

Todor Koev

Curriculum Vitae

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Foreign Literatures and Linguistics
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📄 <https://todor-koev.github.io>

Research Interests

- Broad Formal and probabilistic semantics and pragmatics, Experimental linguistics, Dynamic semantics, Formal syntax, Slavic and Germanic linguistics
- Narrow Parentheticality, Evidentiality, Modality, Gradability, Question bias, Indefiniteness, Adverbial modification

Employment and Visits

- Fall 2024–now Senior Lecturer
Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics, Ben Gurion University (Israel)
- Summer 2024 Guest Researcher
Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Winter 2023–2024 Visiting Professor (substitution for Prof. Maribel Romero)
Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer 2023 Guest Researcher
Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Winter 2022–2023 Visiting Scholar
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University (USA)
- Fall 2018 Visiting Scholar
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
- 2018–2023 Emmy Noether Fellow
Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- 2014–2017 Lecturer
Department of Linguistics, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany)
- 2013–2014 Postdoctoral Researcher
Institute of Linguistics, University of Stuttgart (Germany)

Education

Degree education

- 2013 Ph.D. Linguistics, Rutgers University (USA)
- 1999 M.A. Philosophy, Sofia University (Bulgaria)
B.A. Business Administration, Sofia University (Bulgaria)

Summer schools

WeSSLLI (Brandeis University, 2020), ESSLLI (Sofia University, 2018; University of Ljubljana, 2011; University of Copenhagen, 2010), NASSLLI (Rutgers University, 2016)

Publications

Book

- 2022 *Parenthetical Meaning*
Studies in Semantics and Pragmatics, Oxford University Press

Journal articles

- 2024 “An Argument for a Strong Force Semantics for *Believe*”
Linguistic Inquiry. doi: 10.1162/ling_a_00544
- 2023 “Gradient At-issueness vs. Uncertainty about Binary At-issueness”
Theoretical Linguistics 49(3-4): 249–260. doi: 10.1515/tl-2023-2012
- 2021 “Parentheticality, Assertion Strength, and Polarity”
Linguistics and Philosophy 44: 113–140. doi: 10.1007/s10988-019-09285-4
- 2018 “Notions of At-issueness”
Language and Linguistics Compass 12(12): 1–16. doi: 10.1111/lnc3.12306
- 2017 “Quotational Indefinites”
Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 35(2): 367–396. doi: 10.1007/s11049-016-9344-x
- 2017 “Evidentiality, Learning Events, and Spatiotemporal Distance: The View from Bulgarian”
Journal of Semantics 34(1): 1–41. doi: 10.1093/jos/ffv014
- 2015 “Experimental Evidence for the Truth Conditional Contribution and Shifting Information Status of Appositives” (with Kristen Syrett)
Journal of Semantics 32(3): 525–577. doi: 10.1093/jos/ffu007
- 2015 “An ‘Antiproviso Problem’ for Appositive Relative Clauses”
Snippets 29(4): 11–12, doi: 10.7358/snip-2015-029-koev

Book chapters

- Under contract “Meaning Projection”
In L. Mayol et al. (eds.): *Handbook of Linguistic Interfaces*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2023 “Bias in Tag Questions” (with Cory Bill)
To appear in A. Benz et al. (eds.): *Biased Questions: Experimental Results & Theoretical Modelling*. Language Science Press.
- 2019 “Adverbs of Change”
In D. Altshuler and J. Rett (eds.): *The Semantics of Plurals, Focus, Degrees, and Times. Essays in Honor of Roger Schwarzschild*. Springer, 283–303.
A shorter version appeared in *Semantics And Linguistic Theory* 27: 22–42, LSA.

Proceedings papers

- To appear “Speaker Attitudes Predict Epistemic Biases in Polar Questions: Evidence from Farsi”
(with Maryam Mohammadi)
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 42
- 2023 “Vanilla Rules: The ‘no ice cream’ construction” (with Felix Frühauf, Hadil Karawani,
Natasha Korotkova, Doris Penka, and Daniel Skibra)
Sinn und Bedeutung 27: 209–227, Open Journal Systems
- 2022 “*Really*: Ambiguity and Question Bias” (with Cory Bill)
Sinn und Bedeutung 26: 130–148, Open Journal Systems
- 2021 “Verum Accent is VERUM, but Not Always Focus” (with Cory Bill)
Linguistic Society of America 6(1): 188–202, LSA
- 2021 “*Believe* is Strong but Subjective: Experimental Evidence from Hedging” (with Cory Bill
and Maryam Mohammadi)
Sinn und Bedeutung 25: 497–514, Open Journal Systems
- 2019 “Strong Beliefs, Weak Commitments”
Sinn und Bedeutung 23(2): 1–18, semanticsarchive
- 2017 “Parentheticality, Assertion Strength, and Discourse”
Sinn und Bedeutung 21: 679–694, semanticsarchive
- 2016 “On Quotational Indefinites”
Sinn und Bedeutung 20: 412–423, semanticsarchive
- 2016 “The Shiftability of German Appositive Relatives across Intensional Contexts: Two Exper-
imental Studies”
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 33: 237–245, Cascadilla
- 2014 “Two Puzzles about Appositives: Projection and Perspective Shift”
Sinn und Bedeutung 18: 217–234, semanticsarchive
- 2012 “On the Information Status of Appositive Relative Clauses”
Amsterdam Colloquium 18: 401–410, Springer
- 2011 “Evidentiality and Temporal Distance Learning”
Semantics And Linguistic Theory 21: 115–134, eLanguage
- 2011 “Definiteness as Agreement: Evidence from Bulgarian”
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 28: 133–141, Cascadilla

Talks

Invited talks

- 2025 “On the Epistemic Weakness of *Believe*”
Linguistics Colloquium, January 21, Bar-Ilan University
- 2024 “Epistemic Weakness as Subjectivity: The case of *believe*”
Linguistics Department Seminar, December 17, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2024 “Placeholder Indefinites”
Placeholders in East and West, October 10, University of Tübingen

- 2023 “Question Bias, Polarity Focus, and Saliency”
InqBnB4: Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary, June 20, Université de Lorraine, Nancy
- 2023 “Question Bias from Polarity Focus”
Construction of Meaning Workshop, March 15, Stanford University
- 2022 “At-issueness”
SFB 833, September 30, University of Tübingen
- 2022 “Parentheticality and Common Ground Management”
Syntax/Pragmatics Interface Seminar, July 5, University of Tübingen
- 2021 “Believe as Gradable, Strong, and Subjective”
Semantics Colloquium, July 1, Goethe University Frankfurt
- 2019 “Believe as Strong but Subjective”
Ernie Lepore’s Semantics Workshop, April 25–28, Rutgers University
- 2018 “A New Semantics for *Believe*”
Department and Research Colloquium, December 13, University of Konstanz
- 2018 “Strong Beliefs, Weak Commitments”
LF Reading Group, October 1, MIT
- 2018 “Strong Beliefs, Weak Commitments”
At-Issueness, Scope, and Coherence, July 9–10, University of Cologne
- 2017 “At-issueness does not Predict Projection”
 IPRA panel: *Foreground and Background: The Conversational Tailoring of Content and Context*, July 16–21, Belfast
- 2017 “Quotational Indefinites”
Syntax Seminar, February 23, University of Groningen
- 2016 “Parentheticality and Discourse”
Backgrounded Reports, January 15, University of Nijmegen
- 2014 “Appositive RCs, At-issueness, and Timing in Discourse”
Research Unit 1783: Relative Clauses, May 27, University of Frankfurt
- 2013 “Appositive Projection and its Exceptions”
Semantics Reading Group, December 3, University of Konstanz
- 2013 “Discourse and the At-issue/Not-at-issue Distinction: The View from Appositives”
Oberseminar, October 21, University of Tübingen
- Refereed presentations (without a publication)**
- 2022 “Impersonal Rules: The case of general prohibitives” (with Felix Frühauf, Hadil Karawani, Natasha Korotkova, Doris Penka, and Daniel Skibra)
The 46th Conference of Generative Grammar in the South (GGS 46), May 19–21, University of Stuttgart

- 2021 “High Negation Questions are Always Polarity Focused and Sometimes Contain VERUM” (with Cory Bill)
The 43rd Annual Meeting of the German Linguistics Society (DGfS 43), February 23–26, University of Freiburg
- 2021 “Question Bias from Polarity Focus” (with Cory Bill)
Biased Questions Workshop: Experimental Results & Theoretical Modelling, February 4–5, ZAS (Berlin)
- 2019 “A Degree Semantics for Verbal Change”
Linguistic Society of America (LSA 93), poster, January 3–6, New York City
- 2015 “Quotational Indefinites: Bulgarian and Beyond”
Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 24 (FASL 24), talk, May 8–10, New York University
- 2015 “On Appositive Projection and Its Exceptions”
Redrawing Pragmasemantic Borders, talk, March 19–20, University of Groningen
- 2015 “Verb Type and Mood in Shifted Appositive Relatives in German: An Experimental Study”
The 89th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 89), general session, January 8–11, Portland, OR
- 2014 “Shifted Meanings Across Phenomena and Languages” (with Cornelia Ebert)
(Re)presenting the Speech of Others, talk, March 13–14, University of Groningen
- 2014 “Shifted Appositives and Shifted Indexical Pronouns: Who Said It?”
The 88th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 88), general session, January 3–5, Minneapolis, MN
- 2012 “An Experimental Investigation of the Semantic Contribution of Appositives” (with Nicholas Angelides & Maxwell Kramer)
Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 2 (MACSIM 2), poster, February 18, University of Maryland
- 2011 “Temporal and Grounding Properties of Appositive Relative Clauses”
The 42nd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 42), general session, November 11–13, University of Toronto
- 2011 “Appositives in Discourse”
Third Workshop on Projection, Entailment, Presupposition and Assertion (PEPA 3), poster, May 19, Rutgers University
- 2010 “Evidentiality as a Link between Speakers, Times, and Events”
Mid-Atlantic Colloquium of Studies in Meaning 1 (MACSIM 1), poster, April 10, University of Pennsylvania

Grants

- 2018–2023 *Emmy Noether Program at DFG* (€746,850)
Project: *Parenthetical Meaning*
- 2016 *Strategic Research Grant* (€10,639), University of Düsseldorf
Project: *Parentheticality and Discourse*

- 2012–2013 *Mellon Dissertation Fellowship* (\$27,000), Rutgers University
2011 *Mellon Summer Research Grant* (\$4,000), Rutgers University

Teaching

Ben Gurion University

Introduction to Semantics. B.A. level foundational course. Instructor (Spring 2025)

Modality in Semantics. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Fall and Spring 2024–2025)

University of Konstanz

Modality and Gradability. M.A./Ph.D. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2023–2024)

Formal Methods in Linguistics. M.A. level class. Instructor (Winter 2023–2024)

Pragmatics I. B.A. level introduction. Instructor (Winter 2023–2024)

Sociolinguistics: Bias in Public Discourse. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Summer 2022, Winter 2023–2024)

Question Bias. M.A./Ph.D. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2021–2022)

Core Components of Language B. M.A. level introduction to syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Instructor (Summer 2020)

University of Düsseldorf

Dynamic Semantics. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2016–2017)

Hidden Meaning in Public Discourse. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2016–2017)

Modals, Attitudes, and Conditionals. B.A. and M.A. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2015–2016)

Scope, Perspective, Projection. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Summer 2015)

Entailment, Implicature, Presupposition. B.A. level seminar. Instructor (Winter 2014–2015)

Introduction to Pragmatics. B.A. level introduction. Instructor (Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017)

Introduction to Logic. B.A. level introduction. Instructor (Winter 2014–2015)

Rutgers University

Semantics. Lecturer (Spring 2012, Fall 2011), Grader for Prof. Roger Schwarzschild (Spring 2008)

Introduction to Linguistic Theory. Lecturer (Spring 2010)

Introduction to the Study of Language. Teaching Assistant for Prof. Paul de Lacy (Fall 2009, Fall 2008)

University of Delaware

Introduction to Linguistics. Tutor for Prof. Gabriela Hermon (Spring 2007)

Philosophy of Mind. Grader for Prof. Fred Adams (Fall 2006)

Supervision

Graduate

- 2025 Saeedeh Salimifar, *Projective meaning: An Experimental and Computational Study*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Oslo, External member
- 2024 Maryam Mohammadi, *Bias Conditions in Polar Questions and Answers: A study of bias effects in Farsi*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Konstanz, Chair

Undergraduate

- 2024 Simon Janik, *The Pragmatics of Emojis in Questions*. B.A. thesis, University of Konstanz, Co-chair
- 2021 Annika Kniele, *Discourse Particles: The Double Life of German 'schon' and French 'déjà'*. B.A. thesis, University of Konstanz, Co-chair
- 2021 Dominik Messmer, *The Meaning of German Response Particles as Responses to Negative Polar Questions*. B.A. thesis, University of Konstanz, Co-chair

Reviewing

- Foundations *National Science Foundation, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Austrian Science Fund*
- Volumes *Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Springer*
- Journals *Semantics and Pragmatics* (editorial board), *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Natural Language Semantics*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Glossa*, *Language*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Acta Linguistica Academica*, *Languages*, *Cognitive Science*, *Synthese*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Snippets*
- Conferences *Semantics and Linguistics Theory*, *Sinn und Bedeutung*, *North East Linguistics Society*, *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, *Generative Linguistics in the Old World*, *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics*, *Linguistic Society of America*

Organizing

- 2019 *Expressing Evidence* (University of Konstanz)
Co-organized with Regine Eckardt, Sven Lauer, Natasha Korotkova
- 2011 *Semantics And Linguistics Theory 21* (Rutgers University)
On-site management and budget
- 2008–2012 *Semantics Research Group* (Rutgers University)
Main organizer

Languages

- Natural English (near-native), German (fluent), Bulgarian (native)
- Artificial LaTeX, R, Python