

André Eliatamby

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Profile

I am a first language acquisition researcher interested in the acquisition of determiner phrase semantics and logical connectives, the early acquisition of functional categories, and theoretical issues concerning the semantics/pragmatics interface. I use behavioural studies with children and adults, computational corpus analyses, and the tools of formal linguistics to investigate questions in these areas.

I have a secondary interest in statistical methods, inductive inference, and the role of input in language acquisition. I am particularly interested in the differences in language acquisition trajectories between children and transformer-based neural nets and what these differences reveal about the computational systems involved in human and machine learning.

Education

- 2016-2024 Ph.D., Linguistics, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Committee: Sam Al Khatib (Chair), Sandeep Prasada, Ailis Cournane, Jon Nissenbaum,
- 2016 M.A., Linguistics, The University of New South Wales, Australia
- 2012 B.Sc. (Computer Science)/B.A. (Linguistics, Honours First Class), UNSW Australia

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Journal Publications

- Eliatamby, A., & Valian, V. (2024). Children's early negative auxiliaries are true auxiliaries. *Language Acquisition*, 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2024.2356668>

Unpublished Manuscripts

- Eliatamby, A. (2024) Ambiguity and Implicature: Preschoolers' Interpretation of "Some"
- Eliatamby, A. (2024). Children's Boolean interpretation of free choice disjunctions

Conference Presentations

- Eliatamby, A. (2023, April). *Children's Interpretation of "Some" in Small and Large Contexts*. 9th Annual MACSIM Conference, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Eliatamby, A. (2018, December). *The Syntax of Negation in Child English*. Rencontres d'Automne de Linguistique Formelle (RALFe), Paris, France

Conference Posters

- Eliatamby, A. & Tieu, L. (2024, June). *The Role of Definiteness in Ad-hoc Implicatures*. Experiments in Linguistic Meaning 3. Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Eliatamby, A. & Valian, V. (2021, November). *The Adult-like Nature of Children's Early Negative Auxiliaries*. Boston University Conference on Language Development 46. Boston, MA, USA
- Eliatamby, A. (2020, January). *Negative Auxiliaries in Early Child English Bear Tense*. Linguistics Society of America 94th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA

Invited Talks

Eliatamby, A. (2023, October). *Quantity Implicatures and “Group” Representations*. Mandelbaum Lab, Baruch College, New York NY, USA

Al Khatib, S. & **Eliatamby A.** (2021, December). *Disjunction and EM-intensional predicates*. New York Philosophy of Language Workshop. New York NY, USA

Awards & Grants

2022	CUNY Doctoral Student Research Grant	(\$1,200)
2021	BUCLD Travel Fellowship Award	(\$300)
2021	CUNY Early Research Institute Catalyst Grant	(\$2,000)
2020	CUNY Doctoral Student Research Grant	(\$975)
2019	CUNY Advanced Research Collaborative Student Fellow	(\$4,000)
2017	The Norwegian Summer Institute on Language and Mind Travel Award	(\$700)
2016-2021	CUNY Graduate Center Fellowship	(\$27,000/yr)
2014-2016	Australian Postgraduate Award	(\$25,000AUD/yr)

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Research Skills

Behavioural Studies: I am highly skilled in designing, running, and managing behavioural studies with preschool-aged children using PsychoPy and E-prime. I am also skilled in developing and running studies with adults using online platforms like Prolific, Qualtrics, and Pavlovia.

Statistical Methods: I am highly skilled in using:

- mixed effect models (particularly binomial models)
- non-parametric analyses (Mann-Whitney, Wilcoxon)
- correlation measures (Pearson, Spearman, cosine)
- randomization techniques

I am also skilled in standard linear/logistic regression, various distribution tests (Fisher Exact, Chi-Squared, Kruksal-Wallis, Kolmogorov-Smirnov), and diffusion model analysis of reaction time data.

Corpus Analysis: I am highly proficient in CHILDES corpora analysis, both using the CHILDES software toolkit and using bespoke Python programs I develop for specific analyses.

Computational Skills: I am skilled in the following languages, software, and technical domains:

- Python, Pandas, R, network/systems infrastructure, PsychoPy/Pavlovia (advanced),
- Javascript, LaTeX, Adobe Photoshop (intermediate),
- C, C++, Java, Bash (legacy).

I have a keen eye for potential automation and develop programs as needed when a task requires predictable repetition. I am also a skilled troubleshooter and bug-finder and can develop fixes and workarounds to existing software when required.

Other Research Activities

2022-2024 Lab Manager, Language Acquisition Research Center (LARC), Hunter College
P.I.: Distinguished Professor Virginia Valian

Teaching and Pedagogy

Lecturer of Record

2020 Spring	LCD 101 <i>Introduction to Language</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)
2019 Fall	LCD 101 <i>Introduction to Language</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)
2019 Spring	LCD 101 <i>Introduction to Language</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)
2018 Fall	LCD 101 <i>Introduction to Language</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)

2018 Spring	LCD 101 <i>Introduction to Language</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)
2017 Fall	LCD 103 <i>Multilingualism in the U.S.A.</i>	Queens College (Flushing, NY)

Teaching Assistant

2021 Spring	<i>Semantics 1</i>	CUNY Graduate Center
2020 Spring	<i>Semantics 1</i>	CUNY Graduate Center

Curriculum Design (WAC) Fellow

2021 Spring	Hostos Community College, The Bronx NY
2020 Fall	Hostos Community College, The Bronx NY

Summer Seminars

2024 Summer	<i>Syntax</i>	Language Acquisition Research Center, Hunter College
2023 Summer	<i>Syntax</i>	Language Acquisition Research Center, Hunter College
2019 Summer	<i>Syntax</i>	Language Acquisition Research Center, Hunter College

Guest Lectures

2024 Spring	<i>Pragmatic Development</i>	Princeton University	LIN 250: Language in its Contexts
2024 Spring	<i>Pragmatic Development</i>	CUNY Graduate Center	First Language Acquisition

Institutional Service

CUNY Linguistics

2024	Diversity Committee
2022	Faculty Search Committee
2021	Admissions Committee, Faculty Membership Committee
2019 - 2020	Executive Committee
2018 - 2019	Syntax Reading Group Organizer
2018	Admissions Committee
2017	Linguistics Colloquium Organizer, Reading Group on Parser-Grammar Relations Organizer

CUNY General

2019 - 2020	Doctoral Student's Council Linguistics Representative
2017 - 2019	CUNY Graduate Council Student Representative