

Lara Kelly-Iturriaga

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EDUCATION

PhD in Linguistics and English Language, University of Edinburgh

SEPTEMBER 2023 – PRESENT

- ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (AHRC)-funded project focusing on The role of language distance in bilingual lexical processing

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

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 weekly tutorials to 10-20 HONOURS (3rd-4th year undergraduate) students and marked data analyses, research proposals and exams in:

2025-2026

- SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS), 10 ECTS
- FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS), 10 ECTS

Delivered weekly RStudio workshops to 40-50 students and marked self-reflections and research projects in joint HONOURS and MASTERS OF SCIENCE (MSc) course:

- QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE (MSc, 5 ECTS & HONOURS, 10 ECTS)

Delivered one-on-one writing sessions to HONOURS and MSc students to help them become confident, independent writers; providing tailored academic writing advice as a tutor at the SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES (PPLS) SKILLS CENTRE.

Delivered weekly tutorials to 10 HONOURS students and marked data analyses, research proposals and exams in:

2024-2025

- SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS), 10 ECTS
- FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (HONOURS), 10 ECTS

Delivered weekly tutorials to 5-10 students in 1st (LEL1B) and 2nd (LEL2B) year undergraduate courses:

2023-2024

- LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1B, 10 ECTS: tutorials on phonology, sociolinguistics, historical phonology and morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, and sign language linguistics. Marked essays and final exams.
- LEL2B: PHONETIC ANALYSIS AND EMPIRICAL METHODS, 10 ECTS: tutorials 1) conducting phonetic analysis using Praat and 2) employing empirical methods (linking evidence to theory, describing patterns in data using descriptive statistics, testing for significance and writing up reports). Marked acoustic phonetics and empirical methods lab reports.

Guest Lecturer, University of Edinburgh

JANUARY 2026

Designed teaching materials and delivered lecture on ‘The bilingual lexicon’ for SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (MSc & HONOURS)

- 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.** (2026). Language distance effects on trilingual lexical processing. *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2026 (AMLaP2026)*, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, 2-4 September 2026. Poster presentation.
- 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, 26th of 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, 18th of 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 of 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 of 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 of 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 of 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 of 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 of 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 of March 2026.
- Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2026). Does language distance affect bilingual lexical processing? *Simone Sulpizio's lab meeting*, University of Milano-Bicocca. 27th of 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 of February 2026.
- Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual lexical processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th of June 2025.
- Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.** (2024). Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 29th of 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 of March 2024.

PUBLICATIONS

- Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Uzun, L., Salihoğlu, U. M., and Çetinavcı, U. R. (2026). *Introducing LexTurk: A quick lexical test for learners of Turkish*. PsyArXiv. osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/tbhgv-v1
- 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.
- 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> [Q1 Linguistics, IF 2.4].

ORGANISATION EXPERIENCE

Organiser, Holly Branigan & Martin Pickering's Psycholinguistics lab, University of Edinburgh	MARCH 2026 – PRESENT
• Organising, scheduling and chairing weekly lab meetings focusing on psycholinguistics-related topics and activities • Liaising with internal and external speakers and workshop facilitators • Providing opportunities for and promoting community-building amongst MSc and PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and senior staff members in psycholinguistics	
Organising committee, Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (LELPGC25), University of Edinburgh	SEPTEMBER 2024 – JUNE 2025
• Organised the conference • 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
• Registered and assisted attendees • Coordinated attendee poster printing and 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: £56,860.19 • 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, PPLS, The University of Edinburgh	SEPTEMBER 2023 – PRESENT
• Total funds awarded: £2,803.72 • 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 Awards, PPLS Three Minute Thesis (3MT), The University of Edinburgh	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 2024 – JUNE 2025
• 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	

- 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 for completion of 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-K3, and Areas of Activity A2-A3

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

Received certification for completion of 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 – JUNE 2026

Supported undergraduate students from a Widening Participation background to gain work experience and expand their network by visiting alumni at their workplace in Scotland and the UK (Insights Immersion); facilitated coaching sessions and discussions at Insights development events; prepared students for Insights Immersion; encouraged reflection on their student development; provided 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 colleagues at the Careers Service.

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 2019 – 2020; 2016 – 2018

LANGUAGES		SKILLS	
English	NATIVE	Programming	R
Spanish	NATIVE	Tools	GITHUB, L ^A T _E X, JSPSYCH
Basque	INTERMEDIATE	Software	PRAAT, SR RESEARCH EYELINK
French	B1		
Italian	B2		
Turkish	BEGINNER		