive Modeling* (design and teaching): An introduction to various important Bayesian models of cognition, combining theoretical lectures and programming labs in R.

University of Edinburgh

- 2018 Guest Lecture for *Current Issues in Semantics and Pragmatics*
 Tutoring for:

2018-19	<i>Logic 1</i> (Introduction to Logic)
2018-19	<i>Logic 2</i> (Introduction to Modal Logic)
2017-18, 2018-19	<i>Introduction to Cognitive Science</i>
2017-18	<i>LEL 1B</i> (Introduction to Linguistics)
2016-17, 2017-18	<i>Mind, Matter and Language</i>

ESSLLI

2023	<i>The probabilistic Language of Thought</i> : A week-long version of my introduction to the pLoT.
2022	<i>Computational Approaches to the Explanation of Universal Properties of Meaning</i> (with Jakub Szymanik)

University of Tübingen

2022	<i>The probabilistic Language of Thought</i> : An introduction to contemporary models of the Language of Thought, combining theoretical lectures and labs.
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Various

11/04/22	Mentor at the REST-CL Retreat for Students in Computational Linguistics in Barcelona.
2023	<i>The probabilistic Language of Thought</i> : A one-day version of my introduction to the pLoT taught at the LOT2023 workshop in Nantes.

Supervision

University of Amsterdam

2024	Literature Thesis Brain and Cognitive Sciences (MBCS). Snyder, T. (2024) Modeling Ambiguity Resolution: Examining Game-Theoretic, Computational Pragmatics & Reinforcement Learning Frameworks.
2021	BA Dissertation in AI. de Kleuver, G. (2021) Cultural Evolution of Convex Color Terms and Degeneracy.
2021	BA Dissertation in AI. Duetz N. (2021) The Cultural Evolution of Color Convexity in a Population of Neural Networks.

Reviewer

Journal of Logic, Language, and Information, Linguistic Vanguard, ESSLLI, Memory & Cognition Journal, Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (SIGNLL), Workshop on Semantic Universals (Amsterdam Colloquium 2019), The Evolution of Language (EvoLang), Models of the Mind (Edinburgh 2018)

Book reviews

2012	Orilia F. (2012), “Filosofia del tempo: Il dibattito contemporaneo”,
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Published in: ReF - Recensioni Filosofiche, 87

Public Engagement

- 2018 *Exploring an Alien World*, International Science Fair, Edinburgh.
Collaborative work with Jonas Nölle. We developed a simple game in virtual reality (using C# + Unity) that was played by children.
- 2016-17 Academic Support Officer, Edinburgh's Philosophy Society
- 2016 *Putting adjectives on the square of oppositions*
Student Cognitive Science Society, Edinburgh