

ADÈLE HÉNOT-MORTIER

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Broad:

Semantics, Pragmatics, Experimental and Computational Linguistics.

Narrow:

Theory and processing of scalar implicatures;

Semantics of questions;

Syntactic and semantic assessment of LLMs based on Surprisal Theory.

EDUCATION

PhD in Linguistics, MIT

September 2019 – current

Thesis title: *Redundancy under Discussion*.

Committee: Amir Anvari; Athulya Aravind; Martin Hackl; Daniel Fox.

Expected graduation date: August 2025.

Master's ("M2") in Cognitive Science Science (CogMaster), @ENS

September 2018 – June 2019

Specialization: Linguistics.

Thesis title: *Semantics and Pragmatics of numerical approximation expressions*.

Advisors: Paul Égré & Benjamin Spector.

Master's ("M2") in Computer Science (MPRI), @Paris 7

September 2017 – June 2018

Specialization: Logic and Semantics of Programming Languages

Thesis title: *Incremental dialogue modeling*.

Advisor: Jonathan Ginzburg.

B.A. ("M1") in Modern & Comparative Literature @Paris 3

September 2014 – June 2018

Specialization: Comparative Literature

Dual Bachelor ("M1"), Télécom Paris & HEC Paris

September 2014 – June 2017

Specializations: Algorithmics, Cryptography & Management

Preparatory classes, Lycée Saint Louis

September 2012 – June 2014

Specialization: Physics and Engineering Science

SUMMER SCHOOLS

The 6th Crete Summer School of Linguistics (as TA)

Summer 2024

The 4th Crete Summer School of Linguistics

Summer 2022

The 33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information

Summer 2022

The 2nd Crete Summer School of Linguistics

Summer 2018

SKILLS

Programming Languages

Python, L^AT_EX (advanced), R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript (basic)

Natural languages

French (native), English (fluent), German, Russian (basic)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- ♦ Highs and Lows of the French diminutive suffix *-et(te)*. *Lingue e linguaggio*, to appear. [\[Preprint\]](#)
- ♦ Égré, P., Spector, B., Mortier, A. & Verheyen, S. (2023). On the optimality of vagueness: “around”, “between” and the Gricean maxims. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46, 1075–1130. [\[Paper\]](#)

PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS IN PROCEEDINGS

2024

- ♦ “One tool to rule them all”? An integrated model of the QuD for Hurford sentences. *Proceedings of the Special Session “Does semantics have a ‘too many tools’ problem?” of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, to appear.
- ♦ Redundancy under Discussion. *Proceedings of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)*, to appear.
- ♦ The French demonstrative paradigm: structurally transparent but semantically intricate. *Proceedings of the 54rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54)*, to appear. [\[Preprint\]](#)

2023

- ♦ Shallowly accurate but deeply confused – how language models deal with antonyms, *Proceedings of the 28th Sinn und Bedeutung Conference*. [\[Preprint\]](#)
- ♦ Do Language Models discriminate between relatives and pseudorelatives? *Proceedings of the 2023 CLASP Conference on Learning with Small Data*, 55–61, Gothenburg, Sweden. Association for Computational Linguistics. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ♦ “Bridging the gap” between French tough-constructions and pseudorelatives, *Proceedings of the 25th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*, 156–167. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ♦ Superiority effects and the French Plural Pronoun Construction, *Proceedings of the 47th Penn Linguistics Conference*, 67–76. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ♦ With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. Distinguishing levels of morphological derivation in word-embedding models, *Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society*, 63–76. [\[Paper\]](#)

2022

- ♦ Alternatives are blind to some but not all kinds of context: the view from Hurford Disjunctions, *Proceedings of Sinn Und Bedeutung*, 27, 291–308. [\[Paper\]](#).
- ♦ (2022). An Agree-based account of the gap distribution in tough-constructions vs gapped-degree phrases, *Proceedings of the 24th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar*, 40–58. [\[Paper\]](#)
- ♦ With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. Word-embeddings distinguish denominal and root-derived verbs in Semitic, *Proceedings of End-to-End Compositional Models of Vector-Based Semantics*, 35–49. [\[Paper\]](#)

2015

- ♦ With Sergey Kabanikhin, Olga Krivorotko, Dmitriy Voronov and Darya Yermolenko. A numerical algorithm of parameter estimation for dynamic model for HIV infection of CD4+ t cells. *2015 International Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Computational Technologies (SIBIRCON)*, 180–185, IEEE. [\[Paper\]](#)

INVITED TALKS

- ♦ *An experimental investigation of asymmetries in Hurford Disjunctions*, Harvard’s Language and Cognition Series, November 2019, 2024.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- ♦ *On the QuD-dependence of conditionals* [\[Poster\]](#)
 - ♥ 2025 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, January 9-12, 2025, Philadelphia, USA.
 - ♥ CreteLing 2024, July 18, 2024, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece.
- ♦ A corpus study of the acquisition of French “se faire” passives, 17th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonJA 17), September 26-28, 2024, Center for Cognitive Science of Language, Nova Gorica, Slovenia. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ♦ “One tool to rule them all”? An integrated model of the QuD for Hurford sentences, Special Session “Does semantics have a ‘too many tools’ problem?” of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), September 20, 2024, Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale (CUMO), Noto, Italy. [\[Slides\]](#)

- ♦ *Redundancy under Discussion*, 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), September 17-19, 2024, Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale (CUMO), Noto, Italy. [Poster]
- ♦ *Unifying the French evidential construction on di(rai)t que*, Special Session “Evidentials in non-canonical speech acts” of the 29th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), September 16, 2024, Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale (CUMO), Syracuse, Italy. [Poster]
- ♦ *Dealing with relevance and redundancy via a compositional model of QuDs*, BerlinBrnoVienna Workshop 2024, June 28, 2024, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. [Slides]
- ♦ *The French demonstrative paradigm: structurally transparent but semantically intricate*, 54rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54), January 26, 2024, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, United States. [Poster]
- ♦ *Morpho-semantics of the French diminutive suffix -et(te)* [Slides]
 - ♥ 16th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 16), September 23, 2023, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
 - ♥ International Symposium of Morphology (ISMo) 2023, September 15, 2023, Université de Lorraine & CNRS, Nancy, France.
- ♦ *Do Language Models discriminate between relatives and pseudorelatives?* [Poster] [Slides]
 - ♥ Learning with Small Data (LSD) 2023, The Centre for Linguistic Theory and Studies in Probability (CLASP), September 11, 2023, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
 - ♥ Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2023 (AMLaP 29), Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, September 2, 2023, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.
 - ♥ The 4rd International Conference on Theoretical East Asian Psycholinguistics (ICTEAP-4), August 18, 2023, Dongguk University, Seoul, South Korea.
- ♦ *Shallowly accurate but deeply confused – how language models deal with antonyms* [Poster] [Slides]
 - ♥ Special Session “Big Data in Semantics and Pragmatics” of the 28th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), September 7, 2023, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany.
 - ♥ *Shallowly accurate but deeply confused – how language models deal with antonyms* [Poster]. Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2023 (AMLaP 29), September 1, 2023, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.
- ♦ *Do Large Language Models learn the specificity of parasitic gaps?* Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2023 (AMLaP 29), August 31, 2023, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain. [Slides]
- ♦ *“Bridging the gap” between French tough-constructions and pseudorelatives*, 25th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 25), August 15, 2023, Dongguk University, Seoul, South Korea. [Poster]
- ♦ *Versatile presuppositions in counterfactual conditionals*, Rencontres Autour de la Linguistique Formelle 2023 (RALFE 2023), May 25, 2023, Université Côte d’Azur, Nice, France. [Slides]
- ♦ *Superiority effects and the French Plural Pronoun Construction*, The 47th Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 47), March 19, 2023, University of Pennsylvania, USA. [Slides]
- ♦ With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. *Distinguishing levels of morphological derivations in word-embedding models*, 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 53), January 12, 2023 University of Göttingen, Germany. [Slides]
- ♦ With Paul Egré, Benjamin Spector, and Steven Verheyen. *An experimental investigation of the around/between contrast*, Amsterdam Colloquium 2022 (AC2022), December 19, 2023, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. [Poster]
- ♦ *An Agree-based account of the gap distribution in tough-constructions vs gapped-degree phrases* [Slides]

- ♥ 15th Conference on Syntax, Phonology and Language Analysis (SinFonIJA 15), September 24, 2022, University of Udine, Italy.
- ♥ 24th Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 24), August 12, 2022, Online.
- ♦ *A dynamic alternative-pruning account of asymmetries in Hurford disjunctions* [\[Slides\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#)
 - ♥ 27th Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), September 16, 2022, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
 - ♥ Student Session of the ESSLLI 2022, August 18, 2022, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.
- ♦ *Evidence for an encoding of morphological blocking effects within two English word embedding models*. Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2022 (AMLaP 28), September 7, 2022, University of York, UK. [\[Poster\]](#)
- ♦ With Rachel Stacey, Cindy Torma and Athulya Aravind. *Two kinds of adjective-infinitive constructions in acquisition*, Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing 2022 (AMLaP 28), September 7, 2022, University of York, UK. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ♦ With Paul Egré, Benjamin Spector and Steven Verheyen. *Precisifying approximation: Around vs Between*, CreteLing 2022, July 21, 2022, University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece. [\[Poster\]](#)
- ♦ With With Ido Benbaji-Elhadad and Omri Doron. *Word-embeddings distinguish denominal and root-derived verbs in Semitic*, End-to-End Compositional Models of Vector-Based Semantics Workshop (E2ECOMPVEC@ESSLLI 2022), August 16, 2022, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland. [\[Slides\]](#)
- ♦ *It's tough to be pretty: semantic relatedness between tough and pretty predicates*, 45th Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), April 28, 2022, Queen Mary University of London, London, UK. [\[Handout\]](#)[\[Manuscript\]](#)

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Introduction to Syntax (graduate & undergraduate), CreteLing Summer School Instructor: Raffaella Zanuttini	Summer 2024
Computational Psycholinguistics (graduate & undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Roger Levy	Fall 2023
Introduction to Linguistics (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Donca Steriade	Spring 2023
Undergraduate Language Acquisition (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Athulya Aravind	Spring 2022
Introduction to Linguistics (undergraduate), MIT Instructor: Adam Albright	Fall 2020

SERVICE

Reviewer for <i>Sinn und Bedeutung</i>	Spring 2024 – current
Reviewer for <i>Actes des Journées de linguistique</i>	Spring 2023 – current
MIT Working Papers in Linguistics staff	Spring 2023 – current

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern @Heuritech Benchmark of various clustering methods applied to pictorial word embeddings, for the purposes of image classification in the fashion industry.	Summer 2017 (3 months)
Intern @Novossibirsk State University Genome analysis of Parkinson and HCM patients, in order to identify relevant mutations.	Summer 2016 (2 months)
Intern @Novossibirsk State University Modeling of within-host HIV infection using differential equations and optimization.	Summer 2015 (2 months)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ Fixing bikes
- ♦ Collecting and repairing vintage Nintendos
- ♦ Biking, swimming, hiking