

Alexandra Anna Spalek

(citizenship: Polish-German)

University of Oslo

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

1 Academic employment

2021 – ongoing: **Head of Education** at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages at University of Oslo (UiO), Norway

2020 – **Associate Professor for Modern Spanish Language** at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages at UiO

2019 – 2020: Maternity leave

2018 – 2019: **Lecturer** at Østfold University College, Norway

2015 – 2018: **Postdoctoral Researcher** at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages at UiO

2009 – 2014: **PhD Candidate** at University Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Spain

2008 – 2009: **Teaching Assistant** at UPF

2 Education and certificates

2022 – 2023: **Basic Competence in University Pedagogy** (200h) at UiO

2021: **Utdanningslederprogrammet** (education leadership program) at UiO

2017: **Accreditation for University Lecturer** ("Lector") by the **Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency**, Spain

2009 – 2014: **Ph.D. in Linguistic Communication and Multilingual Mediation** (Excellent Cum Laude) – **Department of Translation and Language Sciences** at UPF, Spain

2009: Linguistic Institute – University of California, Berkeley, USA

2008: **Postgraduate Certificate of Teaching Proficiency** – **Institute of Education Sciences at University of Barcelona**, Spain (homologated as *praktisk pedagogisk utdanning* in Norway)

2008: Lexicom - Annual Workshop in Lexicography and Lexical Computing

2007 – 2008: **Master of Arts in Linguistics and Technological Applications** – UPF

2002 – 2006: **Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting** with Spanish as main language – UPF

Fellowships and fundings

2017: **Departmental funding to host the international workshop Approaches to coercion and polysemy** (with [Matthew Gotham](#)).

April - June 2011: **Travel fellowship for a pre-doctoral research stay by University Pompeu Fabra**: Hebrew University of Jerusalem

September 2008 - September 2012: **Predocctoral fellowship (FPU) by the Government of Spain**; attracted through a process of competition

2002-2006: **Study grant by Government of Spain**; attracted through a process of competition

3 Participation in funded research and didactic projects

2023 – ongoing: Leader of the Interactive Foreign Language Portal, An **education development projekt for student active learning of foreign languages for Norwegian speakers** - Funded by UiO and the Faculty of Humanities at the UiO

2021 – 2023: Member of the project leader group of **Masters of Didactics**, A knowledge education development projekt with Republic of Poland - European Social Fund

2016 – 2020: Researcher at **Connecting Conceptual and Referential Models of Meaning** - Funded by the Government of Spain: FFI2016-76045-P (PI: [Louise McNally](#)); UPF

2015 – 2018: Postdoctoral Researcher at **Syntax and Semantics Project** with key focus on Romance and Germanic - Funded by the Faculty of Humanities at the UiO.

2013 – 2016: Researcher at **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](#)) - The lexicographic representation of combinatorics in learners' dictionaries: new methods for new dictionaries; UPF

2010 – 2012: Researcher at **Agrupación Semántica y Relaciones Lexicológicas en el Diccionario** - Funded by the Government of Spain: FFI2009-07588 (PI: [Janet Decesaris](#)) - Semantic groupings and lexicological relations in the dictionary; UPF

2006 – 2009: Researcher at **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](#)) - The verb and adverb category in the DAELE (Learner's Dictionary of Spanish as a Foreign Language); UPF

4 Conference presentations and talks

Invited talks

- 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 UiO, 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. UiO, 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.

5 Reviewing

Journals and books

2021:

Reviewer for [Journal of Linguistics](#)

Reviewer for [Bergen Language and Linguistics Studies](#)

2016: Reviewer for [The Cambridge Handbook of Spanish Linguistics](#)

2015 - 2016: Reviewer for [Natural Language & Linguistic Theory](#)

Conferences and workshops

2022: 3rd International Conference Prominence in Language

2021: Sinn und Bedeutung Conference 26

2019: Sinn und Bedeutung Conference 24

2018:

Sinn und Bedeutung Conference 23

42nd Annual Penn Linguistics Conference

2017:

19th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics

3rd Norwegian Graduate Student Conference in Linguistics and Philology

Word Order in the Left Periphery Workshop

Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 53

2016:

18th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics

European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Student Session

Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 52

2015:

17th Workshop on the Roots of Pragmasemantics

European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Student Session

Grant applications

2017: Reviewer for Polish National Science Centre

6 Organization of conferences and workshops

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

2017: Workshop on Approaches to Coercion and Polysemy at UiO

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

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

7 Participation in doctoral thesis committees

Doctoral theses directed

- due 2024: Paul Sbertoli Nilsen: *Listener response in Spanish and Norwegian: Modality and discourse markedness*
- started Sept. 2023: Aldair Díaz Gómez: *Scalar inferences involving verbs*

Doctoral thesis evaluation committees

2021: Doctoral thesis assessor for Katherine Fraser's submission to defence of PhD thesis: *The literal/non-literal divide synchronically and diachronically: The lexical semantics of an English posture verb*. University of the Basque Country, Spain

2021: Committee member at the PhD defence of Josep Ausensi: *The contribution of roots: The division of labor between grammar and the lexicon in meaning composition*. UPF, Spain

2015: Assessor of the PhD proposal of Marco Del Tredici: *A distributional approach to the modeling of metaphor and polysem.* UPF, Spain

Recruiting committees for PhD candidates

2022-2023: member of scientific committee for several language and linguistics PhD positions at Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO
2021: member of scientific committee for one Spanish language and linguistics PhD positions at Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, UiO

Mentoring talks

2017: PhD mentoring talk sharing my own PhD experience: *A theoretical approach to lexical semantics*. UPF, March 15th.

2015: PhD mentoring talk on *The PhD process*. UPF, December 16th.

8 Teaching

MA supervision

Per Ambjørn Haga Flores Hvarnes: *"Ya" como marcador de discurso. Un análisis pragmático y descriptivo de la unidad lingüística "ya" en el lenguaje oral de adolescentes en Madrid, España.*

Courses taught

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO; NORWAY

Winter 2020:

SPA2102 20H 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)

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)

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

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)

ESADE BUSINESS SCHOOL, SANT CUGAT, SPAIN

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

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA; BARCELONA

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

UNIVERSITAT RAMÓN LLULL, BARCELONA, SPAIN

Spring 2010:

Alemán 1 - German language Level A1 (BA level)

Alemán 3 - German language Level B1 (BA level)

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

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)

Teaching innovation

2022 - ongoing: Leader of the [HF's Language forum](#), a forum where language teachers exchange on challenges and possible solutions, and draw inspiration; UiO

2011: *Pick up ideas: Presentaciones multimedia* - multimedia presentations course; UPF

2009: *La creatividad es contagiosa* - Creativity is contagious course; UPF

2008: *Técnicas para proyectar la voz con claridad* - Techniques for clear projection of the voice course; UPF

9 Administrative activity

2020 – ongoing: **Head of Education** at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages at UiO

2009 – 2011: member of the Board of The Faculty of Translation and Interpretation at UPF

10 Language proficiency

German: mother tongue

Polish: mother tongue

Spanish: near-native

Catalan: fluent

English: fluent

Norwegian: fluent

Italian: basic

11 Non-academic employment

Experience in education and educational media

January - July 2019: **Language Teacher** at [Hartvig Nissen Gymnasium](#) (Oslo).

September 2008 - April 2009: **Translator and Lexicographer** in a Learners Dictionary Spanish-German-Spanish by Cornelsen, *Encuentros*. In this role I crafted, compiled, analyzed and described the semantic, syntactic and paradigmatic relationships within the lexicon of Spanish and German and was in charge of translating the lexical entries from German into Spanish and vice versa.

Experience in administration and management

September 2014 - February 2015: **Pedagogue and Coordinator** at Training Express. In my role of pedagogue and coordinator for the [ESADE Business Language School](#) I was in charge of a language teacher team at the Business School ESADE. The most essential elements of my role were coordination, pedagogical and methodological support of the language teachers as well as conducting teacher observations and evaluations. This work experience has significantly shaped my managerial capacities within the language teaching sector.

February 2001 - November 2007: **Project Manager and Knowledge Engineer** at [Artificial Solutions](#). In my role as a Project Manager and Knowledge Engineer I worked as a technical linguists designing, building and testing the knowledge of Spanish and German Natural Language Processing based projects, at the same time as I was in charge of leading these projects and responsible for other project members.