

# Gregory Scontras

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## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

### **University of California, Irvine** (2016–*present*)

Assistant professor, Linguistics  
Affiliated faculty, Logic and Philosophy of Science

### **Harvard University** (Fall 2017)

Visiting assistant professor, Linguistics

### **Stanford University** (2014–2016)

Post-doctoral scholar, Psychology (Computation & Cognition Lab)

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### **European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information** (2009, 2015)

Coursework in theoretical linguistics, statistics and philosophical logic

### **Harvard University** (2008–2014)

Ph.D. in linguistics, November 2014

Thesis: *The Semantics of Measurement*

Advisor: Gennaro Chierchia

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (2008–2010)

Coursework in theoretical linguistics and cognitive science

### **Boston University** (2004–2008)

B.A. *summa cum laude* in linguistics (with distinction) and in philosophy, May 2008

Thesis: *The Semantics of Plural Superlatives*

Minor: Spanish language and literature

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

**ADVANCE Career Development Award**, UC Irvine (2017)

**Fellowship, SIAS Summer Institute** on the investigation of linguistic meaning, National Humanities Center and Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2015–2016)

**Mind/Brain/Behavior Initiative Graduate Student Award** for experimental research, Harvard University (2011)

**Sosland Family Graduate Fellowship**, Harvard University (2009–2010)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

1. Scontras, Gregory, and Edward Gibson. 2011. A quantitative investigation of the imperative–and–declarative construction in English. *Language* 87, 817–829. doi:10.1353/lan.2011.0079
2. Scontras, Gregory, Peter Graff, and Noah D. Goodman. 2012. Comparing pluralities. *Cognition* 123, 190–197. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2011.12.012
3. Scontras, Gregory, and Andreea Nicolae. 2014. Saturating syntax: Linkers and modification in Tagalog. *Lingua* 149, 17–33. doi:10.1016/j.lingua.2014.05.005
4. Scontras, Gregory, William Badecker, Lisa Shank, Eunice Lim, and Evelina Fedorenko. 2015. Syntactic complexity effects in sentence production. *Cognitive Science* 39, 559–583. doi:10.1111/cogs.12168
5. Scontras, Gregory, Zuzanna Fuchs, and Maria Polinsky. 2015. Heritage language and linguistic theory. *Frontiers in Psychology* 6, 1545. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2015.01545
6. Fuchs, Zuzanna, Maria Polinsky, and Gregory Scontras. 2015. The differential representation of number and gender in Spanish. *The Linguistic Review* 32, 703–737. doi:10.1515/tlr-2015-0008
7. Scontras, Gregory, Judith Degen, and Noah D. Goodman. 2017. Subjectivity predicts adjective ordering preferences. *Open Mind* 1, 53–66. doi:10.1162/OPMI\_a\_00005
8. Scontras, Gregory. 2017. A new kind of degree. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 40, 165–205. doi:10.1007/s10988-016-9200-9
9. Scontras, Gregory, Maria Polinsky, C.-Y. Edwin Tsai, and Kenneth Mai. 2017. Cross-linguistic scope ambiguity: When two systems meet. *Glossa: A journal of general linguistics* 2, 36. doi:10.5334/gjgl.198
10. Scontras, Gregory, and Noah D. Goodman. 2017. Resolving uncertainty in plural predication. *Cognition* 168, 294–311. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2017.07.002
11. Scontras, Gregory, William Badecker, and Evelina Fedorenko. 2017. Syntactic complexity effects in sentence production: A reply to MacDonald et al. (2016). *Cognitive Science* 41, 2280–2287. doi:10.1111/cogs.12495
12. Scontras, Gregory, Maria Polinsky, and Zuzanna Fuchs. 2018. In support of representational economy: Agreement in heritage Spanish. *Glossa: A journal of general linguistics* 3, 1. doi:10.5334/gjgl.164.

### Refereed Conference Proceedings

13. Nicolae, Andreea, and Gregory Scontras. 2011. How does *who* compose? In L. Clemens, G. Scontras, and M. Polinsky (Eds.) *Proceedings of AFLA 18*, 125–139.
14. Scontras, Gregory. 2013. A unified semantics for number marking, numerals, and nominal structure. In E. Chemla, V. Homer, and G. Winterstein (Eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 17*, 545–562.

15. Scontras, Gregory. 2013. Accounting for counting: A unified semantics for measure terms and classifiers. In T. Snider (Ed.) *Proceedings of SALT 23*, 549–569.
16. Scontras, Gregory, C.-Y. Edwin Tsai, Kenneth Mai, and Maria Polinsky. 2014. Chinese scope: An experimental investigation. In U. Etxeberria, A. Fălăuș, A. Irurtzun, and B. Leferman (Eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18*, 396–414.
17. Scontras, Gregory. 2014. Amount semantics. In T. Snider (Ed.) *Proceedings of SALT 24*, 310–329.
18. Tsai, C.-Y. Edwin, Gregory Scontras, Kenneth Mai, and Maria Polinsky. 2014. Prohibiting inverse scope: An experimental study of Chinese vs. English. In C. Piñón (Ed.) *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics 10*, 305–322.
19. Scontras, Gregory, Kathryn Davidson, Amy Rose Deal, and Sarah E. Murray. 2017. *Who has more?* The influence of linguistic form on quantity judgments. *Proceedings of the Linguistics Society of America* 2, 41:1–15.
20. Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2017. Modeling scope ambiguity resolution as pragmatic inference: Formalizing differences in child and adult behavior. *Proceedings of the 39th meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, 3064–3069.
21. Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2018. Exactly two things to learn from modeling scope ambiguity resolution: Developmental continuity and numeral semantics. To appear in *Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics (CMCL 2018)*.
22. Bar-Sever, Galia, Rachael Lee, Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2018. Subjective little learners: Hyperarticulated input and the early development of adjective ordering preferences. To appear in *Proceedings of the 42nd annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*.

### **Book Chapters and Working Papers**

23. Nicolae, Andreea, and Gregory Scontras. 2015. The progression of gender from Latin to Romanian. In A. Nicolae and G. Scontras (Eds.) *Harvard Working Papers in Linguistics 13*, 81–99.

### **Technical reports**

24. Pearl, Lisa, Gregory Scontras, and Sameer Singh. 2017. Large-scale sophisticated linguistic monitoring. *A Decadal Survey of the Social and Behavioral Sciences for National Security*, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) of the National Academies.

### **Books (web)**

25. Scontras, Gregory, and Michael Henry Tessler. 2017. Probabilistic language understanding: An introduction to the Rational Speech Act framework.  
<https://gscontras.github.io/probLang/>

## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Scontras, Gregory. 2009. Group Comparison: Evidence from Plural Superlatives. Poster presented at Console XVIII.
- Graff, Peter and Gregory Scontras. 2010. Metathesis as Asymmetric Perceptual Realignment. 84th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Scontras, Gregory, Peter Graff and Noah Goodman. 2010. Comparing Pluralities. The 46th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society.
- Graff, Peter, and Gregory Scontras. 2010. Metathesis as Asymmetric Perceptual Realignment. Poster presented at The 28th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics.
- Nicolae, Andreea, and Gregory Scontras. 2010. What Austronesian Tells us about *Who*. The 17th Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association.
- Scontras, Gregory, Peter Graff and Noah Goodman. 2011. Plural Comparison and Collective Predication. The 85th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Nicolae, Andreea, and Gregory Scontras. 2011. Simplifying Semantic Composition: Evidence from Tagalog. The 18th Annual Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association.
- Scontras, Gregory. 2011. Stubborn Distributivity and Groups. Poster presented at The 29th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics.
- Nicolae, Andreea, and Gregory Scontras. 2011. Saturating Syntax: Linkers and Modification in Tagalog. Workshop on Modification (with & without modifiers). CCHC-CSIC, Madrid.
- Scontras, Gregory. 2012. A Unified Semantics for Number Marking, Numerals, and Nominal Structure. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 17.
- Scontras, Gregory, Peter Graff, Tami Forrester, and Noah D. Goodman. 2013. Context Sensitivity in Collective Predication. Poster presented at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Gibson, Edward, and Gregory Scontras. 2013. Working memory and syntactic islands revisited. Poster presented at the 26th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Scontras, Gregory. 2013. Accounting for Counting: A Unified Semantics for Measure Terms and Classifiers. Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 23.
- Scontras, Gregory, Cheng-Yu Edwin Tsai, Kenneth Mai, and Maria Polinsky. 2013. Chinese Scope: An experimental investigation. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 18.
- Scontras, Gregory, Cheng-Yu Edwin Tsai, Kenneth Mai, and Maria Polinsky. 2013. Prohibiting Inverse Scope: An Experimental Study of Chinese vs. English. *Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique à Paris (CSSP)*.
- Fuchs, Zuzanna, Maria Polinsky, and Gregory Scontras. 2014. The Differential Representation of Number and Gender in Spanish. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)* 37.
- Scontras, Gregory. 2014. Amount Semantics. Poster presented at Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 24.

- Degen, Judith, Justin Kao, Gregory Scontras, and Noah D. Goodman. 2015. A cost- and information-theoretic count of epistemic “must”. Poster presented at the 28th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Scontras, Gregory, and Noah D. Goodman. 2015. The role of context in plural predication. *Experimental Pragmatics (XPrag)*.
- Scontras, Gregory, and Noah D. Goodman. 2015. Interpreting collective predication. *Experimental Approaches to Semantics (ExAS)*, held at the 27th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI).
- Scontras, Gregory, Judith Degen, and Noah D. Goodman. 2016. Property subjectivity predicts adjective ordering preferences. *Adjective Order: Theory and Experiment workshop*, held at the 38th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS).
- Scontras, Gregory, Kathryn Davidson, Amy Rose Deal, and Sarah E. Murray. 2017. *Who has more?* The influence of linguistic form on quantity judgments. The 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.
- Scontras, Gregory, Judith Degen, and Noah D. Goodman. 2017. Subjectivity predicts adjective ordering preferences. The 91st Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. – *Winner of the Five-Minute Linguist plenary event*.
- Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2017. The development of scope ambiguity resolution: New frontiers in the RSA framework. Poster presented at the CSLI Workshop: Bridging computational and psycholinguistic approaches to the study of meaning.
- Fuchs, Zuzanna, Gregory Scontras, and Maria Polinsky. 2017. Restructuring in heritage grammars. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)* 40.
- Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2017. Context management vs. grammatical processing in children’s scope ambiguity resolution. Poster presented at the 30th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing.
- Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2017. Modeling scope ambiguity resolution as pragmatic inference: Formalizing differences in child and adult behavior. Poster presented at the 39th meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Bar-Sever, Galia, Rachael Lee, Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2017. Subjective little learners: Hyperarticulated input and the early development of adjective ordering preferences. *Boston University Conference on Language Development* 42.
- Savinelli, K. J., Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2018. Exactly two things to learn from modeling scope ambiguity resolution: Developmental continuity and numeral semantics. Poster presented at *Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics 2018*.
- Bar-Sever, Galia, Rachael Lee, Gregory Scontras, and Lisa Pearl. 2018. Quantitatively assessing the development of adjective ordering preferences using child-directed and child-produced speech corpora. Poster presented at the 1st Annual Meeting of the Society for Computation in Linguistics.
- Scontras, Gregory, K.J. Savinelli, and Lisa Pearl. 2018. The pragmatics of truth-value judgments. The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.

## INVITED TALKS

“Exploring plural comparison: What adjective semantics tells us about plurality.” October 12, 2012. Department of Linguistics, Boston University.

“Collective predication: The view from plural comparison.” Stanford Psychology of Linguistics Tea (SPLaT!). January 31, 2013. Stanford University.

“Cross-linguistic scope ambiguity.” Workshop on Quantifier Scope: Syntactic, Semantic, and Experimental Approaches. June 12, 2014. CNRS–IKER.

“A new kind of degree.” Stanford Construction of Meaning workshop. October 24, 2014. Stanford University.

“Resolving uncertainty in plural predication.” Syntax and Semantics Circle. June 8, 2015. UC Santa Cruz.

“Formalizing the role of context in ambiguity resolution.” Syntax and Semantics Circle. October 23, 2015. UC Berkeley.

“Property noise and ambiguity resolution: The case of stubborn distributivity.” Stanford Sem-Prag Group. January 12, 2016. Stanford University.

“Subjectivity predicts adjective ordering preferences.” February 10, 2016. Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago.

“A new kind of degree.” February 10, 2016. Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago.

“Formalizing the role of context in ambiguity resolution.” February 23, 2016. University of Tübingen.

“Modeling ambiguity resolution as pragmatic inference.” 26th Annual Linguistics Symposium. April 12, 2017. CSU Fullerton.

“Degrees and kinds: Rethinking the ontology.” Workshop on Number. June 13, 2017. Inter University Center in Dubrovnik.

“The strategic use of noise in ambiguity resolution.” June 19, 2017. ZAS Berlin.

“Ambiguity resolution in heritage grammars.” June 20, 2017. ZAS Berlin.

“Property noise and ambiguity resolution: The case of stubborn distributivity.” September 15, 2017. Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.

“Learning from heritage languages” (with Maria Polinsky). December 18, 2017. International Conference on Bilingualism: Language & Heritage, University of Cambridge – Chinese University of Hong Kong Joint Laboratory for Bilingualism.

## TEACHING

### 2010

*Ling 98a Junior Tutorial – Imperatives.* Harvard.

**2011**

*Ling 97r Sophomore Tutorial – Experimental Methods in Linguistics.* Harvard.

*Ling 98a Junior Tutorial – Plurality.* Harvard.

**2012**

*Ling 97r Sophomore Tutorial – Experimental Methods in Linguistics.* Harvard.

*Ling 97r Sophomore Tutorial – Number Marking.* Harvard.

**2013**

*Public Speaking for International TFS* (with Virginia Maurer). Harvard.

**2016**

*Composition in Probabilistic Language Understanding.* European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.

**2017**

*Ling 143 Intro to Formal Semantics.* UC Irvine.

*Ling 109 Special Topics in Computational Linguistics.* UC Irvine.

*Ling 155/Psych 150 Psychology of Language.* UC Irvine.

*Ling 236 Probabilistic Understanding of Language.* Harvard.

**2018**

*Ling 155/Psych 150 Psychology of Language.* UC Irvine.

**SERVICE**

Reviewer for *Cognition, Dialectica, Glossa, Journal of Memory and Language, Journal of Semantics, Linguistic Inquiry, Linguistic Typology, Linguistics, Linguistics and Philosophy, Linguistics Vanguard, Mind, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory,* and *Natural Language Semantics.*

2016–present. Director, Language Science Colloquium, UC Irvine.

2016–present. Member, Linguistics Graduate Program Committee, UC Irvine.

2017. Organizer, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 10, UC Irvine.

2017. Co-organizer (with Kai Wehmeier), The First UC Irvine Workshop in Logical Semantics.

2017. Co-organizer, North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, UC Irvine.

2016–2017. Member, Linguistics Syntax Search Committee, UC Irvine.

2010–2014. Department of Linguistics Representative on the Mind, Brain, and Behavior Graduate Student Steering Committee, Harvard.

2012–2013. Departmental Teaching Fellow in Linguistics, the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard.

2011. Co-organizer (with Lauren Eby Clemens). 18th Meeting of the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association.

#### LANGUAGES

English (native). Practical coursework in Spanish (fluent), Russian (reading knowledge), and Latin (beginner). Linguistic consultant work in Somali, Mandarin Chinese, Cape Verdean Creole, Turkish, and Tagalog.