Helena Aparicio

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Research Interests

Theoretical, Experimental and Computational
Semantics and Pragmatics.

Positions

Jan 2021 - **Assistant Professor**, *Linguistics Department*, *Cornell University*, Ithaca, NY [Parental Leave, Fall 2022].

Oct 2017 - **Postdoctoral Associate**, *Computational Psycholinguistics Lab*,
Dec 2020 *MIT*, Cambridge, MA [Parental Leave, Fall 2019].
Advisor: Roger Levy

Dissertation

Processing context-sensitive expressions: the case of gradable adjectives and numerals.
Co-chairs: Christopher Kennedy and Ming Xiang

Education

2011 - 2017 **Ph.D., Linguistics**, *University of Chicago*, Chicago, IL, USA.

2008 - 2011 **M.A., Linguistics**, *City University of New York, Graduate Center*, New York, NY, USA.

2006 - 2008 **M.A., Applied Linguistics**, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra*, Barcelona, Spain.

2001 - 2006 **B.A., Humanities (Honors)**, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra*, Barcelona, Spain.

Non-degree Study

2013 **ESSLLI**, *University of Düsseldorf*, Düsseldorf, Germany.

2012 **NASSLLI**, *University of Texas*, Austin, TX, USA.

2009 **Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute 2009**, *University of California*, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Grants and Fellowships

2023 **PCCW Affinito-Stewart seed grant**, *Cornell University*, $8,300.

2023 **Cornell Center for Social Sciences research grant**, *Cornell Unversity*, $8,300.

2011 **University of Chicago Fellowship**, tuition fees and stipend (renewed 2012-2015).

2010 **CUNY Graduate Center, Linguistics Department**, tuition Remissions, $7,840.

2010 **Sa Nostra Fellowship**, 10,000€.

2008 **La Caixa Fellowship**, 26,000€ and Tuition Fees (renewed 2009); Tuition Fee LSA Summer Institute 2009, $1,835.

2006 **Formación de Personal Universitario (FPU) Fellowship**, *Spanish Ministry of Education*, 12,000€ and Tuition Fees, (renewed 2007).

2005 **Collaboration Grant**, *Spanish Ministry of Education*, 2,000€.

2003 **International student grant to attend Boston College (Fall Semester)**, *Boston College*, $4,000.

Awards

2007 **Spanish Ministry of Education**, Honorable Mention, National Award of Completion of Bachelor Studies.

2006 **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**, Award for Academic Excellence, best academic transcript of the class 2005/2006, Humanities Faculty (UPF).

Publications

under review (submitted: July 2023). **Aparicio, H.**, Levy, R., Coppock, E. *Constraint evaluation order in comprehension: Evidence from modified Haddock descriptions.*

under review (submitted: May 2023) Ronderos, C., **Aparicio, H.**, Shukla, V., Jara-Ettinger, J., Rubio-Fernández, P. *Deriving contrastive inferences: Perceptual factors affect pragmatic reasoning.*

to appear **Aparicio, H.**, Ronai, E. *Scalar implicatures vary within and across adjectival scales.* Proceedings of *SALT* 33.

to appear Nianpo, S. & **Aparicio, H**. NPI licensing and intrusion effects in Japanese. Proceedings of the *Chicago Linguistic Society*.

2022 Yaari, A., DeWitt, J., Hu, H., Stankovits, B., Felshin, S., Berzak, Y., **Aparicio, H.**, Katz, B., Cases, I., Barbu, A. The Aligned Multimodal Movie Treebank: An audio, video, dependency-parse treebank. *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (EMNLP). 9531–9539

2021 **Aparicio, H.**, Chen, C., Levy, R. *Granularity in the Semantics of Comparison*. Proceedings of *SALT* 31. Eds. Nicole Dreier, Chloe Kwon, Thomas Darnell, and John Starr. 550-569. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3765/salt.v31i0.5121

2018 **Aparicio, H.**, Kennedy, C., Xiang, M. *Perceived Informativity and Referential Effects of Contrast in Adjectivally Modified NPs*. In E. Castroviejo, L. McNally, G. Weidman Sassoon (Eds.), *The Semantics of Gradability, Vagueness, and Scale Structure*. Springer series *Language, Cognition, and Mind*. Cham: Springer, pp. 199-220.

2015 **Aparicio, H.**, Xiang, M., Kennedy, C. *Processing Gradable Adjectives in Context: A Visual World Study*. Proceedings of *SALT* 25. Eds. D'Antonio, Sarah, Mary Moroney, and Carol Rose Little. 413–432.

2015 **Aparicio, H.**, Franich, K., Xiang, M. *The Syntax of Ellipsis Resolution: Eye-tracking Evidence from ϕ-feature Mismatches*. Proceedings of the *North East Linguistic Society* 45, Volume 1. Eds. Bul, Thuy, and Özyidiz. 39–52.

2014 **Aparicio, H.** *A Compositional Analysis for Subset Comparatives*. Proceedings of *Sinn und Bedeutung* 18. Eds. Urtzi Etxeberria, Anamaria Fălăuş, Aritz Irurtzun, and Bryan Leferman. 24–41.

───── Invited Talks

2023 *Vagueness & Meaning Resilience*. Invited speaker at the Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

2023 *Vagueness & Meaning Resilience*. Invited speaker at the Workshop on Processing and Evaluating Event Representations. Rochester University, Rochester, NY.

2023 *Vagueness & Adaptation*. Invited lecture, Cognitive Science Proseminar, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

2021 *A new source of imprecision in the domain of gradable adjectives*. Workshop on Scales, degrees and implicature: Novel synergies between Semantics and Pragmatics'. Cognitive Sciences, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.

2020 *The bigger or the biggest?* Colloquium Series. Linguistics Department, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

2019 *Experimental and Computational Methods in Semantics and Pragmatics*. Masterclass series, guest lecture. University of Reading, Reading, Berkshire, United Kingdom.

2019 How to find *the rabbit in the big(ger) box*: Probabilistic reasoning about contextual parameters for gradable adjectives under embedding. CRS (Center for Research and Language), University of California, San Diego, CA.

2016 Varieties of Context-Sensitivity in the Processing of Gradable Adjectives: A Visual World Study. Linguistics Department, Indiana University, Bloomington.

2015 Processing Relative vs. Absolute Adjectives: a Visual World Study. Talk presented at the UPF Formal Linguistics Research Group (GLIF). Linguistics Department, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona.

Refereed Conference Presentations

2023 (with Curtis Chen). Priming granularities across domains: evidence from numerals and gradable adjectives. *10th biennial meeting of experimental pragmatics* (XPrag X), Université Paris Cité – CNRS, Paris, September 20-22.

2023 (with John Starr and Marten van Schijndel). The relationship between phonological viability and syntactic complexity. *The 30th Manchester Phonology Meeting*, Manchester, UK, May 25-27.

2023 (with Eszter Ronai). Scalar implicature rates vary within and across adjectival scales. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 2023*. Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA, May 12-14.

2023 (with Altria Wang). Vagueness, Adaptation & Meaning Resilience. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. March 9-11.

2023 (with Eszter Ronai). Scalar implicature rates vary within and across adjectival scales. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. March 9-11.

2023 (with John Starr Draga Zec and Marten van Schijndel). Phonological structure influences incremental syntactic processing. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. March 9-11.

2023 (with John Starr, Draga Zec and Marten van Schijndel). Salient phonological information modulates the effect of semantic priming in prediction. *36th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. March 9-11.

2022 (with John Starr and Marten van Schijndel). Semantics reels us in: a first look at mind rhymes. *35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of California, Santa Cruz, California, USA. March 24-26.

2021 (with Roger Levy and Elizabeth Coppock) Referential garden paths in modified Haddock descriptions. Computational and experimental explanations in semantics and pragmatics. Workshop held at the 32nd European Summer School of Logic Language and Information (held virtually). July 26-August 13.

2021 (with Curtis Chen, Roger Levy and Elizabeth Coppock) Granularity in the Semantics of Comparison. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31*. Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA. May 7-9.

2019 (with Roger Levy and Elizabeth Coppock) Inferring Comparison Classes for embedded Relative Adjectives: an RSA account. *The 8th Experimental Pragmatics conference*. University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK. June 19-21.

2019 (with Roger Levy and Elizabeth Coppock) Inferring Comparison Classes for embedded Relative Adjectives: an RSA account. *The semantics and pragmatics of gradable adjectives: Integrating perspectives from linguistic theory, psycholinguistics and modeling*. Workshop organized as part of the SPP 1727 "XPrag.de: New Pragmatic Theories based on Experimental Evidence", Cologne, Germany, May 23-24.

2019 (with Roger Levy and Elizabeth Coppock) How to find *the rabbit in the big(ger) box*: Probabilistic reasoning about contextual parameters for gradable adjectives under embedding. *32th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA. March 29-31.

2019 (with Paula Fernández-Rubio and Julian Jara-Ettinger) Contrastive effects with color, material & scalar adjectives in English, Hindi & Hungarian. *32th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA. March 29-31.

2018 (with Roger Levy) Reasoning About Exceptions: *Except*-Phrases and Quantification. *31th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of California, Davis, CA, USA. March 15-17.

2018 (with Christopher Kennedy and Ming Xiang) Processing Imprecision: The Case Study of Numerals. *31th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of California, Davis, CA, USA. March 15-17.

2017 Two Types of Imprecision Calculation in the Numeral Domain. *30th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, USA. March 30-April 1.

2017 (with Christopher Kennedy and Ming Xiang) Imprecision *Can* be Costly: Evidence from Modified Numerals. *The 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*. Austin, TX, USA. January 5-8.

2016 (with Christopher Kennedy and Ming Xiang) Informativity and Grammar in Referential Effects of Contrast. *22nd AMLaP conference*. Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain. September 1-3.

2015 (with Ming Xiang and Christopher Kennedy) Processing Gradable Adjectives in Context: a Visual World Study. *Workshop on Gradability, Scale Structure and Vagueness: Experimental Perspectives*. Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, Spain. May 28-29.

2015 (with Ming Xiang and Christopher Kennedy) Processing Relative vs. Absolute Adjectives: a Visual World Study. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 25*. Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA. May 15-17.

2015 (with Ming Xiang and Christopher Kennedy) Processing Relative vs. Absolute Adjectives: a Visual World Study. *28th CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing*. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA. March 19-21. Poster presentation.

2014 (with Kathryn Franich and Ming Xiang) The Syntax of Ellipsis Resolution: Eye-tracking Evidence from ϕ-feature Mismatches. *North East Linguistic Society 45*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, USA. October 31- November 2.

2014 (with Kathryn Franich and Ming Xiang) The Syntax of Ellipsis Resolution: Eye-tracking Evidence from ϕ-feature Mismatches. *Texas Linguistic Society Conference 15*. University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA. October 24-26.

2013 Subset Comparatives in Spanish. *SWAMP*. University of Chicago, USA. November 16.

2013 A Compositional Semantics for Subset Comparatives. *Sinn und Bedeutung 18*. University of the Basque Country, Spain. September 11-13. Poster Presentation.

2013 A Compositional Semantics for Subset Comparatives. *ESSLLI 2013, Student Session*. Düsseldorf University, Germany. August 5-16.

Volumes Edited

2018 Aparicio, H., Flynn, G., Franich, K., Pietraszko, J., and Vardomskaya, T. (Eds). *Proceedings of the 49th Chicago Linguistic Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Teaching

Spring 2024 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Semantics seminar** (LING7711)

Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Research Workshop** (LING 6604)

Fall 2023 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Experimental Methods in Language Sciences** (LING4477/LING6477/COGST4477/COGST6477)
- **Human Language Processing** (LING3340)

Spring 2023 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Experimental Methods in Language Sciences** (LING4477/LING6477/COGST4477/COGST6477)
- **Undergraduate Seminar in Linguistics** (LING4440)

Spring 2022 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Introduction to Linguistics** (LING 1101/COGST1105)
- **Experimental Methods in Language Sciences** (LING4477/LING6477)

Fall 2021 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Semantics Seminar** (LING7725)

Cornell University, College of Arts
- **Advising Seminar** (AS1102)

Spring 2021 Linguistics Department, Cornell University
- **Experimental Methods in Language Sciences** (LING4477/LING6477)

Winter 2017 Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago
- Lecturer. *Spanish Language, History, and Culture III* (SPA 20300)

Fall 2016 Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago
- Lecturer. *Spanish Language, History, and Culture III* (SPA 20300)

Summer 2016 Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago
- Language Assistant. *Spanish Language, History, and Culture I*

Winter 2016 Linguistics Department, University of Chicago
- Lecturer. *Psycholinguistics* (LING/PSYC 27010)

Fall 2015 Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago
- Lecturer. *Spanish Language, History, and Culture III* (SPA 20300)

Winter 2015 Linguistics Department, University of Chicago
- Teaching Assistant. *Introduction to Linguistics* (LING 20001)
  Instructor: Martina Martinović

Fall 2014	Linguistics Department, University of Chicago
	○ Teaching Assistant. *Psycholinguistics* (LING 27010) Instructor: Ming Xiang
Fall 2013	Linguistics Department, University of Chicago
	○ Teaching Assistant. *Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics* (LING 20301) Instructor: Peter Klecha
Summer 2011	Oxbridge Academic Programs
	○ Spanish Language Teacher, Summer Academic Program La Academia de España, Barcelona, Spain
Spring 2011	LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
	○ Instructor. *Introduction to Language* (ELL101)

Advising

Ph.D. thesis committees

In progress	Kaelyn Lamp, *Xenophobic language on Twitter/X: A linguistically informed look at classifying and identifying xenophobic language on Twitter/X.*
2022	Katherine Blake, *Phonological markedness effects on Noun-Adjective ordering.*

Qualifying paper advising

In progress	Nianpo Su, *Definiteness in Nuosu Yi.*
In progress	Kihyo Park, *Animacy drives reanalysis in Korean double nominatives.*
2023	Nianpo Su, *Japanese multiple scrambling and the syntax-prosody interface.*
2023	Burak Öney, *Right dislocation in Turkish.*
2023	John Starr, *Syntactic complexity governs temporal processing of phonological information.*
2022	John Starr, *Subversive verses alter alternatives.*

M.A. thesis supervision

2023	Curtis Chen, *A purely granularity-based account of positive-form gradable adjectives* (co-chaired with Roger Levy).

Undergraduate honors theses

In progress   Emily Pecsok, *Vague disagreements*.

Service

Reviewing Service

- *Ad hoc* reviewer (journals): *Journal of Semantics*, *Language*, *Glossa*, *Glossa Psycholinguistics*, *Collabra*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *Psychological Science*, *Language Learning*

- *Ad hoc* reviewer (funding agencies): Leibniz Association (Germany)

- *Ad hoc* reviewer (conferences): Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM), North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Human Sentence Processing (HPS), Cognitive Science Society (CogSci), Linguistic Society of Amrica (LSA), Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)

Cornell University

- Faculty Search Committee, Linguistics Department (2022-2023)

- Postdoc search committee (Frontier Grant, PI: Professor Sam Tilsen, Spring 2022-Fall 2023)

- Nexus scholar selection process (with Professor Sam Tilsen, Spring 2023)

- Linguistics Department Graduate Admissions Committee (January 2022)

- Nexus scholar selection process (with Professor Sam Tilsen, Spring 2022)

- Participated in a Professor Panel organized by the Cornell Undergraduate Research Board Peer Mentorship Program to discuss effective strategies to get involved in undergraduate research (Spring 2022)

University of Chicago

- CLS 49 Officer: Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 49), 2012-13

City University of New York, Graduate Center

- Admissions Committee, Linguistics Department, CUNY Graduate Center. 2009
- Colloquium Committee, Linguistics Department, CUNY Graduate Center. 2009
- Professional Development Committee, Linguistics Department, CUNY Graduate Center. 2009

Languages

Catalan	*Native*
Spanish	*Native*
English	*Proficient*
French	*Intermediate*

Professional Affiliations

Linguistic Society of America

Programming Languages

R, WebPPL, Python, JavaScript, HTML/CSS