

# Fausto Carcassi

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## Employment

- 08/23-Present    **University of Amsterdam**  
Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation.
- 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  
*Title:* The Cultural Evolution of Scalar Categorization: How cognition and communication affect the structure of categories on scalar conceptual domains. *Supervisors:* Simon Kirby, Marieke Schouwstra. *Examiners:* Wataru Uegaki, Michael Franke.
- 09/15-08/16    **University of Edinburgh**  
MSc, Philosophy
- 09/12-08/15    **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**  
B.A., Philosophy

## Refereed Journal Articles

- 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

- 2024   Tsvilodub P., Franke M., Carcassi F. (2024) Cognitive Modeling with  
[Link](#)   Scaffolded LLMs: A Case Study of Referential Expression Generation.  
*ICML Workshop on Large Language Models and Cognition*.
- 2024   van Tiel B., Carcassi F., Zheng, Y.Z. (2024) Word order and the  
[Link](#)   learnability of artificial languages. *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting  
of the Cognitive Science Society*.
- 2023   Carcassi F., Franke M. (2023) How to handle the truth: A model of  
[Link](#)   politeness as strategic truth-stretching. *Proceedings of the 45th 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 [Link](#) Carcassi F., Szymanik J. (2021) The Shape of Modified Numerals. Proceedings of the 43st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- 2020 [Link](#) Carcassi F., Schouwstra M., Kirby S. (2020) The Advantage of Extreme Meanings in Cultural Evolution. The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 13th International Conference (EvoLang13).
- 2019 [Link](#) Carcassi F., Steinert-Threlkeld S., Szymanik J. (2019) The Emergence of Monotone Quantifiers via Iterated Learning. Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- 2018 [Link](#) Carcassi F., Kirby S., Schouwstra M. (2018) The Evolution of Adjectival Monotonicity. Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23.

## Invited Talks

- 06/06/24 *Evolving a Language in a Language of Thought*  
The Scandinavian Association for Language and Cognition (SALC9), thematic session on explaining semantic universals. Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- 09/01/24 *Language Evolution and Meaning Space*  
Meaning, Language, and Cognition (MLC) talk series, Amsterdam
- 15/12/23 *Open-ending Cognitive Models with LLMs*  
ACLC talk series, Amsterdam
- 11/07/23 *Active Inference and the probabilistic Language of Thought*  
LOT2023, Nantes
- 07/07/23 Computational Phenomenology Fridays
- 23/09/22 *Modelling argumentation with quantifiers*  
9th Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPRAG), Pavia
- 18/05/22 CoSaQ Closing workshop, Amsterdam
- 02/04/22 *The importance of being earnest: Compositionality in the Arena of Use*  
The Third Tsinghua Interdisciplinary Workshop on Logic, Language, and Meaning
- 29/01/21 *Updates and Boolean Universals*  
EXPRESS Workshop Non-Assertoric Speech Acts, Amsterdam
- 14/12/20 *An Alternatives Account of ‘Most’ and ‘More Than Half’*  
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-Present *First Year Group Project Linguistics*: An introduction to experimental methods in linguistics, including designing and running an experiment.
- 2023-Present *Semantics & Pragmatics*: An introduction to formal semantics and Gricean pragmatics.
- 2023-Present *Computational Methods*: An introduction to various formal and computational tools for cognitive science.
- 2023-Present *Introduction to Linguistics*: We guided groups of students through designing and running their own variation of a Wug test.
- 2023-Present *Cognitive Modeling*: An introduction to various important Bayesian models of cognition, combining theoretical lectures and programming labs in R.

[Link](#)

### University of Edinburgh

- 2018 Guest Lecture for *Current Issues in Semantics and Pragmatics*
- Tutoring for:
- 2018-19 *Logic 1* (Introduction to Logic)
- 2018-19 *Logic 2* (Introduction to Modal Logic)
- 2017-18, 2018-19 *Introduction to Cognitive Science*
- 2017-18 *LEL 1B* (Introduction to Linguistics)
- 2016-17, 2017-18 *Mind, Matter and Language*

### ESSLLI

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

[Link](#)

[Link](#)

### University of Tübingen

- 2022 *The probabilistic Language of Thought*: An introduction to contemporary models of the Language of Thought, combining theoretical lectures and labs.

[Link](#)

### Various

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

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## Supervision

### University of Amsterdam

- 2024 Linguistics BA Thesis. Mačiuika, A. (2024) Probing for BERT-style models' knowledge of differential object marking in Lithuanian.
- 2024 Linguistics BA Thesis. de Moel, A. (2024) How a Language of Thought model can predict human pattern perception in binary sequences.

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

## Public Engagement & Academic Service

- 2024-Present *Language Evolution and Learning in Amsterdam (LELA)* talk series  
[Link](#) organization.
- 2024 *Organizing Committee* of the Amsterdam Colloquium biannual conference.  
[Link](#)
- 2024-Present *Program Committee* for the BA Linguistics of the University of Amsterdam.
- 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
- Reviewer for:* 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)