

# 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 (non-tenured)  
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)

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## 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

- 2025 “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)

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## 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

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## 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*

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## 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

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## Languages

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