

# 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
- 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

28/07/23 *How to handle the truth: A model of politeness as strategic truth-stretching*  
Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Sydney

29/07/21 *The Shape of Modified Numerals*  
Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Montreal

16/04/20 *The Advantage of Extreme Meanings in Cultural Evolution*  
Evolang XIII (Cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic)

03/08/21 *The Emergence of Monotone Quantifiers via Iterated Learning*  
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

06/09/18 *The Evolution of Adjectival Monotonicity*  
Sinn und Bedeutung 23, Barcelona

30/08/18 *The Evolution of Scalar Terms' Semantic Structure*  
Societas Linguistica Europaea, Tallin

7/12/17 *The Evolution of Monotonicity in the Semantics of Gradable Adjectives*  
60th Language Lunch (Poster), Edinburgh

## Teaching

### **University of Amsterdam**

2021,2023 *Cognitive Modeling* (design and teaching): An introduction to various  
Link important Bayesian models of cognition, combining theoretical lectures and  
programming labs in R.

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.

### **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  
 Link      introduction to the pLoT.  
 2022      *Computational Approaches to the Explanation of Universal Properties of*  
 Link      *Meaning* (with Jakub Szymanik)

### **University of Tübingen**

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

### **Various**

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

### 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”,  
             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