

Alexandra Anna Spalek

University of Oslo
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
(updated: March. 2021)

Education

2009 – 2014 **Ph.D. in Linguistic Communication and Multilingual Mediation** – Department of Translation and Language Sciences at University Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Thesis title: *Verb Meaning and Combinatory Semantics: A Corpus-Based Study of Spanish Change of State Verbs*
Grade: Excellent Cum Laude

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

2008 **Postgraduate Certificate of Teaching Proficiency** (Certificado de Aptitud Pedagógica) with specialization in language teaching – *Institute of Education Sciences at University of Barcelona*, Spain (homologated as *praktisk pedagogisk utdanning*)

2007 – 2008 **Master of Arts in Linguistics and Technological Applications** with specialization in Spanish lexicology and lexicography – University Pompeu Fabra

2002 – 2006 **Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting** with Spanish as main language – University Pompeu Fabra

Certificates

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

Academic Employment

2021 – **Head of Studies** at the Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages at University of Oslo

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

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

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

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

2008 – 2009: **Teaching Assistant** at University Pompeu Fabra

Participation in Projects

2021: Member of the project leader group of **Masters of Didactics**, A Knowledge Education Development Projekt with Republic of Poland - European Funds; UiO

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

2013 – 2016: Researcher in the 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) - The lexicographic representation of combinatorics in learners' dictionaries: new methods for new dictionaries; UPF

2010 – 2012: Researcher in the project **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 in the 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) - The verb and adverb category in the DAELE (Learner's Dictionary of Spanish as a Foreign Language); UPF

Publications

- McNally, L. and A.A. Spalek. (forthcoming). Grammatically relevant aspects of meaning and verbal polysemy. In *Linguistics*.
- Spalek, A.A. and K.J. Sæbø. 2019. *To finish in German and Mainland Scandinavian: telicity and incrementality*. In *Journal of Semantics*. vol. 36 (2), 349-375.
- Spalek, A.A and M. Gotham. 2018. *Approaches to Coercion and Polysemy*. In *Oslo Studies in Language* vol. 10 (2).
- Spalek, A.A. and B.M. Tomaszewicz. 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.
- Lukassek J. and A.A. Spalek. 2018. *Distinguishing coercion and underspecification in Type Composition Logic* In Uli Sauerland and Stephanie Solt (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22*, vol. 2, ZASPiL 61, pp. 71–87. ZAS, Berlin. ISSN: 1435-9588.
- Spalek, A.A. and M. Del Tredici. 2016. *Automatically identifying selectional restrictions of predicates: A computational methodology for practical lexicography that challenges linguistic theory*. In Tinatin Margalitadze and George Meladze

(eds.) *Proceedings of the XVII EURALEX International Congress*. Tbilisi: Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi University Press.

- Spalek, A.A. 2015. [Spanish change of state verbs in composition with atypical theme arguments: Clarifying the meaning shifts](#). In *Lingua*. vol. 157: 36-53. Elsevier.
- Spalek, A.A. 2015. [The influence of context in meaning: the panorama of complement coercion](#). In Henning Christiansen, George A. Papadopoulos and Isidora Stojanovic (eds.) *Modeling and Using Context - Proceedings of the 9th International and Interdisciplinary Conference, CONTEXT 2015*. Larnaca: Springer.
- Spalek, A.A. 2013. [Calculating scales from change of state verbs and their themes](#). In Kohlberger, Martin, Kate Bellamy & Eleanor Dutton, ed. 2014. *ConSOLE XXI: Proceedings of the 21st Conference of the Student Organization of Linguistics in Europe*. Leiden: Leiden University Centre for Linguistics. ISSN: 1574-499X.
- Spalek, A.A. 2013. [Polisemia en algunos verbos de cambio de estado del español y del inglés. Observaciones preliminares](#). In S. Torner & E. Bernal (eds.) *Los verbos en los diccionarios. Anexos a la Revista de Lexicografía*, vol. 20: 131-144.
- Spalek, A.A. 2012. [Putting order into literal and figurative uses of verbs: romper as a case study](#). In *Borealis. An International Journal of Hispanic Linguistics*. vol. 1 (2): 141-167.
- Spalek, A.A. 2010 [La trasposición semántica metafórica en algunos verbos](#). In: Gutiérrez, Y.Ma, S. Martínez- Ferreiro et al. (eds.), *Interlingüística XX. Actas del XXIV Encuentro de la Asociación de Jóvenes Lingüistas*. Bellaterra, Barcelona: SPUAC.
- Spalek, A.A. 2008. [Los diccionarios de aprendizaje y la representación lexicográfica de la transposición semántica en algunos verbos](#). In *Verba Hispanica*. vol. 16, No 1: 117-127.

Presentations

Invited

- 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 Universitetet i 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

- 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 B.M. Tomaszewicz. 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 B.M. Tomaszewicz. 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 J. Lukassek. 2016. *Underspecification and coercion: where conceptual knowledge meets compositional semantics*. Talk at [17th Szklarska Poreba Workshop](#), March 5th.
- Spalek A.A. 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. 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.

Colloquia

- 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 (GLiF). Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 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: Maig lexicogràfic II, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, May 15th.

Fellowships and Grants

2017: **Departmental funding to host the international workshop Approaches to coercion and polysemy** (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

Research Stays

Postdoctor:

2017: University Pompeu Fabra, (June - July)

2016: University Pompeu Fabra, (April 25th - May 3rd)

2016: Universität zu Köln, Germany (March, 24th - 31st)

2015: Eberhart Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany (September 27th - October 2nd)

Phd:

March - July 2011: Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. (Mentor: [Malka Rappaport Hovav](#) - HUJI)

BA:

Sept. 2005 - March 2006: Universität Leipzig, Germany

Supervision

MA

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.*

Teaching Experience

WINDER 2020 - UNIVERSITY OF OSLO; NORWAY

SPA2102 20H Spansk språk: Pragmatikk - Spanish language and pragmatics

WINTER 2019 - ØSTFOLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE; NORWAY
SFT11517-1 18H Tysk 1 - German Grammar

SPRING 2019 - ØSTFOLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE; NORWAY
SFT11717-1 19V Tysk 2 - German Syntax

WINTER 2018 - ØSTFOLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE; NORWAY
SFT11517-1 18H Tysk 1 - German Grammar

SPRING 2017 - UNIVERSITY OF OSLO; NORWAY
1104 Tysk språk: Syntaks I - German Syntax I

WINTER 2016 - UNIVERSITY OF OSLO; NORWAY
1100 Tysk språk: Ord og Form - German Morphology and Morphosyntax

WINTER 2015 - UNIVERSITY OF OSLO; NORWAY
1100 Tysk språk: Ord og Form - German morphology and morphosyntax

WINTER 2014 - ESADE BUSINESS SCHOOL, SANT CUGAT, SPAIN
Alemán 2 - German language Level A2

SPRING 2010 - UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA; BARCELONA
20187 Idioma Alemán (1-2) - German Language (1-2)

SPRING 2010 - UNIVERSITAT RAMÓN LLULL, BARCELONA, SPAIN
Alemán 1 - German language Level A1
Alemán 3 - German language Level B1

SPRING 2009 - UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA; BARCELONA
12863 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán I - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish
12866 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán II - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish
20187 Idioma Alemán (1-2) - German Language (1-2)

SPRING 2008 - UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA; BARCELONA
12863 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán I - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish
12866 Gramática y Análisis del Discurso del Alemán II - German Grammar and Discourse Analysis in contrast with Spanish
12800 Alemán II - German Language II
12803 Alemán III - German Language III

Reviewing

Journals, Handbooks and Books

2021: Review 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

2019:

Member of program committee of Sinn und Bedeutung Conference 24

2018:

Member of program committee of Sinn und Bedeutung Conference 23
Reviewer for 42nd Annual Penn Linguistics Conference

2017:

Member of organisational committee 19th Szklarska Poreba Workshop
Reviewer for 3rd Norwegian Graduate Student Conference in Linguistics and Philology
Reviewer for Word Order in the Left Periphery Workshop
Reviewer for Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 53

2016:

Member of organizational committee 18th Szklarska Poreba Workshop
Reviewer for European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Student Session
Reviewer for Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society 52

2015:

Member of organizational committee 17th Szklarska Poreba Workshop
Reviewer for European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information Student Session

Grant Applications

2017: Reviewer for Polish National Science Centre

Services

Organization of Conferences

2018: Co-organizer of [19th Szklarska Poreba Workshop](#) (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)
2017: Co-organizer of [Workshop on Approaches to Coercion and Polysemy](#) at University of Oslo, November 20th - 21st
2017: Co-organizer of [18th Szklarska Poreba Workshop](#) (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)
2016: Co-organizer of [17th Szklarska Poreba Workshop](#) (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf)
2008: Co-organizer of the Workshop on Lexicography and Lexical Computing (LEXI-COM) at University Pompeu Fabra, July 10th - 15th.

2008: Assistant at the EURALEX International Conference at University Pompeu Fabra, July 15th - 19th.

Committee Membership

2015: Member of PhD proposal committee of Marco Del Tredici at University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Mentoring

2017: PhD mentoring talk: *A theoretical approach to lexical semantics*. University Pompeu Fabra, March 15th.

2015: PhD mentoring talk co-authored with Gemma Barberà: *The PhD process*. University Pompeu Fabra, December 16th.

Administrative Activity

2009 – 2011: member of the Board of The Faculty of Translation and Interpretation at University Pompeu Fabra

Language Proficiency

German: mother tongue

Spanish: near-native

Catalan: fluent

English: fluent

Polish: near-native

Norwegian: intermediate (trinn III)

Italian: basic

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 linguist 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.