

ATHULYA ARAVIND

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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APPOINTMENTS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2023 - Associate Professor (without tenure) of Linguistics
2019 - 2023 Assistant Professor of Linguistics
2019 - Co-director, MIT Language Acquisition Lab
www.childlanguage.mit.edu

Harvard University

2018 - 2019 Post-doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Psychology
Lab for Developmental Studies, PI: Elizabeth Spelke

EDUCATION

2018 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ph.D in Linguistics, Thesis: *Presuppositions in context*
2011 Northeastern University
BA in Linguistics and English, *Summa cum Laude* with Honors

GRANTS & AWARDS

2023 Evaluating the effectiveness of AI-identification in human-AI communication.
MIT Funding for impact papers on Generative AI, \$50,000
2022 - 2023 Doctoral Dissertation Research: Presupposition projection in conditionals and
conjunctions: Developmental and psycholinguistic evidence (BCS-2140399). Co-
PI on NSF DDRIG to Sherry Chen; \$14,269
2021 Levitan Prize: In search of the meaningless: Investigating children's learning of
dummy words. MIT SHASS; \$28,180
2021 Committed to Caring, MIT Award

2021 - 2024	Semantics for Language. Pilot funding, MIT Quest for Intelligence. With Jacob Andreas, Roger Levy, Evelina Fedorenko
2021 - 2024	Context dependence across categories: Bridging developmental, experimental, and theoretical perspectives (BCS-2016963/2016895). With Kristen Syrett, Rutgers; \$192,850
2016	Noam Chomsky Fellowship, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT.

PUBLICATIONS

*advisee, † equal contributions

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND MANUSCRIPTS

<i>under review</i>	Syrett, Kristen [†] and Athulya Aravind [†] . "Count nouns have a contextually mediated minimum standard".
<i>under review</i>	Brody, Gabor, Roman Feiman [†] and Athulya Aravind [†] . "Mutual Exclusivity is in the message"
<i>in revision</i>	Chen, Sherry Yong* and Athulya Aravind . "Processing asymmetries and presupposition projection: the case of binary connectives"
2023	Aravind, Athulya , Danny Fox and Martin Hackl. "Principles of presupposition in development". <i>Linguistics and Philosophy</i> . doi: 10.1007/s10988-022-09364-z
2023	Aravind, Athulya [†] and Loes Koring [†] . "Experiencer troubles: A reappraisal of the predicate-based asymmetry in child passives". <i>Language Acquisition</i> . doi: 10.1080/10489223.2022.2115373
2022	Aravind, Athulya . "Nominative in non-finite contexts in child language", ms.
2021	Syrett, Kristen [†] and Athulya Aravind [†] . "Context sensitivity and the semantics of count nouns in the evaluation of partial objects by children and adults". <i>Journal of Child Language</i> . doi: 10.1017/S0305000921000027
2020	Rasin, Ezer [†] and Athulya Aravind [†] . "The nature of the semantic stimulus: the acquisition of every as a case study". <i>Natural Language Semantics</i> .
2019	Aravind, Athulya . "Successive cyclicity in DPs: Evidence from Mongolian nominalized clauses." <i>Linguistic Inquiry</i> . doi: 10.1162/ling_a_00373
2018	Aravind, Athulya , Jill de Villiers, Amy Pace, Hannah Valentine, Roberta Golinkoff, Kathy Hirsch-Pasek, Aquiles Iglesias, and Mary Wilson. "Fast mapping word meanings across trials: young children forget all but their first guess." <i>Cognition</i> 177, 177-188. doi: 10.1016/j.cognition.2018.04.008
2017	Aravind, Athulya , Martin Hackl and Ken Wexler. "Syntactic and pragmatic factors in children's comprehension of cleft constructions". <i>Language Acquisition</i> , doi: 10.1080/10489223.2017.1316725

- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya.** "Licensing long-distance *wh*-in-situ in Malayalam." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*. doi: [10.1007%2Fs11049-017-9371-2](https://doi.org/10.1007%2Fs11049-017-9371-2)
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya,** Jill de Villiers, Peter de Villiers, Christopher Lonigan, Beth Phillips, Jeanine Clancy, Susan Landry, Paul Swank, Michael Assel, Heather Taylor, Nancy Eisenberg, Tracy Spinrad and Carlos Valiente. "Children's Quantification with *every* over time." *Glossa* 2(1): 43. 1-16. doi: [0.5334/gjgl.166](https://doi.org/0.5334/gjgl.166)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2023 Staniszewski, Frank*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind.** "Overly strong interpretations of modal verbs in child language". *Proceedings of BUCLD 47*.
- 2022 Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind.** "Non-uniformities in the Development of Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals". *Proceedings of BUCLD 46*.
- 2021 **Aravind, Athulya.** "Locality in Malayalam Anaphor Binding." *Proceedings of WCCFL 29*.
- 2021 Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind.** "More than the sum of its parts: Acquiring semantically complex quantifiers". *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. Vol. 43. No. 43.
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya.** "A-bar interactions and feature geometries." In Halpert, C., Kotek, H. and van Urk, C. (Eds.) *A Pesky Set: Papers for David Pesetsky*.
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Against a unified treatment of obligatory presupposition effects." *Proceedings of SALT 27*.
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Factivity and at-issueness in the acquisition of *forget* and *remember*." *Proceedings of BUCLD 41*.
- 2017 Boyce, Veronica*, **Athulya Aravind,** and Martin Hackl. "Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." *Proceedings of BUCLD 41*.
- 2016 **Aravind, Athulya,** Eva Freedman, Martin Hackl and Ken Wexler. "Subject-object asymmetries in the acquisition of clefts." *Proceedings of BUCLD 40*.
- 2016 **Aravind, Athulya.** "Minimality and *wh*-licensing in Malayalam." *Proceedings of NELS 46*.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED

- 2024 TBD. Keynote, 14th Formal Approaches to South Asian Languages Conference, Stony Brook University, April 4-6, 2024.

- 2023 "Non-canonical agreement in early grammars". Linguistics Colloquium, Rutgers University, October 20, 2023.
- 2022 "Alternatives in word learning". Linguistics Colloquium, Tel Aviv University, December 2, 2022.
- 2022 "Alternatives in word learning". Language and Cognition Talk Series, Harvard University, October 11, 2022.
- 2022 "Presupposition and accommodation in child language". Linguistics Colloquium, UCLA, May 20, 2022.
- 2022 "Asymmetries in presupposition projection". Linguistics Colloquium, University of Maryland, College Park, April 8, 2022.
- 2021 "Pragmatics in quantifier acquisition". Linguistics Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 28, 2021.
- 2020 "Presupposition and accommodation in child language". LingLangLunch, Brown University, October 28, 2020.
- 2020 "Presupposition and accommodation in child language". Linguistics Colloquium, New York University, October 16, 2020.
- 2018 "Knowing when to presuppose". Colloquium, McMaster University, October 26, 2018.
- 2018 "Context-sensitivity and count nouns: the view from child language." Linguistics Colloquium, Boston University, October 6, 2018.
- 2018 "Parts and wholes in context: Object individuation in child and adult language." UMass Boston Baby Lab, March 30, 2018.
- 2018 "Principles of presupposition in development." MIT, March 8, 2018.
- 2018 "Principles of presupposition: The view from child language." McGill University, January 26, 2018.
- 2017 "Reflexes of successive cyclicity in Mongolian DPs." SUSSURUS, UMass, Amherst, December 1, 2017.
- 2016 "A/A-bar distinction in development: the view from child clefts." The Conference in Honor of Ken Wexler, April 30, 2016.

REFEREED

- 2023 Gotowki, Megan* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Non-Canonical Agreement in Early Grammar". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2023 **Athulya Aravind** and Gotowki, Megan*. "Children's Interpretations of Referential and Expletive *It*". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2023 New, Keely*, Premvanti Patel* and **Athulya Aravind**. "How toddlers answer multiple *wh*-questions". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.

- 2023 Roversi, Giovanni*, Kate Kinnaird* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Acquisition of *ABA paradigms in a child Artificial Language Learning Experiment". Talk presented at BUCLD 48, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2022 Brody, Gabor, Roman Fieman[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "2-year-olds derive mutual exclusivity inferences from contrastive focus". Talk presented at BUCLD 47, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2022 Staniszewski, Frank*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Overly strong interpretations of modal verbs in child language". Poster presented at BUCLD 47, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2022 Mortier, Adele*, Rachel Stacey* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Two kinds of adjective-infinitives in acquisition". Talk presented at AMLaP 2022, University of York, United Kingdom.
- 2022 Brody, Gabor, Roman Fieman[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "2-year-olds derive mutual exclusivity inferences from contrastive focus". Talk presented at ELM 2, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Non-uniformities in the Development of Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals". Talk presented at BUCLD 46, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2021 Chen, Sherry*, Cindy Torma* and **Athulya Aravind**. "Asymmetry in Presupposition Projection in If-Conditionals: Evidence from Acquisition". Talk presented at NELS 52, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2021 Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. "More than the sum of its parts: Acquiring semantically complex quantifiers". Poster presented at CogSci 2021, Vienna.
- 2021 **Aravind, Athulya**. "Locality in Malayalam Anaphor Binding". Poster presented at WCCFL 39, University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ.
- 2020 Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. Decomposing *both*" Talk presented at BUCLD 45, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2020 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "*Maximize Presupposition!* in development". Talk presented at BUCLD 45, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2020 Torma, Cindy*, Gabor Brody and **Athulya Aravind**. Decomposing *both*" Talk presented at BUCLD 45, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2018 **Aravind, Athulya**, Danny Fox and Martin Hackl. "Knowing when to presuppose" Talk presented at BUCLD 43, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2017 Syrett, Kristen[†] and **Athulya Aravind**[†]. "When is a part (not) as good as a whole: Factors affecting object individuation in non-counting and counting tasks." Poster presented at BUCLD 42, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya**[†] and Kristen Syrett[†]. "Investigating Context Sensitivity and Vagueness in Nominals in Child and Adult Language." Poster presented at NELS 48, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.

- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Against a unified treatment of obligatory presupposition effects." Talk presented at SALT 27, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- 2017 **Aravind, Athulya**[†] and Kristen Syrett[†]. "Gradability and vagueness in the nominal domain: an experimental approach." Talk presented at LSA 91, Austin, TX.
- 2016 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Factivity and at-issueness in the acquisition of *forget* and *remember*." Talk presented at BUCLD 41, Boston University, Boston MA.
- 2016 Veronica Boyce*, **Athulya Aravind** and Martin Hackl. "Lexical and syntactic effects on auxiliary selection: Evidence from Child French." Talk presented at BUCLD 41, Boston University, Boston MA.
- 2016 de Villiers, Jill, Amy Pace, Madeline Klein, **Athulya Aravind**, Roberta Golinkoff, Kathy Hirsch-Pasek, and Mary Wilson. "Fast mapping word meanings across trials: young children forget all but their first guess." Talk presented at BUCLD 41, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2016 **Aravind, Athulya** and Martin Hackl. "Variation in the acquisition of presupposition triggers." Poster presented at GALANA 7, University of Chicago Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
- 2015 **Aravind, Athulya**, Eva Freedman, Martin Hackl and Ken Wexler. "Subject-object asymmetries in the acquisition of clefts." Talk presented at BUCLD 40, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 2015 **Aravind, Athulya**. "Minimality and *wh*-licensing in Malayalam." Talk presented at NELS 46, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.
- 2015 **Aravind, Athulya**, Martin Hackl, and Ken Wexler. "Subject-object asymmetries in the acquisition of clefts." Talk presented at GALA 12, University of Nantes, Nantes, France.
- 2015 **Aravind, Athulya**. "Interpreting clefts: evidence from Malayalam." Talk presented at LSA 89, Portland, OR.

TEACHING

MIT:

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| <i>Spring 2023</i> | 24.904, Language Acquisition (undergrad) |
| <i>Spring 2023</i> | 24.952, Advanced Syntax (w/ David Pesetsky) (grad) |
| <i>Fall 2023</i> | 24.949, Language Acquisition (grad) |
| <i>Spring 2022</i> | 24.904, Language Acquisition (undergrad) |
| <i>Spring 2022</i> | 24.952, Advanced Syntax (w/ David Pesetsky) (grad) |
| <i>Fall 2021</i> | 24.949, Language Acquisition (grad) |
| <i>Spring 2021</i> | 24.904, Language Acquisition (undergrad) |

<i>Spring 2021</i>	24.952, Advanced Syntax (grad)
<i>Fall 2020</i>	24.949, Language Acquisition (grad)
<i>Summer 2020</i>	24.921, Workshop on Professional Skills in Linguistics (w/ David Pesetsky) (grad)
<i>Spring 2020</i>	24.904, Language Acquisition (undergrad)
<i>Fall 2019</i>	24.S94, Linguistics for Researchers in Computer Science, Cognitive Science, and Related Fields (w/ Adam Albright, Martin Hackl and David Pesetsky) (grad)
<i>Fall 2019</i>	24.956, Topics in Syntax: Acquisition of Case, Agreement, and Finiteness Revisited (w/ David Pesetsky) (grad)
<i>Fall 2019</i>	24.949, Language Acquisition (w/ Martin Hackl) (grad)

SUMMER SCHOOLS:

<i>Summer 2024</i>	Language Acquisition: Developmental issues in Semantics (w/ Roman Feiman), CreteLing, Rethymnon, Crete
<i>Summer 2023</i>	Acquiring word meanings (w/ Kristen Syrett), LSA Summer Institute, UMass Amherst
<i>Summer 2018</i>	Language Acquisition (South-Caucasian Chalk Circle, Tbilisi, Georgia)

ADVISING

AS POST-DOCTORAL ADVISOR

<i>2023 -</i>	<i>Daniel Asherov</i>
<i>2023</i>	<i>Vincent Rouillard</i>
<i>2022 - 2023</i>	<i>Megan Gotowski</i>

AS DISSERTATION COMMITTEE (CO-)CHAIR

<i>2024</i>	<i>Verena Hehl</i> . Negative Rhetorical Questions
<i>2022</i>	<i>Sherry Chen</i> . Asymmetries in Presupposition Projection: Processing & Acquisition
<i>2022</i>	<i>Frank Staniszewsk</i> . Modality and Time in Logical Context

AS DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

<i>2024</i>	<i>Adele Mortier</i>
<i>2024</i>	<i>Yash Sinha</i>

AS MASTERS THESIS ADVISOR

<i>2024</i>	<i>Karissa Sanchez</i>
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GENERALS COMMITTEE MEMBER

2023	<i>Keely New</i>
2023	<i>Giovanni Roversi</i>
2022	<i>Agnes Bi</i>
2021	<i>Boer Fu</i>
2021	<i>Yeonjun Kim</i>
2021	<i>Eunsun Jou</i>

PRE-DISSERTATION GRADUATE ADVISING

Johanna Alstott, Janek Guerrini (ENS), Filipe Hisao Kobayashi, Le'an Luo (Tsinghua University), Katie Martin, Yourdanis Sedarous (University of Michigan), Christine Soh (University of Pennsylvania), Chelsea Tang, Simge Topaloglu (Harvard), Jad Wehbe, Danfeng Wu

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

2023	<i>Yanwan Zhu, Preliminary Exam Committee, Brown University</i>
2023	<i>Andrew Morrison, Dissertation Review Committee, Macquarie University</i>

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION LAB: SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP

2023-	<i>Premvanti Patel, full-time Lab Manager</i>
2022-	<i>Kate Kinnaird, full-time Lab Manager</i>
2021-2023	<i>Rachel Stacey, full-time Lab Manager</i>
2019-2021	<i>Cindy Torma, full-time Lab Manager</i>

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Megan Allen (2021), Toluwalase Asade (2020), Suji Balfe (2020), Katherine Chan (2020-2021), Benjamin Dever-Mendenhall (2023), KD Dretler (2019-2020), Gracie Evans (2022-2023), Emily Fang (2020), Gabriella Garcia (2021), Annick Gills (2023), Eva Goldie (2021), Stella Ho (2020), Olivia Honeycutt (2022-2023), Michika Ito (2022), Pauline LeGrand (2021), Kelsey Lin (2022-2023), Hsi-Er Liu (2023), Jasmine Lunia (2023), Mercy Oladipo (2020), Coco Plasencia (2021), Sofia Pronina (2023), Loren Rubio (2020-2022), Abigail Sandy (2022), Tara Sarma (2021), Annika Schafer (2021), Ayato Shigihara (2021-2022), Vivian Tan (2022), Nerine Uyanik (2023), Sanaa Walker (2021), Elaine Wang (2020-2022), Jennifer Yu (2021-2022), Alicia Zhang (2023), Tina Zhang (2023), Ann Zhao (2023)

SERVICE

EDITORSHIPS/EDITORIAL BOARDS

2024 -	<i>Associate Editor, Linguistics and Philosophy</i>
2020 -	<i>Editorial Board Member, Semantics and Pragmatics</i>

AD-HOC REVIEWING FOR PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS, EDITED VOLUMES AND BOOK SERIES

2024	<i>Language Acquisition</i>
2023	<i>Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language Semantics</i>
2022	<i>Cognition, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language Semantics, Isogloss, Languages, Open Generative Syntax</i>
2021	<i>Language Learning and Development, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Journal of Pragmatics</i>
2020	<i>Semantics and Pragmatics, Natural Language Semantics, Acta Linguistica Academica</i>
2019	<i>Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Journal of Child Language, Language Learning</i>
2018	<i>First Language, Glossa, Language, Language Acquisition, Language Learning, Linguistic Inquiry, TiLAR: Semantics in Language Acquisition</i>
2017	<i>Glossa, TiLAR: Semantics in Language Acquisition</i>

AD-HOC ABSTRACT REVIEWING FOR PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES

2024	SALT 34, ELM 3
2023	SALT 33, NELS 54
2022	ELM 2, SALT 32, WCCFL 40
2021	SALT 31, CUNY 2021
2020	NELS 51, ELM 1, GALANA 9, Sinn und Bedeutung 25
2019	GLOW 43, NELS 50, CLS55
2018	GLOW 42, NELS 49
2017	NELS 48, ESSLI 2017, FASAL 7

AD-HOC GRANT REVIEWING

2022	<i>National Science Foundation</i>
2021	<i>National Science Foundation</i>
2020	<i>National Science Foundation</i>

SERVICE TO LINGUISTICS COMMUNITY

2016 - 2022	Member, LSA Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics
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CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

2024	Faculty co-organizer, North East Linguistics Society 54
2023	Co-organizer (with Kristen Syrett), Workshop on Gradability and Measurement Across Domains, Rutgers University
2019	Co-organizer (with Martin Hackl), Language Acquisition Workshop of New England, MIT

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTE

2023	Panelist, SHASS Faculty Panel on Research Statements, MIT
2017	Graduate Student Panelist, The Institutional Intelligence Forum (i-Squared), MIT

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2023	Member, Computational Search Committee
2021-2022	Member, Computational Linguistics Postdoc Search Committee
2020 -	Member, URM Recruitment Committee
2019 -	Departmental Liason, MIT Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects (COUHES)
2019 -	Member, Student Grants Committee

SOCIETIES

2019 -	Cognitive Science Society
2011 -	Linguistic Society of America