

Eli Sharf

Department of Linguistics
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INTERESTS	semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, computation, fieldwork, information structure, deixis	
EDUCATION	University of California, Santa Cruz	<i>2021 - present</i>
	<i>Ph.D. Student, Linguistics</i>	
	Brown University	<i>2012 - 2016</i>
	<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	
	University of California, Berkeley	
	Summer courses in Artificial Intelligence (2015), Logic (2012)	
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Google	<i>August 2018 - July 2021</i>
	<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.	
	Adecco@Google	<i>September 2016 - August 2018</i>
	<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	Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions.	<i>January 2024</i>
	North East Linguistics Society 54. MIT.	
	Deixis and Restrictive Modification.	<i>May 2022</i>
	California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Colloquium 13. UCLA.	
INVITED	What appositives can tell us about referential expressions.	<i>April 2024</i>
	NYU Semantics Group. New York University.	
NON-REFEREED	Pronoun Resolution and Antecedent Access.	<i>April 2024</i>
	Linguistics Spring Research Symposium. UC Santa Cruz.	
	Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions.	<i>March 2024</i>
	Linguistics at Santa Cruz. UC Santa Cruz.	
	Identificational Appositives.	<i>April 2023</i>
	Linguistics Spring Research Symposium. UC Santa Cruz.	

	Deixis and Restrictive Modification. Syntax and Semantics Circle. UC Santa Cruz.	<i>April 2022</i>
	First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya). Workshop on the Languages of Meso-America. UC Santa Cruz.	<i>February 2022</i>
	First and Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya). Public BA Thesis Defense. Brown University.	<i>May 2016</i>
PAPERS		
CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS	Restrictive Modifiers in Parenthetical Positions. Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 54, MIT.	<i>May 2024</i>
MANUSCRIPTS	Identificational Appositives. Qualifying Paper #1, UC Santa Cruz. 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>
	First & Second Person Pronouns in Q'anjob'al (Maya). 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>
	Nirgatasakhiśukavilāpah: The Lament of the Parrot at his Friend's Departure. 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>
	The Voice of Fortunatus: The Medieval Poet's Use of the Elegiac Couplet in Poem 3.18. Brown Classical Journal, Department of Classics at Brown University.	<i>April 2014</i>
FIELDWORK	Santiago Laxopa Zapotec (Otomanguan) <i>Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, Mexico</i> Spent two weeks in the field in Santiago Laxopa, Oaxaca, running an experiment under NSF Grant BCS-2019804, continuing to build relationships, and learning the language. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani. <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i> Collaborating with a speaker of Santiago Laxopa Zapotec under the UC Santa Cruz Zapotec Language Project. Supervised by Maziar Toosarvandani.	<i>July 2023</i> <i>January 2023 - July 2023</i>
	San Martín Peras Mixtec (Otomanguan) <i>Watsonville, CA</i> Worked with a speaker of San Martín Peras Mixtec for a Field Methods course taken at UC Santa Cruz, taught by Ryan Bennett.	<i>March 2022 - June 2022</i>

	Q'anjob'al (Maya) <i>Providence, RI</i> 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	Pronoun Resolution & Antecedent Access <i>UC Santa Cruz</i> Second Qualifying Paper, advised by Matt Wagers. Ran one Probe Recognition studies investigating the conceptual information activated during or because of pronoun comprehension. Currently running another Probe Recognition study alongside a study using the Maze paradigm.	September 2023 - present
	Investigating the dynamics of coordinated questions <i>UC Santa Cruz</i> 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 _i took which course _j and how did he _i do in it _j ?'.	May 2023 - August 2023
	Decomposing effects of <i>focus</i> on real-time processing <i>UC Santa Cruz</i> Joint work with Morwenna Hoeks, supervised by Amanda Rysling & Maziar Toosarvandani. Investigation of real-time processing of <i>focus</i> in discourse using the Maze paradigm.	August 2022 - December 2022
	Grounding Language to Points in Space <i>Brown University</i> Joint work with Edward Williams and Roshan Rao for the course <i>Grounded Language in Robotics</i> taught by Stefanie Tellex. Developed algorithms to allow robots to understand how locative expressions map to points in space in their visual field. Ran experiment on humans for gold data.	Spring 2016
	Sanskrit NLP Research Intern <i>UC Berkeley</i> Supervised by Alberto Todeschini. Developed and implemented algorithm in Python for Sanskrit word segmentation (sandhi and compound resolution).	Summer 2015
	Predicting the Existential "there" Construction <i>Brown University</i> Joint work with Alex Warstadt and Debjani Mitra for the course <i>Corpus Linguistics</i> taught by Uriel Cohen-Priva. Created a statistical model in R to predict contexts in which speakers would use the existential construction. Compiled and annotated large dataset from the New York Times corpus.	Spring 2014
HONORS AND AWARDS	Regents Fellowship <i>UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department</i>	2021-2022
	Magna Cum Laude <i>Brown University</i> Highest honors.	2016
	Sigma Xi <i>Brown University</i>	2016
	Premium in Linguistics <i>Brown University Linguistics Department</i> Awarded to one senior.	2016

	Distinguished Thesis Prize Nomination	<i>2016</i>
	<i>Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences (CLPS) Department, Brown University</i>	
	Phi Beta Kappa	<i>2015</i>
	<i>Brown University</i>	
	One of 32 juniors selected.	
	Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow	<i>Summer 2014</i>
	<i>U.S. Department of Education</i>	
	Studied Sanskrit at the AIIS Sanskrit Language Intensive in Pune, India.	
SERVICE	Co-coordinator, SPLAP! Reading Group	<i>September 2022 - present</i>
	<i>UC Santa Cruz</i>	
	Co-coordinate weekly reading group on semantics, philosophy of language, and pragmatics.	
	Graduate Communications Lead	<i>September 2022 - June 2023</i>
	<i>UC Santa Cruz</i>	
	Manage the biweekly department news letter and web-blog, WHASC. Set up Department LinkedIn for Alumni outreach.	
	Transportation Sub-committee	<i>September 2022 - June 2023</i>
	<i>UC Santa Cruz</i>	
	Manage transportation logistics for UC Santa Cruz Linguistics Department Colloquia.	
	Linguistics Department Undergraduate Group (DUG) Coordinator	<i>2015-2016</i>
	<i>Brown University</i>	
	Coordinate events serving the entire department as well as its undergraduate body.	
TEACHING		
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Ling 116: Semantics 2	<i>Spring 2024</i>
	Instructor: Roumyana Pancheva	
	Ling 53: Semantics 1	<i>Winter 2024</i>
	Instructor: Jess Law	
	Ling 80C: Language, Society, and Culture	<i>Fall 2023</i>
	Instructor: Jaye Padgett	
	Ling 171: Psycholinguistics 1	<i>Spring 2023</i>
	Instructor: Amanda Rysling	
	Ling 53: Semantics 1	<i>Winter 2023</i>
	Instructor: Jess Law	
	Ling 80M: Language and Indigeneity in Mesoamerica	<i>Fall 2022</i>
	Instructor: Ryan Bennett	
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)