Lara Kelly-Iturriaga

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Education

PhD in Linguistics and English Language, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present

- AHRC-funded project focusing on The role of language distance in bilingual language processing
- Designed Turkish vocab test (LexTurk), data collection from Azeri-Turkish-English trilinguals in progress

MA in Applied Linguistics and Language Acquisition in Multilingual Contexts, University of Barcelona, September 2021 – July 2022

- GPA: 9.4/10 (Distinction)
- MA thesis: Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? A comparison of cross-language activation in Turkish and Spanish learners of English

BA in Political Science and Public-Sector Management, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), September 2016 – June 2020

- GPA: 7.22/10 (2:1)
- Dissertation: Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Policies: Multilingualism and Minority Languages in the UK

Research and Teaching experience

Academic Tutor, University of Edinburgh, September 2023 – present

2025-2026

- Delivering workshops and marking self-reflections in Quantitative Methods for Linguistics and English Language (Honours and MSc)
- Delivering tutorials and marking assignments in First Language Acquisition (Honours)

2024-2025

- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in Second Language Acquisition (Honours)
- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in First Language Acquisition (Honours)

2023-2024

- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in Linguistics and English Language 1B
- Delivered tutorials and marked assignments in LEL2B: Phonetic Analysis and Empirical Methods

Research Assistant in Spanish Research Agency (AEI)-funded project, Department of Modern Languages, Literature and English Studies, University of Barcelona, February 2022

- Conducted audio transcription and phonetic labelling in Praat
- Assessed complexity, accuracy and fluency of L2 speech samples

Conference presentations

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.*, Ota, M. & Pickering, M. J. (2025). The effect of language distance on bilingual lexical processing. *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing 2025 (AMLaP2025)*, Charles University, Prague, 6th September 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL), Donostia-San Sebastián, 13th June 2025. Poster presentation.

Leivada, E.*, **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). The impact of language similarity on cognitive adaptations to bilingualism. *15th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, BCBL, Donostia-San Sebastián, 12th June 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual language processing. *Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference 2025*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2025.

Leivada, E., Blanco-Elorrieta, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M.***, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. & Rothman, J. (2025). Exploring the role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review. *Bilingualism Matters Symposium 2025*, Edinburgh, 24th March 2025. Poster presentation.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). Do you eat *pasta* for dessert and *tender* your clothes? Cross-language activation in L1-Turkish and L1-Spanish learners of English. *30th Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference*, The University of Edinburgh, 4th June 2024. Poster presentation.

Talks

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2025). The role of language distance in bilingual lexical processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th June 2025.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). Linguistic Distance, Psychotypology and Bilingual Language Processing. *Psycholinguistics Coffee*, The University of Edinburgh. 29th May 2024.

Kelly-Iturriaga, L. M. (2024). The role of typology in the bilingual mental lexicon. *Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group*, The University of Edinburgh. 18th March 2024.

Publications

Leivada, E., **Kelly-Iturriaga, L.**, Masullo, C., Westergaard, M. and Rothman, J. (2025). The unpredictable role of language distance in bilingual cognition: A systematic review from brain to behavior. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728925100746

Organisation experience

Organising committee, Linguistics and English Language Postgraduate Conference (LELPGC25), University of Edinburgh, September 2024 – June 2025
Organised the event; secured Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) Postgraduate Student Committee funding for students from underrepresented backgrounds to attend the event; chaired plenary talks and sessions on psycho-, socio- and developmental linguistics; participated in a panel discussion on 'Making the most of your PhD' and liaised with plenary speakers and workshop facilitators

Chair, Bilingualism and Developmental Linguistics Research Group (BDLRG), University of Edinburgh, September 2024 – June 2025
Contacted internal and external speakers; organised, scheduled and chaired sessions; managed budget and secured funding for external speakers' travel and accommodation costs and catering

Organising committee, 30th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, September 2024
Coordinated attendee poster printing, set up posters, registered and assisted attendees during the event

Organising committee, Language Lunch @ Edinburgh, September 2023 – June 2024
Selected abstracts on language-related research for poster presentations and planned events

Grants and awards

AHRC PhD Scholarship managed by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH), September 2024 – present, £29,626.40
Studentship covering maintenance, tuition fees and additional funding for participant payment, language learning and Visiting Doctoral Researcher Scheme

Research Support Grants, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, September 2023 – present, £2,218.69

Grants for research costs (e.g., participant payment) and research-related travel (e.g., conference and summer school attendance)

Training & Development Grant, School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, October 2024 – June 2025, £785.56
Grant to facilitate the running of the BDLRG, providing funds for external speakers' travel and accommodation and catering for talks

Student Conference Funding, LAGB Postgraduate Student Committee, March 2025, £150
Grant for travel/accommodation for students from underrepresented backgrounds to present at LELPGC25

Accreditations

Associate Fellowship Advance HE, University of Edinburgh, June 2025
Received teaching accreditation after completing the Introduction to Academic Practice course delivered by the Institute for Academic Development at the University of Edinburgh; demonstrating effective and inclusive teaching practice and evidence of PSF 2023 Dimensions: Professional Values V1 and V3, Core Knowledge K1, K2 and K3, and Areas of Activity A2 and A3.

Additional work experience

Employ.ed Project Development Intern (Employ.ed for PhDs), University of Edinburgh Careers Service, August 2025 – present

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, June – July 2023

EFL Teacher, STEP Language Services, October 2022 – June 2023

EFL Teacher & Chief Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, July – August 2022; June – July 2021

EFL Teacher, Language School Bilbao, October 2020 – June 2021

EFL Activity Leader, STEP Language Services, July 2019

EFL Teacher, Laboratorio de Idiomas Jesuitak Indautxu, September 2019 – June 2020; September 2016 – June 2018

Languages

English (native)   Spanish (native)   Basque (intermediate)   French (B1)   Italian (B2)   Turkish (A1)

Skills

RStudio, Github, Testable, Praat