

# Eli Sharf

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Department of Linguistics  
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INTERESTS	semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, computation, fieldwork, information structure, deixis
EDUCATION	<b>University of California, Santa Cruz</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>2021 - present</i></span> <i>Ph.D. Student, Linguistics</i>
	<b>Brown University</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>2012 - 2016</i></span> <i>B.A., Linguistics (with Honors); B.A., Computer Science</i> Thesis: First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya) Advisor: Scott AnderBois
	<b>University of California, Berkeley</b> Summer courses in Artificial Intelligence (2015), Logic (2012)
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<b>Google</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>August 2018 - July 2021</i></span> <i>Computational Linguist, Google Assistant NLU</i> Developed semantic representations of user intents and created Natural Language Understanding (NLU) models that map user queries to those representations.
	<b>Adecco@Google</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>September 2016 - August 2018</i></span> <i>Associate Linguist</i> Provided linguistic expertise and high quality training data for machine learning to multiple technical teams across Google's natural language processing projects.
PRESENTATIONS	
PEER-REVIEWED	<b>Asserting, say, without sincerity.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>September 2024</i></span> Talk @ Sinn und Bedeutung 29. Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale.
	<b>Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>January 2024</i></span> Poster (Alternate Talk) @ North East Linguistics Society 54. MIT.
	<b>Deixis and Restrictive Modification.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>May 2022</i></span> Talk @ California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Colloquium 13. UCLA.
INVITED	<b>What appositives can tell us about referential expressions.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>April 2024</i></span> NYU Semantics Group. New York University.
NON-REFEREED	<b>Pronoun Resolution and Antecedent Access.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>April 2024</i></span> Linguistics Spring Research Symposium. UC Santa Cruz.
	<b>Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions.</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>March 2024</i></span> Linguistics at Santa Cruz. UC Santa Cruz.

	<b>Identificational Appositives.</b> Linguistics Spring Research Symposium. UC Santa Cruz.	<i>April 2023</i>
	<b>Deixis and Restrictive Modification.</b> Syntax and Semantics Circle. UC Santa Cruz.	<i>April 2022</i>
	<b>First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya).</b> Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America. UC Santa Cruz.	<i>February 2022</i>
	<b>First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya).</b> Public BA Thesis Defense. Brown University.	<i>May 2016</i>
PAPERS		
CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS	<b>Asserting, say, without sincerity.</b> Sinn und Bedeutung 29. Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale.	<i>to appear</i>
	<b>Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions.</b> Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 54, MIT.	<i>June 2024</i>
MANUSCRIPTS	<b>Pronoun Interpretation and Conceptual Reactivation.</b> Qualifying Paper #2, UC Santa Cruz. Advisor: Matt Wagers This paper was concerned with the conceptual information cognitively activated during or because of pronoun comprehension. One probe recognition experiment is presented, which investigated how pronoun comprehension primes conceptual information in contexts with multiple antecedents (a name and a description).	<i>June 2024</i>
	<b>Identificational Appositives.</b> Qualifying Paper #1, UC Santa Cruz. Advisor: Maziar Toosarvandani Investigated a class of prepositional/adverbial modifiers of referring expressions in English. Empirically motivated an analysis of them as appositives that serve as fragment answers to a particular kind of implicit question. Overall project informs our theories of how speakers use referring expressions.	<i>May 2023</i>
	<b>First &amp; Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya).</b> BA Thesis, Brown University. Investigated patterns in the distribution of personal pronouns in Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language; determined four sets of pronouns that are distinguished by morphological, syntactic and semantic criteria; used previous research on focus and topic to create a model of the pronouns' use conditions.	<i>May 2016</i>
UNDERGRADUATE PUBLISHED PAPERS	<b>Nirgatasakhiśukavilāpah: The Lament of the Parrot at his Friend's Departure.</b> Brown Classical Journal, Department of Classics at Brown University. Original poetry and prose contribution in Sanskrit drawing from the Sanskrit genres of fable literature and courtly love-poetry.	<i>April 2015</i>
	<b>The Voice of Fortunatus: The Medieval Poet's Use of the Elegiac Couplet in Poem 3.18.</b> Brown Classical Journal, Department of Classics at Brown University.	<i>April 2014</i>
FIELDWORK	<b>Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (Otomanguean)</b>  <i>Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico</i> Spent two weeks in Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, running an experiment under NSF Grant BCS-2019804, building relationships, and learning the language. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani.	<i>July 2023</i>

*Santa Cruz, CA* *January 2023 - July 2023*  
Collaborated with a speaker of Santiago Laxopa Zapotec under the UC Santa Cruz Zapotec Language Project. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani.

**San Martín Peras Mixtec (Otomanguean)**

*Watsonville, CA* *March 2022 - June 2022*  
Worked with a speaker of San Martín Peras Mixtec for a Field Methods course taken at UC Santa Cruz, taught by Ryan Bennett.

**Q'anjob'al (Maya)**

*Providence, RI* *February 2015 - June 2016*  
Worked with a speaker of Q'anjob'al for over a year. Supervised by Scott AnderBois at Brown University.

OTHER RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE

**Shrugging**

*UC Santa Cruz* *July 2024 - present*  
Investigating shrugging (gesture) from the lens of formal semantics and pragmatics. Graduate student researcher appointment with Jess Law.

**Pronoun Interpretation and Conceptual Reactivation**

*UC Santa Cruz* *September 2023 - present*  
Follow up studies to my second qualifying paper investigating the conceptual information activated during or because of pronoun comprehension. Running one probe recognition study alongside two studies using the Maze paradigm.

**Investigating the dynamics of coordinated questions**

*UC Santa Cruz* *May 2023 - August 2023*  
Helped Haoze Li design and create materials for judgment study investigating how coordinated questions are dynamically interpreted, with a focus on anaphora in the second conjunct to dependencies introduced by the first: e.g., 'which boy<sub>i</sub> took which course<sub>j</sub> and how did he<sub>i</sub> do in it<sub>j</sub>?'.  
*UC Santa Cruz*

**Decomposing effects of *focus* on real-time processing**

*UC Santa Cruz* *August 2022 - December 2022*  
Joint work with Morwenna Hoeks, supervised by Amanda Rysling & Maziar Toosarvandani. Investigation of real-time processing of *focus* in discourse using the Maze paradigm.

**Sanskrit NLP Research Intern**

*UC Berkeley* *Summer 2015*  
Supervised by Alberto Todeschini. Developed and implemented algorithm in Python for Sanskrit word segmentation (sandhi and compound resolution).

HONORS AND  
AWARDS

**Regents Fellowship**

*UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department* *2021-2022*

**Magna Cum Laude**

*Brown University* *2016*  
Highest honors.

**Sigma Xi**

*Brown University* *2016*

**Premium in Linguistics** 2016  
*Brown University Linguistics Department*  
Awarded to one senior.

**Distinguished Thesis Prize Nomination** 2016  
*Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences (CLPS) Department, Brown University*

**Phi Beta Kappa** 2015  
*Brown University*  
One of 32 juniors selected.

**Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow** Summer 2014  
*U.S. Department of Education*  
Studied Sanskrit at the AIIS Sanskrit Language Intensive in Pune, India.

SERVICE

**Co-coordinator, SPLAP! Reading Group** September 2022 - present  
*UC Santa Cruz*  
Co-coordinate weekly reading group on semantics, philosophy of language, and pragmatics.

**Graduate Communications Lead** September 2022 - June 2023  
*UC Santa Cruz*  
Manage the biweekly department news letter and web-blog, WHASC. Set up Department LinkedIn for Alumni outreach.

**Transportation Sub-committee** September 2022 - June 2023  
*UC Santa Cruz*  
Manage transportation logistics for UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department Colloquia.

**Linguistics Department Undergraduate Group (DUG) Coordinator** 2015-2016  
*Brown University*  
Coordinate events serving the entire department as well as its undergraduate body.

TEACHING

TEACHING ASSISTANT

<b>Ling 53: Semantics 1</b>	Pranav Anand	Fall 2024
<b>Ling 116: Semantics 2</b>	Roumyana Pancheva	Spring 2024
<b>Ling 53: Semantics 1</b>	Jess Law	Winter 2024
<b>Ling 80C: Language, Society, and Culture</b>	Jaye Padgett	Fall 2023
<b>Ling 171: Psycholinguistics 1</b>	Amanda Rysling	Spring 2023
<b>Ling 53: Semantics 1</b>	Jess Law	Winter 2023
<b>Ling 80M: Language and Indigeneity in Mesoamerica</b>	Ryan Bennett	Fall 2022

SKILLS

Programming Languages:

C++, Python, R, SQL (proficient)  
Java, HTML, Javascript (familiar)

Natural Languages:

English (native)  
Sanskrit, Latin (reading)  
Spanish (intermediate)  
Swedish (beginner)  
Q'anjob'al, San Martín Peras Mixtec, Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (research)