# Lara Kelly-Iturriaga

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## EDUCATION

**PhD in Linguistics and English Language, University of Edinburgh**
September 2023 – present

- AHRC-funded project focusing on The role of language distance in bilingual language processing
- Data collection from Azeri-Turkish-English trilinguals in progress

**MA in Applied Linguistics and Language Acquisition in Multilingual Contexts, University of Barcelona**
September 2021 – July 2022

- MA thesis: Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? A comparison of cross-language activation in Turkish and Spanish learners of English
- GPA: 9.4/10 (Distinction)

**BA in Political Science and Public-Sector Management, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)**
September 2016 – June 2020

- Dissertation: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Policies: Multilingualism and Minority Languages in the UK
- GPA: 7.22/10 (2:1)

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Guest Lecturer, University of Edinburgh**
January 2026

Delivered lecture on 'The bilingual lexicon' for SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (MSc & Honours)

**Research Assistant, University of Edinburgh**
September 2025 – present

- Designed sentence stimuli for eye-tracking experiments exploring the effects of cognitive load (syntactic complexity) on language prediction
- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ESRC)-funded project on 'Predicting language under difficult conditions: Effects of cognitive load, noise, and hearing impairment' – PI: Martin Pickering

**Academic Tutor, University of Edinburgh**
September 2023 – present

Delivered tutorials/workshops and marked assignments in the following courses:

2025-2026

- SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS)
- QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (MSc & HONOURS)
- FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS)

2024-2025

- SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS)
- FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS)

2023-2024

- LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1B
- LEL2B: PHONETIC ANALYSIS AND EMPIRICAL METHODS

**Research Assistant, University of Barcelona**
February 2022

- Conducted audio transcription and phonetic labelling in Praat
- Assessed complexity, accuracy and fluency of L2 speech samples
- SPANISH MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND UNIVERSITIES-funded project on 'Pronunciation and phono-lexical representations in Spanish EFL learners: assessing the benefits of phonetic training and form-focused instructed SLA (PhonLex-iSLA)' – PI: Joan C. Mora

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**\*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2026). Does language distance affect bilingual lexical processing? *35th Annual Conference of the European Second Language Association (EuroSLA 35)*, Research Center for Linguistics (CLUNL) at NOVA University Lisbon, 25-27 June 2026.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**\*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2026). Language distance effects on bilingual lexical processing: evidence from interlingual homographs. *6th International Symposium on Bilingual and L2 Processing in Adults and Children (ISBPAC 2026)*, University of Reading, 18-19 June 2026.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**\*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2025). The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing. *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2025 (AMLaP2025)*, Charles University, Prague, 6th September 2025. Poster presentation.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL), Donostia-San Sebastián, 13th June 2025. Poster presentation.

Leivada, E.\*, **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). The impact of language similarity on cognitive adaptations to bilingualism. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, BCBL, Donostia-San Sebastián, 12th June 2025. Poster presentation.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2025*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2025.

Leivada, E., Blanco-Elorrieta, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**\*, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). Exploring the role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review. *Bilingualism Matters Symposium 2025*, Edinburgh, 24th March 2025. Poster presentation.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2024). Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? Cross-language activation in L1-Turkish and L1-Spanish learners of English. *30th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2024. Poster presentation.

## INVITED TALKS

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2026). Language distance effects on bilingual lexical processing: broadening the picture. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 31st March 2026.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2026). Does language distance affect bilingual lexical processing? *Dr Simone Sulpizio's lab meeting*, University of Milano-Bicocca. 27th February 2026.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2026). The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing. *Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group*, The University of Edinburgh. 26th February 2026.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual lexical processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th June 2025.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2024). Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 29th May 2024.

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2024). The role of typology in the bilingual mental lexicon. *Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th March 2024.

## PUBLICATIONS

Leivada, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. and Rothman, J. (2025). The unpredictable role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review from brain to behavior. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728925100746

**Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Ota, M. and Pickering, M. J. (2026). *The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing: Evidence from interlingual homographs.* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh.

## ORGANISATION EXPERIENCE

**Organising committee, Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (LELPGC25), University of Edinburgh**
September 2024 – June 2025

- Organised the event
- Secured LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN (LAGB) POSTGRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE funding for students from underrepresented backgrounds to attend the event
- Chaired plenary talks and sessions on psycho-, socio- and developmental linguistics
- Participated in a panel discussion on 'Making the most of your PhD'
- Liaised with plenary speakers and workshop facilitators

**Chair, Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group (BDLRG), University of Edinburgh**
September 2024 – June 2025

- Contacted internal and external speakers
- Organised, scheduled and chaired sessions
- Managed budget and secured funding for external speakers' travel and accommodation costs and catering

**Organising committee, 30th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP24), University of Edinburgh**
September 2024

- Coordinated attendee poster printing
- Registered and assisted attendees during the event
- Set up posters

**Organising committee, Language Lunch @ Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh**
September 2023 – June 2024

Selected abstracts on language-related research for poster presentations and planned events

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**AHRC PhD Scholarship, Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH)**
September 2024 – present

- Total funds awarded: £39,966.85
- Studentship covering maintenance, tuition fees and additional funding for participant payment, conference attendance (travel & accommodation), language learning and Visiting Doctoral Researcher Scheme

**Research Support Grants, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences (PPLS), The University of Edinburgh**
September 2023 – present

- Total funds awarded: £2,276.39
- Grants for research costs (e.g., participant payment) and research-related travel (e.g., conference and summer school attendance)

**First Place and People's Choice, PPLS Three Minute Thesis (3MT), The University of Edinburgh**
13 March 2026

- Total funds awarded: £100
- Competition where doctoral researchers are required to deliver the best research presentation in just 3 minutes (and one slide)

**Training & Development Grant, PPLS, The University of Edinburgh**
September 2023 – present

- Total funds awarded: £785.56
- Grant to facilitate the running of the BDLRG, providing funds for external speakers' travel and accommodation and catering for talks

**Student Conference Funding, LAGB Postgraduate Student Committee**
March 2025

- Total funds awarded: £150
- Grant for travel/accommodation for students from underrepresented backgrounds to present at LELPGC25

**Erasmus+ Grant, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE)**
September 2018 – June 2019

- Total funds awarded: €2,250
- Mobility grant for Erasmus+ programme at Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Italy

## ACCREDITATIONS

**Associate Fellowship Advance HE, The University of Edinburgh** JUNE 2025

Received teaching accreditation after completing the INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC PRACTICE course delivered by the Institute for Academic Development at the University of Edinburgh; demonstrating effective and inclusive teaching practice and evidence of PSF 2023 Dimensions: Professional Values V1 and V3, Core Knowledge K1, K2 and K3, and Areas of Activity A2 and A3

**Introduction to Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language, Instituto Cervantes & University of Deusto** NOVEMBER 2020

Received certification after completing the course under the 2020 Teacher Training Programme (Spanish as a Foreign Language and other languages), jointly organised by Instituto Cervantes and University of Deusto

## TRAINING

**Eye-tracking technical training, PPLS, The University of Edinburgh** NOVEMBER 2025

Completed eye-tracking training with SR Research EyeLink 2000 and successfully positioned the participant, adjusted camera focus, set thresholds for pupil and corneal reflection detection, and completed calibration and validation

## ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**Insights Facilitator, Careers Service, The University of Edinburgh** JANUARY 2026 – PRESENT

The Insights Programme supports University of Edinburgh undergraduate students from a Widening Participation background to gain work experience, providing students with opportunities to improve their professional and communication skills and expand their network by visiting alumni at their workplace in Scotland, the UK or globally (Insights Immersion). My responsibilities include facilitating coaching sessions to support students to prepare for Insights Immersion and to reflect on their student development; facilitating discussions at Insights development events; supporting my students by providing advice on professional behaviour and communication.

**Employ.ed Project Development Intern (Employ.ed for PhDs), Careers Service, The University of Edinburgh** AUGUST – DECEMBER 2025

Supervised and mentored two undergraduate interns; evaluated and provided feedback on the Employ.ed on Campus Summer and Semester (pilot) programmes; updated and maintained webpages and Sharepoint sites, making content accessible; promoted Employ.ed programmes to staff and students; collaborated with the Internships and Work Experience team and other colleagues at the Careers Service.

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| English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services | JUNE – JULY 2023 |
| EFL Teacher, STEP Language Services | OCTOBER 2022 – JUNE 2023 |
| EFL Teacher & Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services | JULY – AUGUST 2022; JUNE – JULY 2021 |
| EFL Teacher, Language School Bilbao | OCTOBER 2020 – JUNE 2021 |
| EFL Activity Leader, STEP Language Services | JULY 2019 |
| EFL Teacher, Laboratorio de Idiomas Jesuitak Indautxu | SEPTEMBER 2019 – JUNE 2020; SEPTEMBER 2016 – JUNE 2018 |

## LANGUAGES

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| **English** | NATIVE |
| **Spanish** | NATIVE |
| **Basque** | INTERMEDIATE |
| **French** | B1 |
| **Italian** | B2 |
| **Turkish** | BEGINNER |

## SKILLS

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| **Programming** | R |
| **Tools** | GITHUB, LaTeX |
| **Software** | PRAAT, SR RESEARCH EYELINK |