

Alexandra Anna Spalek

Curriculum Vitae – 2025

University of Oslo

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Language Sciences (2006)

Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Spain

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Technological Applications (2008)

UPF, Spain

Postgraduate Certificate of Teaching Proficiency (2008)

University of Barcelona, Spain

Linguistic Institute (2009)

Linguistic Society of America, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Ph.D. in Linguistic Communication and Multilingual Mediation (2014)

CUM LAUDE distinction, UPF, Spain

Accreditation for University Lecturer (2017) Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, Spain

Educational Leadership Program (2021)

University of Oslo (UiO), Norway

Certificate in University Pedagogy (2023)

UiO, Norway – Faculty of Educational Sciences

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Associate Professor, Modern Spanish Language

2020–Present

UiO, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

Maternity leave (official leave from UiO)

2019–2020

Lecturer

2018–2019

Østfold University College, Norway — Department of Languages, Literature and Culture

Postdoctoral Researcher

2015–2018

UiO, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

PhD Candidate

2009–2014

UPF, Spain — Department of Translation and Language Sciences

Teaching Assistant

2008–2009

UPF, Spain — Department of Translation and Language Sciences

APPOINTMENTS

2025–present: **Deputy chair** of Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO
2021–present: **Head of education** at Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO. In this roles I have the administrative and coordinating responsibility for all study programmes and courses; led the development of the new interdisciplinary BA programme Språk og samfunn.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Spalek, A. A., & McNally, L. (2025). The anatomy of a verb: Tear, rasgar, and lexical equivalence. In *Languages in Contrast*. Retrieved from <https://benjamins.com/catalog/lic.00059.spa>
- McNally, L., & Spalek, A. A. (2022). Grammatically relevant aspects of meaning and verbal polysemy. *Linguistics*, 60(6), 1943–1987. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ling-2020-0167>
- Spalek, A. A., & Sæbø, K. J. (2019). To *finish* in German and Mainland Scandinavian: Telicity and incrementality. *Journal of Semantics*, 36(2), 349–375. Retrieved from <https://academic.oup.com/jos/article/36/2/349/5374699>
- Spalek, A. A., & Tomaszewicz, B. M. (2018). Complement coercion in Polish and the role of selectional restrictions revealed in a self-paced reading study. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 21*. University of Edinburgh. Retrieved from <https://ojs.ub.uni-konstanz.de/sub/index.php/sub/article/view/189>
- Lukassek, J., & Spalek, A. A. (2018). Distinguishing coercion and underspecification in Type Composition Logic. In U. Sauerland & S. Solt (Eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22* (Vol. 2, ZASPiL 61, pp. 71–87). ZAS, Berlin. Retrieved from <https://semanticsarchive.net/Archive/GE4MWiN/index.html>
- Spalek, A. A. (2015). Spanish change of state verbs in composition with atypical theme arguments: Clarifying the meaning shifts. *Lingua*, 157, 36–53. Elsevier. Retrieved from <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0024384114002915>
- Spalek, A. A. (2012). Putting order into literal and figurative uses of verbs: *romper* as a case study. *Borealis: An International Journal of Hispanic Linguistics*, 1(2), 141–167. Retrieved from <http://septentrio.uit.no/index.php/borealis/article/view/2341>

GRANTS

External Grants

Predoctoral grant: Formación de Profesorado Universitario (2009–2013). Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

Internal Grants

- Pre-doctoral research grant from Universitat Pompeu Fabra for a research stay at Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2011.
- Research activity grant (2017). Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, University of Oslo.

ADVISING

Supervision of Graduate Students

Paul Sbertoli Nilsen

Completed: Sept 2025

Dissertation title: *Listener response in Spanish and Norwegian: Modality and discourse markedness*

Aldair Díaz Gómez

Expected completion: 2026

Dissertation title: *Scalar inferences involving verbs*

Supervision of Undergraduate Students (MA)

Per Ambjørn Haga Flores Hvarnes

Completed: 2021

Thesis title: “*Ya*” como marcador de discurso. Un análisis pragmático y descriptivo de la unidad lingüística “*ya*” en el lenguaje oral de adolescentes en Madrid, España.

Other Advising

Provided PhD mentoring talks at UPF, Spain.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNDED RESEARCH AND PEDAGOGICAL PROJECTS

2023–Present: **Leader** of the Interactive Foreign Language Portal, an education development project for student-active learning of foreign languages for Norwegian speakers — funded by the University of Oslo (UiO) and the Faculty of Humanities, UiO.

2021–2023: **Member of the project leadership group** of Masters of Didactics, a knowledge education development project with the Republic of Poland — European Social Fund.

2016–2020: **Researcher** in project *Connecting Conceptual and Referential Models of Meaning* — funded by the Government of Spain: FFI2016-76045-P (PI: Louise McNally); UPF.

2015–2018: **Postdoctoral Researcher** in Syntax and Semantics Project (focus on Romance and Germanic languages) — funded by the Faculty of Humanities, UiO.

2013–2016: **Researcher** in project *La Representación de la Combinatoria Léxica en los Diccionarios de Aprendizaje: Nuevos Métodos para Nuevos Diccionarios* — funded by the Government of Spain: FFI2012-37654 (PI: Sergi Torner); UPF.

2010–2012: **Researcher** in project *Agrupación Semántica y Relaciones Lexicológicas en el Diccionario* — funded by the Government of Spain: FFI2009-07588 (PI: Janet Decesaris); UPF.

2006–2009: **Research Assistant** in project *Las Categorías Verbo y Adverbio en el Diccionario de Aprendizaje de Español como Lengua Extranjera* — funded by the Government of Spain: HUM2006-06982/FILO (PI: Paz Battaner); UPF.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2025. *Verbal meaning and the role of coercion in linguistic creativity* at Collaborative Research Center (SFB 1646: Linguistic Creativity in Communication), Bielefeld University, Germany, November 20th.
- with L. McNally. 2024. *Figurative verb polysemy is driven differentially by grammar and conceptual content: Evidence from cross-linguistic data*, talk at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, February 14th.
- 2023. *Lexical creativity in compositionality. What is the role and place of coercion?* at Compositionality and the Crosslinguistic Variation of Complement Coercion Workshop, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, September 7-8.
- 2018. *Figurative word meaning and compositionality - Is this possible at all?* Linguistics Meets Literature V: Reflections on Methodology at Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, October 12th
- with L. McNally. 2017. *Figurative uses of verbs and grammar*. Workshop on the building blocks and mortar of meaning II at Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, November 3rd-4th.
- with B.M. Tomaszewicz. 2016. *Coercion in Polish versus English: Processing complex lexical content*. Slavic Workshop at University of Oslo, March 11th.
- 2015. *Coercion and underspecification: Attempts to model meaning adaptations across languages*. Workshop on polysemy at University of the Basque Country, November 13th.
- 2015. *Verb meaning in composition: accounting for the rich combinatorial paradigm of change of state verbs*. Catalonia-Israel Symposium on Lexical Semantics and Grammatical Structure in Event Conceptualization. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, February 16th-18th.

Refereed conference presentations and posters

- with McNally, L. 2023. *Figurative verb polysemy is driven differentially by grammar and conceptual content: Evidence from cross-linguistic data*. Talk at 10th International Contrastive Linguistics Conference. Leibniz Institute for the German Language, Mannheim, Germany.
- with McNally, L. 2023. *Figurative verb polysemy is driven differentially by grammar and conceptual content: Evidence from cross-linguistic data*. Talk at 45. Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS). Universität zu Köln, Germany.
- with Lukassek, J. 2017. *Distinguishing coercion and underspecification in Type Composition Logic*. Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 22. Berlin, Germany.
- with M. Del Tredici. 2016. *Towards a methodology of automatically defining selection restrictions of predicates: A resource for lexicography*. Talk at Euralex 2016. Tbilisi, Georgia.
- with Tomaszewicz, B.M. 2016. *Reading times with complement coercion in Polish: The role of selectional restrictions*. Talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 21. University of Edinburgh, September 4-6, 2016.
- with Tomaszewicz, B.M. 2016. *Coercion in Polish versus English: processing complex lexical content*. Talk at Referential semantics one step further: incorporating insights from conceptual and distributional approaches to meaning. Freie Universität Bozen, August.
- with Lukassek, J. 2016. *Underspecification and coercion: where conceptual knowledge meets compositional semantics*. Talk at the 17th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics, March 5th.
- 2015. *The influence of context in meaning: the panorama of complement coercion*. Poster at the 19th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Modeling and Using Context. Larnaca Cyprus, November

2nd-6th.

- with McNally, L. 2015. *The logical semantic underpinning of cross-linguistic variation in 'figurative' uses of verbs*. Talk at Formal Semantics Meets Cognitive Semantics, Radboud University Nijmegen, January 22-23rd.
- 2013. *Semantically restricted alternations for change of state verbs*. Talk at 35th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS), Universität Potsdam, Germany, March 14th-15th.
- 2013. *Romper - A non-scalar change of state verb*. Talk at ConSOLE XXI, Universität Potsdam, Germany, January 9th-11th.
- 2012. *A unified meaning for romper 'break' - Evidence from corpus*. Poster at Linguistic Evidence 2012, empirical, theoretical and computational perspectives, Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, Germany, February 9th-11th.
- 2011. *Verb meaning in context: exploring the lexical semantics of romper*. Talk at First International Graduate Student Conference on Diverse Approaches to Linguistics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, October 23rd.
- 2011. *Verb meaning in context*. Talk at 44th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europea (SLE2011), Universidad de la Rioja, Logroño, Spain, September 8th-11th.
- 2010. *Meaning transfer in verbs*. Talk at 8th International Conference on Researching and Applying Metaphor (RaAM8), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 30th-July 3rd.
- 2009. *La trasposición semántica metafórica en algunos verbos*. Talk at XXIV International Meeting of the Association of Young Linguists, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, May 7th-9th.

Invited colloquia talks

- with L. McNally. 2024. *Figurative verb polysemy is driven differentially by grammar and conceptual content: Evidence from cross-linguistic data*. Talk at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 7th.
- 2022. *Grammatically relevant aspects of meaning and verbal polysemy*. Talk at Semantics in Norway Meeting, Gran, Norway, May, 4-6th.
- with L. McNally. 2021. *Figurative uses of verbs: "cut" and "cortar" revisited*. Talk at Center for Theoretical Linguistics, UAB, Spain, January, 28th.
- with L. McNally. 2020. *Grammatically relevant aspects of meaning and verbal polysemy*. Talk at Stanford Linguistics Colloquium, USA, October, 27th.
- with J. Lukassek 2017. *Distinguishing coercion and underspecification in Type Composition Logic*. Talk at Eberhard Karls Tübingen, Germany, December, 20th.
- with L. McNally. 2017. *The logical semantic underpinnings of cross-linguistic variation in 'figurative' uses of verbs*. Colloquium at Department of Linguistics and English Language. University of Manchester, UK, May 2nd.
- with L. McNally. 2017. *The logical semantic underpinnings of cross-linguistic variation in 'figurative' uses of verbs*. Colloquium at Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies. University of Oslo, March 31st.
- 2017. *The influence of context in verb meaning: the combinatorial panorama of aspectual verbs cross-linguistically*. Centre de Lingüística Teòrica Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, March 17th.
- with L. McNally. 2017. *The logical semantic underpinnings of cross-linguistic variation in 'figurative' uses of verbs*. CASTL Colloquium Universitetet i Tromsø, March 3rd.
- 2016. *The influence of context in verb meaning: the combinatorial panorama of aspectual verbs cross-linguistically*. UPF Formal Linguistics Colloquium at UPF, Barcelona, April 29th.
- with K.J. Sæbø. 2016. *Aspectual verbs and verbal particles*. Departmental colloquium at The Arctic University of Norway. Tromsø, March 8th.
- 2015. *Aspectual verbs cross-linguistically: a case of coercion?*. Talk at Eberhard Karls Tübingen, Germany, September 30th.
- 2013. *Verb meaning and combinatory semantics: A corpus based study of Spanish change of state verbs in context*. Centre de Lingüística Teòrica at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, November 29th.
- 2013. *A Type Theory for compositional shifts in some Spanish change of state verbs*. Departmental Colloquium Series of the Basque Country, June 21st.
- 2009. *Los verbos en los diccionarios de aprendizaje*. Lexicography Workshop – mayo lexicográfico II, UPF, Barcelona, May 15th.

TEACHING

Teaching innovation

2023–2025: Conceived and directed the design and implementation of a new interdisciplinary bachelor programme at UiO: Språk og samfunn BA.

2022–2024: Leader of the Faculty of Humanities' Language Forum, a forum where language teachers exchange challenges and solutions; University of Oslo (UiO).

Courses taught

At University of Oslo; Norway

Winter 2020:

SPA2102 Spansk språk: Pragmatikk - Spanish pragmatics (BA level)

IBER4000 - Hvordan skrive masteroppgave i spansk eller portugisisk - How to write a MA thesis in Spanish or Portuguese (MA level)

Spring 2017: 1104 Tysk språk: Syntaks I - German Syntax I (BA level)

Winter 2016: 1100 Tysk språk: Ord og Form - German Morphology and Morphosyntax (BA level)

Winter 2015: 1100 Tysk språk: Ord og Form - German Morphology and Morphosyntax (BA level)

At Østfold University College; Norway

Winter 2019: SFT11517-1 18H Tysk 1 - German Grammar (BA level)

Spring 2019: SFT11717-1 19V Tysk 2 - German Syntax (BA level)

Winter 2018: SFT11517-1 18H Tysk 1 - German Grammar (BA level)

At ESADE Business School, Sant Cugat, Spain

Winter 2014: Alemán 2- German language Level A2 (BA level)

At Universitat Ramón Llull, Barcelona, Spain

Spring 2010:

Alemán 1 - German language Level A1 (BA level)

Alemán 3 - German language Level B1 (BA level)

At Universitat Pompeu Fabra; Spain

Spring 2010: 20187 Idioma Alemán (1-2) - German Language (1-2) (BA level)

Spring 2009:

12863 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán I - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish (BA level)

12866 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán II - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish (BA level)

20187 Idioma Alemán (1-2) - German Language (1-2) (BA level)

Spring 2008:

12863 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán I- German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish (BA level)

12866 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán II - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish (BA level)

12800 Alemán II - German Language II (BA level)

12803 Alemán III - German Language III (BA level)

SERVICE

Organizing committees

2018: 19th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics, Szklarska Poreba

2017: Workshop on Approaches to Coercion and Polysemy, University of Oslo (UiO)

2017: 18th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics, Szklarska Poreba

2016: 17th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics, Szklarska Poreba

PhD committees

2021: Opponent, PhD defence of Josep Ausensi (UPF)

2021: Assessor, Katherine Fraser's submission to PhD defence (University of the Basque Country)

2015: Member, PhD proposal committee of Marco Del Tredici (UPF)

Recruiting committees for PhD candidates

2022–2023: Member of the scientific committee for language and linguistics PhD positions, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO

2021: Member of the scientific committee for a Spanish language and linguistics PhD position, Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO

Peer reviewing

Journals

I regularly peer review for journals including: *Theoretical Linguistics*; *Revista Española de Lingüística*; *Natural Language Semantics*; *Glossa*; *Journal of Linguistics*; *Bergen Language and Linguistics Studies*; *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. I have also reviewed for the Cambridge Handbook of Spanish Linguistics.

Conferences and workshops

Reviewer for conferences and workshops including Sinn und Bedeutung (various years), Penn Linguistics Conference, ESSLLI student sessions (various years), the Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics (various years), Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (various years), Norwegian Graduate Student Conference in Linguistics and Philology and Word Order in the Left Periphery Workshop.

Grants

2017: Reviewer for the Polish National Science Centre.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

German: mother tongue; **Polish:** mother tongue; **Spanish:** near-native; **Norwegian:** fluent; **Catalan:** fluent; **English:** fluent; **Italian:** basic.