

Roni Katzir

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Webb 407 *Email:* rkatzir@tauex.tau.ac.il
Tel Aviv University *Lab:* taucompling.github.io/
Ramat Aviv, 69978 Israel
- EMPLOYMENT Associate Professor, Tel Aviv University, 2020 – present

Visiting Associate Professor, MIT, 2016 – 2018

Senior Lecturer, Tel Aviv University, 2013 – 2020

Lecturer, Tel Aviv University, 2010 – 2013

Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Cornell University, 2008 – 2010
- EDUCATION Ph.D. Linguistics, MIT, 2008
Thesis Title: Structural Competition in Grammar

B.Sc. Mathematics, Tel-Aviv University, 2001, *summa cum laude*
Special Program for Outstanding Students
- RESEARCH INTERESTS Computational Linguistics, Learning and Learnability, Semantics and Pragmatics, Syntax, Morphology
- PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS (2023) “Why large language models are poor theories of human linguistic cognition. A reply to Piantadosi (2023)” Ms., TAU, available at <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/007190>.

(2023) (with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Communicative stability and the typology of logical operators” To appear in *Linguistic Inquiry*.

(2022) (with Daniel Asherov and Danny Fox) “A note on the Only Implicature Generalization and its relevance for Iterative Rationality Models” Ms., MIT and TAU, available at <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006837>.

(2022) (with Nur Lan and Emmanuel Chemla) “Large language models and the argument from the poverty of the stimulus” Under review, available at

<https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006829>.

(2022) “Anaphoricity and contrast in free focus” Under review, available at <https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006572>.

(2022) (with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Positivity, (anti-)exhaustivity, and stability.” In Degano, M., Roberts, T., Sbardolini, G., and Schouwstra, M. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium*, pp. 23–30.

(2022) (with Maike Züfle) “Reasoning about stored representations in semantics using the typology of lexicalized quantifiers.” In Gutzmann, D. and Repp, S. (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 26*, pp. 923–944.

(2022) (with Nur Lan, Michal Geyer, and Emmanuel Chemla) “Minimum Description Length Recurrent Neural Networks.” *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 10:785–799.

(2021) (with Danny Fox) “Notes on Iterated Rationality Models of Scalar Implicatures.” *Journal of Semantics*, 38:4, pp. 571–600.

(2021) (with Ezer Rasin, Iddo Berger, Nur Lan, and Itamar Shefi) “Approaching Explanatory Adequacy in Phonology using Minimum Description Length.” *Journal of Language Modelling*, 9:1, pp. 17–66.

(2020) (with Nur Lan and Noa Peled) “A Note on the Representation and Learning of Quantificational Determiners.” In Franke, M., Kompa, N., Liu, M., Mueller, J., and Schwab, J. (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 24*, pp. 392–410.

(2020) “A Unified Approach to Several Learning Challenges in Phonology.” In Asatryan, M., Song, Y., and Whitmal, A. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 50*, pp. 73–86.

(2020) (with Ezer Rasin). “A Conditional Learnability Argument for Constraints on Underlying Representations.” *Journal of Linguistics*, 56:4, 745–773.

(2019) (with Ezer Rasin and Nur Lan). “Simultaneous Learning of Vowel Harmony and Segmentation.” In Jarosz, G., Nelson, M., O’Connor, B., and Pater, J. (eds.), *Proceedings of SCiL*, vol. 2, pp. 353–357.

(2018) (with Ezer Rasin, Iddo Berger, and Nur Lan) “Learning Phonological Optionality and Opacity from Distributional Evidence.” In Hucklebridge, S. and Nelson, M. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 48*, pp. 269–282.

- (2018) (with Ezer Rasin) “Learning Abstract Underlying Representations from Distributional Evidence.” In Hucklebridge, S. and Nelson, M. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 48*, pp. 283–290.
- (2017) (with Asaf Bachrach) “Linearizing Structures.” *Syntax*, 20:1, 1–40.
- (2016) (with Ansgar Endress) “Linguistics, Cognitive Psychology, and the Now-or-Never Bottleneck.” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 39, e71.
- (2016) (with Ezer Rasin) “On Evaluation Metrics in Optimality Theory.” *Linguistic Inquiry*, 47:2, 235–282.
- (2015) (with Ezer Rasin) “Compression-based learning for OT is incompatible with Richness of the Base.” In Thuy, B. and Özyıldız, D. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 45*, pp. 267–274.
- (2015) (with Raj Singh) “Economy of Structure and Information: Oddness, Questions, and Answers.” In Csipak, E. and Zeijlstra, H. (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*, pp. 302–319.
- (2014) “A Cognitively Plausible Model for Grammar Induction.” *Journal of Language Modelling* 2:2, 213–248.
- (2014) “On the Roles of Markedness and Contradiction in the Use of Alternatives.” In Salvatore Pistoia Reda (ed.), *Semantics, Pragmatics, and the Case of Scalar Implicatures*, Palgrave, 40–71.
- (2014) (with Tal Siloni) “Definiteness and Agreement in Germanic DPs.” In Alex Grosu, Anna Bondaruk, and Gréte Dalmi (eds.), *Advances in the syntax of DP’s. Structure, agreement, and case*, John Benjamins, 267–293.
- (2014) (with Raj Singh) “Hurford Disjunctions: Embedded Exhaustification and Structural Economy.” In Urtzi Etxeberria, Anamaria Fălăuş, Aritz Irurtzun, and Bryan Leferman (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18*, pp. 201–216.
- (2013) “A Note on Contrast.” *Natural Language Semantics* 21:4, 333–343.
- (2013) (with Raj Singh) “A Note on Presupposition Accommodation.” *Semantics and Pragmatics* 6:5, 1–16.
- (2013) (with Raj Singh) “Constraints on the Lexicalization of Logical Operators.” *Linguistics & Philosophy* 36:1, 1–29.

(2012) (with Raj Singh) “Two Restrictions on Possible Connectives.” In Thomas Graf, Denis Paperno, Anna Szabolcsi, and Jos Tellings (eds.), *Theories of Everything*, UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics, pp. 154–162.

(2011) (with Danny Fox) “On the Characterization of Alternatives.” *Natural Language Semantics* 19:1, pp. 87–107.

(2011) “Morpho-Semantic Mismatches, Structural Economy, and Licensing.” *Linguistic Inquiry* 42:1, pp. 45–82.

(2009) (with Asaf Bachrach) “Right-Node Raising and Delayed Spellout.” In K. Grohmann (ed.), *InterPhases: Phase-Theoretic Investigations of Linguistic Interfaces*. Oxford University Press.

(2009) (with Danny Fox) “On the Characterization of Alternatives for Implicature and for Focus.” In P. Égré and G. Magri (eds.), *Presuppositions and Implicatures*. MITWPL.

(2009) (with Raj Singh) “On the Absence of XOR in Natural Language.” In P. Égré and G. Magri (eds.), *Presuppositions and Implicatures*. MITWPL.

(2007) “Structurally-Defined Alternatives.” *Linguistics & Philosophy* 30:6, pp. 669–690.

(2007) (with Asaf Bachrach) “Spelling out QR.” In E. Puig-Waldmüller (ed.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 11*, pp. 63–75.

COLLOQUIA
AND INVITED
TALKS

LINGUAE Lecture #2, École normale supérieure, Paris, June 1, 2023

LINGUAE Lecture #1, École normale supérieure, Paris, May 31, 2023

Colloquium talk, University of Göttingen, April 27, 2023

(with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Alternatives, expectations, and the typology of logical operators” Workshop on Alternatives, Expectations and Domain Widening, Bar Ilan University. September 21, 2022

(with Danny Fox) “The division of labor between general reasoning and grammatical computations in the derivation of scalar implicatures” University of Leipzig, June 17, 2022

(with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Communicative stability, deletion alternatives, and the absence of lexicalizations of NAND” University of Leipzig, June

15, 2022

(with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Communicative stability and the typology of logical operators” DIP Colloquium, Amsterdam, March 16, 2022

(with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Communicative stability and the typology of logical operators” Seminar, ZAS, Berlin, February 17, 2022

“Connecting representations and learning using Minimum Description Length (and why linguists should care)” Seminar, Humboldt University, Berlin, January 13, 2022

“Learning grammars using Minimum Description Length (and why linguists should care)” Seminar, ZAS, Berlin, December 1, 2021

“Connecting representations and learning using Minimum Description Length” Edinburgh Linguistic Circle, October 28, 2021

(with Daniel Asherov and Danny Fox) “Scalar implicatures in reference games: comparing between grammatical exhaustification and iterated rationality models” Harvard LangCog, October 5, 2021

(with Danny Fox) “Rational choice and/or exhaustification: an assessment” ESSLLI Workshop on Implicatures, August 10, 2021

(with Nur Lan and Emmanuel Chemla) “Minimum Description Length Recurrent Neural Networks” Seminar, ZAS, Berlin, July 19, 2021

(with Danny Fox) “Scalar Implicatures: Iterated Rationality Models versus Formal Exhaustification” Seminar, ZAS, Berlin, July 14, 2021

(with Ezer Rasin) “Morphological learning using Minimum Description Length: A programmatic sketch” NYU morphology group, November 10, 2020

“Restricting the role of anaphoricity in focus” Seminar, ZAS, Berlin, February 5, 2020

“Representing and learning phonological knowledge” Seminar, Uppsala University, October 9, 2019

“Restricting the role of anaphoricity in focus” Colloquium, Leipzig University, June 21, 2019

(with Ezer Rasin) Mini-course on simplicity-based learning in constraint-based and rule-based phonology, Leipzig University, June 19–21, 2019

“Comparing theories of UG using compression-based learning” Colloquium, Tromsø, October 20, 2017

“An adequate simplicity metric for learning grammars” LAVA Lunch, Tromsø, October 19, 2017

(with Ezer Rasin) Mini-course on language and learnability, CNRS, Paris, January 24–6, 2017

“Anaphoricity and questions in focus” CNRS, Paris, January 23, 2017

“The roles of questions, answers, and anaphoricity in focus” McGill University, November 11, 2016

“Computational aspects of the representation and learning of natural language” Medical Neurobiology Department Seminar, HUJI, May 22, 2016

“Anaphoricity and relevance in focus” Colloquium, MIT, May 13, 2016

“Computation and natural language” Evolutionary and Environmental Biology Department Seminar, Haifa University, October 19, 2015

“Mapping linguistic theories to learners” Linguistics Department Seminar, HUJI, May 13, 2014

“Distinguishing anaphoricity and relevance in free and bound focus” Workshop on Focus-Sensitive Expressions, Bar-Ilan University, February 3–5, 2014

(with Ezer Rasin) , “An evaluation metric for Optimality Theory” NECPhon, MIT, October 26, 2013

“Modeling the acquisition of linguistic knowledge” Sagol School and IBM Joint Symposium, May 23, 2013

(with Ezer Rasin) , “An evaluation metric for Optimality Theory” LLCC Seminar, HUJI, May 21, 2013

“Unifying the alternatives for scalar implicature, association with focus, and free focus” Linguistics Department Seminar, HUJI, May 21, 2013

“Linguistic representations and grammar induction” Neurobiology Department Seminar, TAU, May 9, 2013

(with Asaf Bachrach) , “Linearizing Multidominance Structures” Nantes Workshop on Multidominance, November 2&3, 2012

(with Asaf Bachrach) Commentary on “An Active Ellipsis Resolution and the Nature of Island Effects” by Masaya Yoshida, Nantes Workshop on Multidominance, November 2&3, 2012

“Contrast, Scalarity, and Contradiction” Ling-Lunch, Paris VII, October 31, 2012

Commentary on “Person Features” by Uli Sauerland, Workshop on the Syntax and Semantics of Resumptive Pronouns, The Hebrew University, July 4, 2012

“A Note on Implicatures and Focus” Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Scalar Implicatures, MIT, May 12, 2012

(with Raj Singh) “Markedness, Symmetry, and the Lexicalization of Logical Operators” Colloquium, Bar-Ilan University, April 17, 2012

(With Raj Singh) “When do Logical Operators get Lexicalized?” Roots III Workshop, The Hebrew University, June 14, 2011

“A Representational Approach to Learning.” Seminar, The Hebrew University, February 28, 2011

(With Raj Singh) “Lexicalizing Logical Constants.” Syntax Brown Bag, New York University, February 11, 2011

“Universal Grammars and the Learners they Induce.” Departmental Seminar, Ben-Gurion University. December 7, 2010.

(With Danny Fox) “On the Roles of Context and Structure in the Theory of Alternatives.” Syntax Brown Bag, NYU. November 6, 2009

“Description Length and Language Acquisition.” Interdisciplinary Colloquium, Tel-Aviv University. June 4, 2009

(with Ivona Kučerová) “Focus Alternatives and Givenness Effects.” Potsdam University, Potsdam. December 12, 2008

“Morpho-Semantic Mismatches and Licensing.” Queen Mary, University of London. December 11, 2007.

“Structurally-Defined Alternatives.” Workshop on Presuppositions and Implicatures, DEC-ENS, Paris. May 31, 2007.

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Right-Node Raising.” Syntax and Prosody in the Northeast, Cornell University. May 5, 2007.

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Antecedent-Contained Deletion as VP-Sharing.” DEC-ENS, Paris. March 23, 2007.

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Right-Node Raising and Delayed Spellout.” Departmental Seminar, The Hebrew University. January 9, 2007.

“Simple Alternatives.” Interdisciplinary Colloquium, Tel-Aviv University. January 4, 2007

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Antecedent-Contained Deletion without QR.” Departmental Seminar, Ben-Gurion University. January 2, 2007.

“Unsupervised Grammar Induction with Minimum Description Length.” Infolab, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT. September 6, 2006.

“Learning Word Segmentation with Minimum Description Length.” Computational Cognitive Science Group, MIT. April 14, 2006.

CONFERENCE (with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Positivity, (anti)-exhaustivity and stability” The
AND 23rd Amsterdam Colloquium, December 21, 2022

WORKSHOP

PRESENTATIONS (with Moshe E. Bar-Lev) “Communicative stability and the typology of
logical connectives” The 37th annual conference of the Israel Association
for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL), October 19, 2022

(with Maike Züfle) “An evolutionary model-based approach to the missing
O-corner”, *Sinn und Bedeutung* 26, September 2021

(with Daniel Asherov and Danny Fox) “On the Irrelevance of contextually
given states for the computation of Scalar Implicatures”, *LSA*, January
2021

(with Ezer Rasin and Itamar Shefi) “A unified approach to several learning
challenges in phonology”, *NELS* 50, October 25–27, 2019

(with Noa Peled) “Representation and learning of quantificational determiners”, *Sinn und Bedeutung* 24, September 4–6, 2019

(with Ezer Rasin and Nur Lan) “Simultaneous learning of vowel harmony and segmentation”, *SCiL*, January 3–6, 2019

(with Ezer Rasin, Iddo Berger, and Nur Lan) “Rule-based learning of phonological optionality and opacity”, *NELS* 48, October 27–29, 2017

(with Ezer Rasin) “Learning abstract URs from distributional evidence”, Poster presented at *NELS* 48, October 27–29, 2017

(with Ezer Rasin, Iddo Berger, and Nur Lan) “Acquiring opaque phonological interactions using minimum description length”, Poster presented at the fifth Annual Meeting on Phonology, September 15–17, 2017

(with Ezer Rasin) “Minimum description length subsumes free ride effects in UR learning”, Poster presented at the fifth Annual Meeting on Phonology, September 15–17, 2017

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Edges and linearization.” International Convention of Psychological Science, Vienna, March 23–25, 2017.

(with Ezer Rasin) “A Learnability Argument for Constraints on Underlying Representations.” Poster presented at *NELS* 45, MIT, October 31–November 2, 2014.

(with Raj Singh) “Economy of Structure and Information.” *Sinn und Bedeutung* 19, Göttingen, September 15–17, 2014.

“Formal Constraints on Alternatives.” Workshop on Alternatives, the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Quebec City, July 25, 2014.

(with Raj Singh) “Hurford Disjunctions: Evidence for Embedded Exhaustification and Structural Economy.” Poster presented at *Sinn und Bedeutung* 18, Basque Country, September 11–13, 2013.

(with Raj Singh) “Constraints on the Lexicalization of Logical Operators.” Poster presented at *Ling50*, MIT. December 9–10, 2011.

“Learning and Linguistic Competence.” The Cornell Workshop on Grammar Induction. May 14, 2010.

(with Ivona Kučerová) “Deriving Relative Givenness Effects from Focus Alternatives and Presupposition Domains.” DGfS, Osnabrück. March 5, 2009

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Antecedent-Contained Deletion without QR or Extraposition.” WCCFL 26, UC Berkeley. April 28, 2007

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Identity and Precedence.” Conference on Precedence Relations, CUNY. January 26, 2007.

“Implicatures and the Maxim of Manner.” South New England Workshop in Semantics, Yale University. September 30, 2006.

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Spelling out QR.” Sinn und Bedeutung 11, Barcelona. September 22, 2006.

(with Asaf Bachrach) “Right-Node Raising and Delayed Spellout.” Inter-Phases, Nicosia. May 20, 2006

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

0627.4194 Advanced Research Seminar On Computation in Language, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

24.964 *Topics in Phonology*, co-taught with Naomi Feldman and Roger Levy, MIT, Spring 2018

24.965 *Morphology*, co-taught with Adam Albright and David Pesetsky, MIT, Fall 2017

24.S96 *Learning and Learnability*, MIT, Spring 2017

24.S95 *Computation and Linguistic Theory*, MIT, Fall 2016

24.979 *Topics in Semantics*, co-taught with Danny Fox and Roger Schwarzschild, MIT, Fall 2016

0627.3777/4095 *Learning: Computation and Cognition*, Tel Aviv University, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, and Spring 2023

0627.3666/4191 *Parsing: Computation and Cognition*, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, and Fall 2022

0627.3006 Seminar on Parsing, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2011

0368.3389 NLP Seminar, co-taught with Nachum Dershowitz and Kfir Bar, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2011

0368.3500 NLP Workshop, co-taught with Nachum Dershowitz, Iddo Lev, and Kfir Bar, Tel Aviv University, Spring 2011

0627.3237 Seminar on Learning and Learnability, Tel Aviv University, Spring 2011 and Spring 2012

0627.2223/4090 Advanced Computational Linguistics, Tel Aviv University, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, and Fall 2022

0627.4171 Field Methods, co-taught with Erez Volk, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

0627.2222 Computational Linguistics for Beginners, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, and Spring 2022

LING 4422 Semantics II, Cornell, Spring 2010

LING 7712 Syntax Seminar, Cornell, Spring 2010

LING 1101 Introduction to Linguistics, Cornell, Fall 2009

LING 4403 Syntax I, Cornell, Fall 2009

LING 4404 Syntax II, Cornell, Spring 2009

LING 6600 Field Methods, co-taught with Abby Cohn, Cornell, Spring 2009

LING 1101 Introduction to Linguistics, co-taught with Carol Rosen, Cornell, Fall 2008

LING 6616 Topics in Syntax, Cornell, Fall 2008

Programming for Linguists, MIT, January 2005

Calculus II, Open University, Israel, Spring and Fall 2000

Topics in Mathematics, Open University, Israel, Fall 2000

Calculus I, Open University, Israel, Spring 2000

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT Research Assistant, Infolab, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT, Summers of 2004, 2005, 2006

Computational Linguist, Baobab Technologies, Israel, 2000 – 2002

RESEARCH GRANTS Tel Aviv University Innovative Breakthrough Grant / Schmidt Futures *Learning Form-Meaning Mappings in Natural Language* 2019–2020

Israel Science Foundation (ISF) Individual Research Grant 187/11 *A Cognitively Plausible Model for Grammar Induction* 2011–2014

SERVICE AND ORGANIZATION Member of School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies committee for the creation of cross-departmental course(s) on language, January 2019 – present

Tutor, the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students, January 2019 – present

Steering committee member, MILA Center, Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2018 – present

Co-organizer, MIT-TAU Workshop on Abstractness in Phonology, Tel Aviv University, January 8–12, 2023

Co-organizer, Winter School on Learning in Phonology, Tel Aviv University, December 9–12, 2019

Co-organizer, Workshop on simplicity in grammar learning, MIT, September 23, 2017

Co-organizer, Workshop on exhaustivity and cognitive architecture, MIT, September 10, 2016

Co-organizer, Winter School on Exhaustivity, Hebrew University, December 13–17, 2015

Finance committee member, Porter School of Culture Studies, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Admissions committee member, Linguistics M.A. program, Tel Aviv University, Spring 2015 – present

Program head, Computational Linguistics B.A. program, Tel Aviv University, Fall 2010 – present

Program co-coordinator, Tel Aviv/Hebrew University Joint Graduate Program in Linguistics, Fall 2014 – present

Co-organizer, Joint Research Workshop, Tel Aviv/University of Maryland, December 16–18, 2014

Co-organizer (with David Barner, Judith Degen, Albert Gatt, and Noah Goodman), Workshop on alternatives, 2014 Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, July 2014

Co-organizer, Tel-Aviv/Hebrew University Workshop in Syntax and Semantics, July 9, 2012

Co-organizer, Tel-Aviv/Hebrew University Joint Reading Group in Syntax and Semantics, Fall 2011

Co-organizer, Workshop on Brain Imaging of Language Functions, Bar Ilan University, June 19–20, 2011

Co-organizer, Cornell Workshop on Grammar Induction, May 14–16, 2010

Co-organizer, Talk Series for Work in Progress, Cornell University, Fall 2009

Student representative, Department Curriculum Committee, MIT, Fall 2006

Co-organizer, Grammar Architecture Reading Group, MIT, Spring 2005

Co-organizer, Computational Linguistics Fest, MIT, January 2005

Co-organizer, Linguistics Colloquium, MIT, Fall 2004 and Spring 2005

REVIEWING

Reviewer for *Cognitive Science*, *Journal of Language Modelling*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Morphology*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Natural Language Semantics*, *Semantics and Pragmatics*, *Snippets*, *Syntax*, and *Synthese*