

## PETER O. ALRENGA

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Linguistics Department  
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### EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Cruz, 2001–2007.

Ph.D. in Linguistics, September 2007.

Dissertation title: *Dimensions in the Semantics of Comparatives*

Committee: Prof. Donka Farkas (chair), Prof. William Ladusaw,  
Prof. James McCloskey, Prof. Christopher Kennedy (external)

M.A. in Linguistics, March 2004.

Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute (Cambridge, MA), Summer 2005.

Stanford University, 1996–2000.

B.S. with Honors in Symbolic Systems (Natural Language focus), June 2000.

Minor in Philosophy, June 2000.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Visiting Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Linguistics Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, July 2017–present.

Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Linguistics Program, Boston University, September 2009–June 2017.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Semantics, Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago, September 2007–August 2009. (Project: “Parameters of Comparison”, Principal Investigator: Christopher Kennedy)

Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics, UCSC, Fall 2002. (Curriculum development for undergraduate courses in English syntax)

Computational Linguist, Discern Communications, Menlo Park, CA, August 2000–June 2001. (Information extraction using finite-state parsing techniques)

Research Assistant, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, June 1999–September 1999. (Project: “Ambiguity Avoidance in On-line Speech Production”, Principal Investigator: Thomas Wasow)

### HONORS & AWARDS

Junior Faculty Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2011-2012.

Humanities Summer Fellowship, UCSC, 2006.

Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation, 2003–2006.

Research and Travel Grant for participation in Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, Institute for Humanities Research, UCSC, 2005.

Research and Travel Grants for conference participation, Department of

Linguistics, UCSC, 2004, 2005, 2007.  
Regents' Fellowship, University of California, 2001–2002.  
Stanford University Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1999.

## REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

2014. (with Christopher Kennedy) *No more shall we part: Quantifiers in English comparatives*. *Natural Language Semantics* 22: 1-53.
2012. (with Christopher Kennedy and Jason Merchant) *A new standard of comparison*. In *Proceedings of the 30th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, Nathan Arnett and Ryan Bennett (eds), 32-42. Somerville: Cascadilla Press.
2010. *Comparisons of similarity and difference*. In *Adjectives: Formal Analyses in Syntax and Semantics*, Patricia Cabredo Hofherr and Ora Matusansky (eds), 155-186. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
2009. *Types, tokens, and identity*. In *Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 38*, Anisa Schardl et al. (eds), 53-64. Amherst: GLSA Publications.
2006. *Scalar (non-)identity and similarity*. In *Proceedings of The 25th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, Donald Baumer et al. (eds), 49-57. Somerville: Cascadilla Press.
2005. *A sentential subject asymmetry in English and its implications for complement selection*. *Syntax* 8(3): 175-207.
2004. (with Jennifer Arnold, Thomas Wasow, and Ash Asudeh) *Avoiding attachment ambiguities: The role of constituent ordering*. *Journal of Memory and Language* 51(1): 55-70.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION & IN PROGRESS

*At least* and *at most*: Scalar focus operators in context.  
(with Christopher Kennedy) *No split scope for no*.  
Exhaustification and ellipsis in measure phrase comparatives.  
Negative answers, negated alternatives, and exhaustive interpretations.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2017. *Epistemic vs. concessive at least: The least at least can do (while still managing to do at least something)*. 27<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on Generative Grammar (27 CGG), Universidad de Alcalá, May 17-19 (upcoming).
2017. *At least as n-ary disjunction: Scales, context and exhaustification*. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, January 8.
2014. (with Christopher Kennedy) *There need be no split scope*. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, January 4.
2012. (with Christopher Kennedy and Jason Merchant) *A new standard of comparison*. The 30th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 30), University of California, Santa Cruz, April 14.
2012. (with Christopher Kennedy and Jason Merchant) *Standard of comparison/ Scope of comparison*. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, January 7.

2009. Dimensions in the semantics of comparatives: Similarity, scalarity, and identity. DGfS 2009 Workshop on Comparison and Similarity-Based Classification, University of Osnabrück, March 5.
2009. Stipulated vs. asserted anaphora. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 11.
2008. (with Christopher Kennedy) Universal modals in comparative clauses: Decomposing MAX. Linguistics Alumni Conference, University of California, Santa Cruz, September 12.
2007. Types, tokens, and identity. The 38th Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 38), University of Ottawa, October 26.
2006. Scalar (non-)identity and similarity. The 25th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 25), University of Washington, April 29.
2005. Comparisons of similarity and difference. Workshop on the Formal Analysis of Adjectives (JET Adjectifs), University of Paris 7–Jussieu, September 28.
2005. Comparisons of similarity and difference. Trilateral Syntax/Semantics Weekend (S-TREND), Stanford University, April 16.
2005. Specificity Condition effects in the English attributive comparative construction. Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, January 8.
2003. A CP “subject” asymmetry in English and its implications for lexical theory. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), University of California, Santa Cruz, March 8.
2000. (with Jennifer Arnold, Thomas Wasow, and Ash Asudeh) Attachment ambiguities and phrase ordering. Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), Leiden University, September 21.

## COLLOQUIA & INVITED TALKS

2017. *At least* as scalar disjunction: In defense of a simple view. Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, February 8.
2016. *At least* and *at most*: Ignorance and variation in focus. LingLangLunch Series, Brown University, December 1.
2016. *At least* as *n*-ary disjunction: Scales, context and exhaustification. MIT Workshop on Exhaustivity, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, September 10.
2016. *At least* and *at most*, in their proper context. ROSE Seminar, Utrecht University, June 23.
2014. *At least*, *at most*, and speaker ignorance. Syntax & Semantics Circle, University of California, Santa Cruz, May 16.
2013. (with Christopher Kennedy) There need be no split scope. Linguistics Department Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, December 6.
2011. (with Christopher Kennedy and Jason Merchant) A new standard of comparison. Harvard Seminar on Comparatives, Harvard University, December 1.
2011. Formal diversity and semantic uniformity in the expression of comparison. Boston University Center for the Humanities Fellows’ Seminar, Boston University, November 16.

2010. (with Christopher Kennedy) Negation in the comparative (clause): Decomposing maximality. Comparison Constructions Cross-linguistically (workshop), Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, May 28.
2010. No more maximality in the comparative clause. Linguistics at Santa Cruz, University of California, Santa Cruz, March 13.
2009. Exploring the notional grammatical category 'the comparative'. Romance Studies Department colloquium, Boston University, January 29.
2009. Abstract individuals and identity. Linguistics Program colloquium, Boston University, January 29.
2008. Modals and quantifiers in the comparative clause: Decomposing maximality. Cognitive Science Department colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, December 10.
2008. Types, tokens, and identity. Chicago Syntax-Semantics Circle, University of Chicago, April 18.
2007. *Different, same, like*, and the semantics of qualitative comparison. Philosophy Department colloquium, Yale University, March 8.
2007. *Different, same, like*, and the semantics of qualitative comparison. Linguistics Department colloquium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 16.
2007. Identity, similarity, and gradability. Linguistics Department guest lecture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 16.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

- Semantics & Pragmatics: Introduction to Linguistic Meaning (LX 331/631, prev. LX 502 Semantics 1), Fall 2009, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.
- Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning (LX 432/732, prev. LX 503 Semantics 2), Spring 2010, Fall 2013, Fall 2015.
- Intermediate Pragmatics: Meaning in Context (LX 433/733, prev. LX 504 Topics in Pragmatics), Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2016.
- The Linguistics of Contemporary English (LX 364/664, prev. LX 406), Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017.
- Language and Mind (LX 245), Fall 2010, Fall 2012.
- Language Myths (LX 340), Spring 2011.
- Topics in Linguistics: Negation (LX 500 B1), Spring 2010.

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

- Introduction to Linguistics (LING-020), Fall 2006.

### TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

- Syntax I (LING-052; Instructor: Prof. Sandra Chung), Fall 2005.
- Introduction to Linguistics (LING-020; Instructor: Prof. Jorge Hankamer), Fall 2004.
- Semantics I (LING-053; Instructor: Prof. Michela Ippolito), Winter 2004.
- Language Change (LING-140; Instructor: Prof. Armin Mester), Spring 2003.
- Introduction to Logic (PHIL-009; Instructor: Prof. Sandra Chung), Winter 2003.

## THESIS & DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Maria LaMendola, *The DP in Western Armenian*, Applied Linguistics, second reader, in progress.

Vaughn Cartwright, *A semantic theory of qualifying *as*-phrases in English*, Philosophy, third reader, in progress.

Alexandra Kokovidis, *Gendered discourse in German chatroom conversations: The use of modal particles in young adults*, Applied Linguistics, third reader, 2015.

I-hao Woo, *The syntax of the aspectual particles in Mandarin Chinese*, Applied Linguistics, second reader, 2013.

Enkeleida Kapia, *The role of syntax and pragmatics in the structure and acquisition of clitic doubling in Albanian*, Applied Linguistics, third reader, 2010.

### MASTER'S THESES SUPERVISED

Karen Laakko, *Abstract nouns, animacy, and natural classes*, Applied Linguistics, first reader, 2015.

Elizabeth (Leo) Rosenstein, *On the classification of "privative" adjectives*, Applied Linguistics, first reader, 2014.

### MASTER'S THESIS COMMITTEES

Jason Lucas, *Island constraints in aphasia: Examining the trace deletion hypothesis*, Applied Linguistics, second reader, 2013.

### UNDERGRADUATE THESES SUPERVISED

Erica Wivagg, *Investigating uses of punctuation in text messaging: A study of English-speaking college students*, Kilachand Honors College, co-first reader, 2016.

Samantha Madway, *Linguistics and literature: An argument for commingling*, University Professors Program, co-first reader, 2011.

### UNDERGRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEES

Monica Quimby, *Second occurrence focus in Saudi Colloquial Arabic*, Senior Work for Distinction, second reader, 2010.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

### BOSTON UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Academic Policy Committee, September 2014–May 2015.

### BOSTON UNIVERSITY, LINGUISTICS PROGRAM

Coordinator for Development of Linguistics Learning Outcomes, Fall 2013.

(Primary responsibility for drafting learning outcomes for undergraduate linguistics degrees)

Faculty Co-Advisor for Boston University Undergraduate Linguistics Association, September 2011–May 2013.

Linguistic Sciences Planning Committee, September 2009–present.  
(Planning for development of M.A., Ph.D. programs in Linguistics)  
Library Acquisitions Committee, September 2009–present.  
Linguistics Search Committee (for intended tenure-track position in Language Acquisition, search cancelled), September 2010–January 2011.  
Linguistics Search Committee (for tenure-track position in Morphology), September 2009–April 2010.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE PROGRAM IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS  
Graduate Admissions Committee (for Program in Applied Linguistics),  
Spring 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ  
Graduate Student Representative, Department of Linguistics, January 2005–  
September 2005.  
Linguistics Department Representative, Graduate Student Association,  
September 2002–June 2003.  
Colloquium Committee, Department of Linguistics, September 2002–June  
2003.  
Website design and maintenance, Department of Linguistics, June 2002–  
March 2003.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Editorial board, *Semantics and Pragmatics*.  
Ad hoc reviewer (journal articles), *Journal of Semantics*, *Lingua*, *Linguistic Inquiry*,  
*Linguistic Variation Yearbook*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Natural  
Language Semantics*, *Syntax*.  
Ad hoc reviewer (book manuscripts and chapters), Oxford University Press, John  
Benjamins.  
Abstract reviewer, North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Semantics and  
Linguistic Theory (SALT), Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS), West Coast  
Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), Western Conference on  
Linguistics (WECOL), International Congress of Linguists (ICL).  
Organizing Committee, The 21st West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics  
(WCCFL 21), UCSC, April 5-7, 2002.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native)  
Spanish (conversationally proficient, literate)  
German (beginning)

## REFERENCES

Prof. Donka Farkas  
Department of Linguistics  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
1156 High Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064-1077  
farkas@ucsc.edu

Prof. James McCloskey  
Department of Linguistics  
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Prof. Christopher Kennedy  
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1010 E. 59th Street  
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Prof. Catherine O'Connor  
School of Education  
Boston University  
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