

Department of Linguistics
 University of Pennsylvania
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Current position:

2019-current Postdoctoral Fellow
 MindCORE Initiative, University of Pennsylvania
 Mentors: Florian Schwarz, Anna Papafragou, Meredith Tamminga, Lisa Miracchi

Previous positions

2018-2019 Postdoctoral scholar
 Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle (LLF), University of Paris 7/CNRS
 PI: Heather Burnett

2016-2018 Postdoctoral scholar
 Question at the Interfaces Research Unit, University of Konstanz
 PI: Maribel Romero

Education

2010-2016 PhD in Linguistics, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Dissertation: *Bridging the gap. Intensifiers between semantic and social meaning*
Committee: Chris Kennedy (chair), Penelope Eckert, Itamar Francez, Michael Silverstein, Ming Xiang

2004-2010 B.A./M.A., Communications/Linguistics, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Research Interests

Semantics/pragmatics: intensification, gradability, imprecision, subjectivity, semantic change, implicatures, questions, alternatives, discourse structure.

Sociolinguistics: social meaning, social perception, language ideologies, iconicity.

Syntax: resumptive pronouns, islands, long distance dependencies, sentence processing.

Publications

Journal papers

- 2019 **Beltrama, A.** and A. Trotzke. Conveying emphasis for intensity: Lexical and syntactic strategies. *Language and Linguistics Compass*. 13, 1–13.
2019. **Beltrama, A.** and E. Hanink. Marking imprecision, expressing surprise. *Like* between hedging and mirativity. *Journal of Linguistics*. 55(1), 1–34.
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** Precision and speaker qualities. The social meaning of pragmatic detail. *Linguistics Vanguard*, 4(1)

- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** *Totally* between subjectivity and discourse. Exploring the pragmatic side of intensification. *Journal of Semantics*. 35(2), 219–261.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** and L. Casasanto. *Totally Tall Sounds Totally Younger*. Intensification at the Socio-Semantics Interface. *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. 21(2). 154-182.
- 2016 **Beltrama, A.** and Ming Xiang. Unacceptable but Comprehensible: the Facilitation Effect of Resumptive Pronouns. *Glossa*. 1(1), 29.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** and Ryan Bochnak. Intensification without Degrees Cross-linguistically. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 33(3). 843-879.

Peer-reviewed edited volumes

- In press. **Beltrama, A.** and L. Casasanto. The Social Meaning of Semantic Properties. In Hall-Lew, Moore and Podesva (eds.) *Social Meaning and Sociolinguistic Variation*.
- In press. Eckardt, R. and **A. Beltrama**. Evidentials and Questions. *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics* 12.
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** Intensification, Gradability and Social Perception. In Castroviejo, McNally and Sassoon (eds.), *Gradability, Scale Structure, and Vagueness: Experimental Perspectives*, “Language, Cognition, and Mind”, Springer. 169-197

Manuscripts

- 2019 **Beltrama, A.** Excluding yet reinforcing. The dynamics of emphatic exclusives. Resubmitted to *Linguistics & Philosophy*.
- 2019 **Beltrama, A.**, E. Meertens and M. Romero. Alternative Questions: Distinguishing between Negated and Complementary Disjuncts. Resubmitted to *Semantics & Pragmatics*.
- 2019 **Beltrama, A.** Formal approaches to social meaning. Invited contribution to *Language and Linguistics Compass*. Expected submission: November 2019.
- 2019 **Beltrama, A.** and D. Rudin. On the discourse effects of subjective language. In prep.

Proceeding Papers

- In prep. **Beltrama, A.**, H. Burnett and S. Solt. The effect of precision and context on social perception. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 24.
- 2019 Rudin, D. and **A. Beltrama**. Whither Default Agreement? The case of subjective assertions. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 29.
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** Emphatic *just* and *simply*: the semantics and pragmatics of metalinguistic exclusives. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 28.

- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** The Illocutionary Force of Subjective Predicates: an Experimental Study. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 22.
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.,** E. Meertens and M. Romero. Decomposing cornering effects in alternative questions: An Experimental Investigation. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 22.
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.,** E. Meertens and M. Romero. Alternative Questions, Markedness and Illocutionary Properties: an Experimental Study. *Chicago Linguistic Society* 53
- 2016 **Beltrama, A.** Exploring Metalinguistic Intensification. The case of Extreme Degree Modifiers. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS)* 46
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Totally Tall Sounds Totally Younger. From meaning composition to social perception. *Amsterdam Colloquium* 20
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** *Totally*, Discourse and Subjectivity. Exploring the Pragmatic Side of Intensification. *Chicago Linguistic Society* 51.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A..** Intensification at the Socio-semantic Interface. A corpus study. *Berkeley Linguistic Society* 41.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** From *Totally* Dark to *Totally* Old. The Formal Semantics of Subjectification. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 19.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** and J. Lee. Great Pizzas, Ghost Negations: The Emergence and Persistence of Mixed Expressives *Sinn und Bedeutung* 19
- 2014 **Beltrama, A.** Scalar Meaning in Diachrony: The suffix -issimo from Latin to Italian. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS)* 44.
- 2014 **Beltrama, A.,** and M. Xiang. Intrusive Resumptives as Processing Facilitators. *North East Linguistic Society (NELS)* 44.
- 2013 **Beltrama, A.,** and M. Xiang. Is *excellent* Better than *good*? Adjective Scales and Scalar implicatures. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 17

Presentations

Invited presentations

- 2019 Describing reality, perceiving identity. Pragmatic precision at the crossroads of meanings. Friday Speaker Series at *Georgetown University*, Linguistics Department. November 15.
- 2019 Exclusivity and metalinguistic reasoning. Semantics Workshop. *University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA*, February 27.
- 2019 Intensity, precision, identity. Meanings across disciplines. Colloquium at *Yale University*, Linguistics Department. *New Haven, CT*. February 25.
- 2019 Social perception as experimental semantics. The Semantics and Philosophy Workshop. *University of Chicago*, Linguistics Department. *Chicago, IL*. February 11 2019.

- 2019 Iconicity, social meaning, and pragmatic variation. Special session "Exploring social approaches to meaning" at the *LSA Annual meeting*, NYC, New York, January 3-6.
- 2018 Logic, culture, cognition: Meaning across perspectives. The *University of Pennsylvania* center for the integrative study of the mind (MindCORE). Philadelphia, PA. April 11.
- 2018 Subjective assertions and inquisitiveness: a hybrid speech act?. Workshop "Evaluative meaning: Theoretical and Computational Perspectives". *German Linguistic Society, DGfS*. Stuttgart, March 6-9.
- 2017 Iconicity and (im)precision: How pragmatic variation can convey social qualities. Workshop on Social meaning. *Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS)*. Berlin, August 29.
- 2017 From intense to precise. The social meaning of semantic properties. Colloquium at the *Ohio State University*, Linguistics Department. Columbus, OH. March 31.
- 2017 Meaning at the interfaces. The socio-semantics of intensifiers. *University of Michigan*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 6.
- 2015 Scalarity, (non)homogeneity and discourse. Totally across domains. *Workshop on Non Veridical Expressions and Subjectivity in Language*. Chicago, Illinois, December 11.
- 2015 Exploring the nexus between semantic and social meaning. The case of *totally*. *University of Pennsylvania Speaker Series*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. December 3
- 2014 From semantic composition to Valley Girl Talk. *University of California at Berkeley*, Syntax/Semantics circle. Berkeley, California, October 17.
- 2014 Were linguistic scales made unequal? Scalarity, intensification and semantic change. *Stanford Cognition & Language workshop*. Palo Alto, California. May 22.

Refereed conference presentations

- 2019 **Beltrama, A.**, H. Burnett, and S. Solt. How pragmatic precision affects social perception: a socio-pragmatic study. *NWAV 48*. Eugene, OR, Oct 10-12.
- 2019 **Beltrama, A.**, H. Burnett, and S. Solt. The effect of precision and context on social perception. *Sinn und Bedeutung 24 (SuB)*. Osnabrück, Germany, Sep 3-5.
- 2019 Rudin, D. and **A. Beltrama**. Whither Default Agreement? The case of subjective assertions. Poster at *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 29 (SALT)*. Los Angeles, CA, May 17-19.
- 2019 **Beltrama, A.** Iconicity, precision, and corrections. The social meaning of pragmatic detail. The *LSA Annual meeting*, NYC, New York. January 3-6 2019
- 2018 **Beltrama, A.** Emphatic *just* and *simply*: the semantics and pragmatics of metalinguistic exclusives. Poster at *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 28 (SALT)*. Boston, MA. May 18-20.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** and E. Hanink. "Like", hedging and mirativity. A unified account. *Colloque de Syntaxe and Semantique a Paris (CSSP)*. Paris, France. November 23-25.

- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** and L. Casasanto. The social meaning of semantic properties. From markedness to discourse. Talk to be presented at *NWAV 46*. Madison, Wisconsin. November 3-6.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** Subjective Assertions and Illocution: an Experimental Perspective on Predicates of Personal Taste. Poster at *Sinn und Bedeutung 22*. Berlin, Germany. Sep 7-9.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.,** E. Meertens and M. Romero. Decomposing Cornering Effects in Alternative Questions: An Experimental Investigation. Talk presented at *Sinn und Bedeutung 22*. Berlin, Germany. September 7-9.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** Subjective Assertions are Weak: an Experimental Study on Perspective-Dependent meaning. Talk to be presented at the 7th *biannual Experimental Pragmatics Conference (XPRAG)*. Cologne, Germany. June 21-23.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.,** E. Meertens and M. Romero. Alternative Questions between Logic and Discourse. 53rd Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (*CLS*). Chicago, IL, May 25-27.
- 2017 **Beltrama, A.** The Illocutionary Force of Subjective Predicates. Poster at the *35th West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)*. Calgary, CA April 28-30.
- 2016 **Beltrama, A.** and E. Hanink. This is, like, a mirative construction! *Like* between uncertainty and surprise. *90th Annual Meeting of the LSA*. Washington, DC. Jan 7-10.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Totally tall sounds totally younger. From meaning composition to social perception. *Amsterdam Colloquium 20*. Amsterdam, the Netherlands, December 16-18.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Totally tall sounds totally younger. A socio-semantic study. Poster at *NWAV 44*. Toronto, Canada. October 22-25
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Exploring metalinguistic intensification. The case of Extreme Degree Modifiers. *46th meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*. Montreal, CA, Oct 16-18.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Intensification, Gradability and Social Perception. *Gradability, Scale Structure, and Vagueness: Experimental Perspectives*. Madrid, Spain. May 29-30.
- 2015 **Beltrama, A.** Flat-out metalinguistic. Extreme degree modification as speaker preference. Poster at the *33th West Coast Conference in Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 33)*. Vancouver, CA. March 28
2014. **Beltrama, A.** From *Totally* Dark to *Totally* Old. The Formal Semantics of Subjectification. *Sinn und Bedeutung 19*. Goettingen, Germany, September 16.
2014. **Beltrama, A.** and J. Lee. Great pizzas, ghost negations: The emergence and persistence of mixed expressives. *Sinn und Bedeutung 19*. Goettingen, Germany, September 16.
2014. **Beltrama, A.** *Decent, acceptable, mediocre*. Mild adjectives as a natural class. *The Linguistic Society of America annual meeting*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 2-5.
2013. **Beltrama, A.** Scalar meaning in diachrony. The case of the suffix *-issimo*. Poster at *44th meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*. Storrs, Connecticut, October 18-20.

- 2013 **Beltrama, A** and M. Xiang. Ungrammatical but comprehensible. Intrusive resumptives and the nature of acceptability judgments. *44th meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)*. Storrs, Connecticut, October 18-20.
- 2013 **Beltrama, A.** These are the pronouns that we use them but we don't like them. Resumptives between grammar and enregisterment. *Michicagoan 2013: 15th Annual UChicago - University of Michigan Graduate student conference in linguistic anthropology*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 10.
- 2013 **Beltrama, A.** Presupposing scalarity from Latin to Italian. The case of the suffix –issimo. *Workshop on Systematic Semantic Change*. Austin, Texas, April 5-6.
- 2013 **Beltrama, A.** and Ming Xiang. Resumption can rescue! Islands and relative clauses in Italian and English. Poster at CUNY 2013. Columbia, South Carolina, March 20-22.
- 2012 **Beltrama, A.** and M. Xiang. Is *excellent* better than *good*? Adjective scales and scalar implicatures. *Sinn und Bedeutung 17*. Paris, France, September 8-10.
- 2012 **Beltrama, A.** Language ideologies and speech perception. What experimental methods can do, and what they haven't done yet. *Michicagoan 2012: 14th Annual University of Chicago-University of Michigan graduate student conference in linguistic anthropology*. Chicago, May 11-12.
- 2011 **Beltrama, A.** and R. Bochnak. Intensification without degrees cross linguistically. *Workshop on Modification and Modifiers*. Madrid, December 15-16.
- 2011 Sonderegger, M., **A. Beltrama** et al. Coronal stop deletion on reality TV. *NWAV 40*, Washington D.C.
- 2011 **Beltrama, A.** and M. Xiang. Can a decent student get into Harvard? A study on gradable adjectives and scalar implicatures. Poster at the *4th Conference in Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG)* Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Barcelona, Spain, June 2-4.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2019-present MindCORE Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2014-2016 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Hanna Holborn Gray Advanced Fellowship in the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences, University of Chicago.
- 2011 Linguistic Society of America. Summer Institute Fellowship.
- 2011 International House at the University of Chicago. Resident Fellowship.
- 2008, 2006 University of Bologna. Overseas fellowship (study abroad program)

Teaching experience

Courses

Fall 2018	Integrating approaches to formal and social meaning. UPV/EHU: University of the Basque Country (with Heather Burnett, Compact Seminar)
Fall 2017	University of Konstanz. Instructor. Language in Culture and Society (BA level).
Summer 2017	Instructor. Intensification: between logic, discourse and social meaning. (with Yaron McNabb). European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI)
Spring 2017	University of Konstanz. Instructor. Semantics I (BA level)
Spring 2015	University of Chicago. Instructor. Introduction to Linguistics.
Spring 2014	University of Chicago. Teaching Assistant. Introduction to Linguistics.
Fall 2013	University of Chicago. Teaching Assistant. Introduction to Semantics & Pragmatics.
Fall 2012	University of Chicago. Teaching Assistant. Introduction to Syntax.

Guest/invited lectures

Fall 2019	Swarthmore College. From semantic composition to identity work. Embracing social meaning. Semantics (Undergraduate). December 5.
Spring 2018	Quantitative methods in philosophy of language. University of Reading. (Masterclass series, guest lecture). May 31.
Spring 2019	University of California, San Diego. Social meaning. What it is, why it should matter. Semantics I (graduate level). February 22

Teaching training and pedagogy

Spring 2016	Certificate in University Teaching. University of Chicago Center for Teaching
Fall 2015.	Linguistics Pedagogy
Spring 2014	University of Chicago Writing Program Training: Pedagogies of Writing

Reviewing

Agencies

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Journals

Language, Semantics & Pragmatics, Natural Language Semantics, Frontiers in Psychology, Glossa, Journal of Linguistics, Linguistics, Journal of Pragmatics, Probus, Acta Linguistica Academica.

Conference abstracts

Semantics and Linguistic Theory, NELS, Chicago Linguistic Society, Penn Linguistics Conference, The LSA Annual Meeting, XPRAG, Formal Approaches to Semantic Change, Integrating Social and Semantic Meaning.

Volumes

Springer, "Language, Cognition and Mind" series, Bloomsbury Academic's Linguistics List

Service

University of Pennsylvania

2019-20 MindCORE professional development series. Steering committee/organizer

University of Paris 7

2019 Organizer/Scientific Committee. Meaning and Indexicality across Subfields and Theories Workshop

University of Konstanz

2018 Organizer/Scientific Committee. Meaning in Questions Workshop.

2016 Organizer/Scientific Committee. Formal Approaches to Semantic Change

University of Chicago

2015-2016 International student mentor for the IMPACT program at the Office of International Affairs, University of Chicago

2013 Conference organizer. The Semantic Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies (SWAMP)

2012 Conference organizer. 48th annual meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society

2012 Conference organizer. The University of Chicago and University of Michigan Annual Meeting Linguistic Anthropology (Michicagoan)

2011-12 Officer. Chicago Linguistic Society. Specific Tasks: selling conference proceedings, organizing social activities for the department

Linguistic Society of America

2016 Co-organizer of special session "Because meaning: how semantics and sociolinguistics complement each other" at the 90th meeting of the Linguistics Society of America.(with E. Allyn Smith and Joseph Tyler)

Non degree study

- Fall 2014 Visiting Student, Department of Linguistics
Stanford University, Stanford, California
- July 2010 Linguistic Society of America, Summer Institute at the University of Colorado
at Boulder.
- 2008-2009 Graduate Student At Large
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2006-2007 College Exchange Student
University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California

Other professional activities

- 2010-present Freelance writer for different national Italian media
Topics covered: language, culture, sports, outdoors
Media outlets: Rivista Studio ([online](#)), Gazzetta dello Sport ([online & print](#)),
Ultimo Uomo ([online](#))

Language Proficiencies

Italian (native), English (proficient), Spanish (proficient), German (elementary), Basque (elementary),
French (reading).