

SHIRLY ORR

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RESEARCH STATEMENT

I am an experimental pragmatist whose research lies at the intersection of Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, and Philosophy of language. I am particularly interested in exploring fundamental philosophical questions through their tangible expression in natural language, using empirical frameworks that include both corpus-based analyses and experimentations. Currently, I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Sagol School of Neuroscience and the Department of Linguistics at Tel Aviv University, working in the Language in Social Context (LISC) lab under the guidance of Professor Einat Shetreet.

EMPLOYMENT

2024–	Postdoctoral fellow PI: Professor Einat Shetreet Sagol School of Neuroscience & Linguistics Department, Tel Aviv University, Israel
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EDUCATION

2017–2024	Ph.D. , Linguistics Department, Tel-Aviv University Dissertation title: Predicating <i>Truth</i> : An Empirical Investigation (Advisors: Professor Mira Ariel and Professor Orna Peleg)
2013–2016	Master's thesis , candidacy toward a Ph.D. degree, Linguistics Department, Tel-Aviv University Thesis title: The Case of Literally True Propositions with False Implicatures (Advisors: Professor Mira Ariel and Professor Orna Peleg)
2011–2013	Master of Arts , The Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, University of Maryland <i>GPA: 4.00</i>
2010–2011	Language Editing Diploma , Tel-Aviv University
2007–2010	Bachelor of Arts , Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar Ilan University <i>Magna Cum laude</i>

PUBLICATIONS

PhD THESIS

- 2024 **Orr, S.**, Predicating truth: An empirical investigation (Available upon request)

JOURNAL PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2025 **Orr, S.** “Truth Evaluators: A different point of view on the lying/misleading distinction.” In: *Lying, Fake News, and Bullshit*, edited by Alex Wiegmann. Bloomsbury series “Advances in Experimental Philosophy”. pp. 117–136. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350377837.ch-5>
- 2024 **Orr, S.**, Ariel, M., & Shetreet, E. Scales and inferences. *Language and Cognition*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/langcog.2024.36>
- 2021 **Orr, S.**, & Ariel, M. Predicating Truth: An empirically based analysis. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 185, 131–145.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2021.09.005>
- 2017 **Orr, S.**, Ariel, M., & Peleg, O. “The case of literally true propositions with false implicatures”. In: *Deception and Deceptive Communication: Motivations, Recognition Techniques and Behavioral Control*, edited by Innocent Chiluba. New York: Nova Science Publishers, Inc. (pp. 67–107). [\[LINK\]](#)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- In preparation **Orr S.**, Kronmüller, E. & Shetreet, E., Hedging the Truth: The role of explicit content in shaping truth evaluations.
- Under review **Orr, S.**, Ariel, M., & Shetreet, E. Scalar networks and the dynamics of contrast: A Saussurian/Spinozian account on scalar implicatures.
- Under review Wiegmann, A., Reins, L. M., Mizumoto, M., Erut, A., Li, Q., & **Orr, S.** The role of implicit content for lie and truth judgments: A cross-cultural study.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- February 2025 **Orr Shirly**, Edmundo Kronmüller, and Einat Shetreet, “Truth in Context: A step closer to understanding the ordinary concept of lying”. The 11th Israeli Conference on Cognition Research (ISCOP), Akko, Israel. **(Talk)**
- August 2024 **Orr Shirly**, “The Patterns of Deception: The lying/misleading distinction from the perspective of truth evaluators”. 57th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 2024), Helsinki, Finland. **(Talk)**
- June 2024 **Orr Shirly**, “The lying/misleading distinction from the viewpoint of truth evaluators”. Experiments in Linguistic Meaning 3 (ELM3), University of Pennsylvania, USA. **(Short-online-talk)**
- September 2023 **Orr Shirly**, Mira Ariel, and Einat Shetreet, “Scalar structures cannot impose semantic meaning.” The 10th biennial meeting of Experimental Pragmatics, Paris, France. **(Poster)**
- September 2022 **Orr Shirly**, Mira Ariel and Einat Shetreet, “Scalar diversity, boundedness, and subjectivity.” XPrag 2022, Pavia, Italy. **(Poster)**
- September 2022 Alex Wiegmann, Louisa Reins, Mizumoto Masaharu, Alejandro Suleman Erut, **Shirly Orr** and Qilin Li, “The impact of implicit content on lie and truth judgments.” The 2nd European Experimental Philosophy Conference, Granada, Spain. **(Talk)**
- July 2021 **Orr Shirly**, “Truth and Agreement: Converging evidence from discourse, grammar and etymology.” 5th Usage-Based Linguistics (UBL) Conference, Tel Aviv University, Israel. **(Talk)**
- March 2021 **Orr Shirly**, “The subjective and intersubjective facets of Truth: a usage-based investigation.” International Workshop on Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity: The Pragmatic Perspective, Vercelli, Italy. (Cancelled due to COVID-19) **(Talk)**

February 2017 **Orr Shirly**, Mira Ariel, and Orna Peleg, “The Case of Literally True Propositions with False Implicatures.” The 5th International Conference for Graduate Students on Diverse Linguistics (IGDAL), Tel-Aviv, Israel. (**Poster**)

INVITED TALKS

March 2023 **Orr Shirly**, “Scales and Inferences”, Linguistics Colloquium, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

May 2022 **Orr Shirly**, “The diachronic development of agreement markers from truth predicates: when polysemy passes through vagueness,” School of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Science Studies research talks, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

January 2022 **Orr Shirly**, “The natural use of Truth in interaction,” Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO) colloquium, UCSB University, USA. (Zoom-talk)

January 2022 **Orr Shirly**, “Truth and Agreement,” EXTRA colloquium, Ruhr University, Germany. (Zoom-talk)

October 2021 **Orr Shirly**, “Predicating truth: an empirically based analysis.” Cambridge Semantics, Pragmatics and Philosophy Research Group, Cambridge University, UK. (Zoom-talk)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & HONORS

GRANTS

2025	The Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) Junior Researcher/Early Career Researcher research grant
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FELLOWSHIPS

2025–2026	Fulbright postdoctoral fellowship
2021–2023	Doctoral fellowship, Israel Science Foundation grant 1398/20 to Mira Ariel
2020–2023	The Sarah and Dr. David Orgler Scholarship for outstanding doctoral students
2017–2019	The School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science scholarship, Tel Aviv University
2011–2013	Morningstar scholarship, from Isadore and Bertha Gudelsky Family Foundation Scholars in Israel Program Endowment

AWARDS & HONORS

2025	Writing retreat award, from the Israel Young Academy
2022	Travel Award, from the North American Summer School for Logic, Language & Information (NASSLLI)
2022	Travel Award, from the School of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Science Studies Conference
2022	Travel Award, from the Linguistics Department Conference
2020	CIPL Travel Grant, from the Comité International Permanent des Linguistes (CIPL)
2020	The Ignatz Bubis Excellence Award from the Ignatz Bubis Foundation

2018	The Ignatz Bubis Excellence Award, from the Ignatz Bubis Foundation
2013	Valedictorian of the graduate program in Jewish Studies/Master's in Hebrew Teaching program, University of Maryland
2010	Hannah and Ezra Gross Excellence Award, from the Hannah and Ezra Gross Foundation
2010	Jewish Studies Faculty Dean's List Honor Award, Bar-Ilan
2009	Jewish Studies Faculty Dean's List Honor Award, Bar-Ilan

TEACHING&SUPERVISION

2023–2024	Language acquisition: psycholinguistics approaches (co-lecturer), Tel Aviv University
2018–2020	Introduction to Pragmatics (TA), Tel Aviv University
2011–2013	Hebrew (lecturer), The University of Maryland

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

2024–2025	Roni Glatt – BA research project in the psycholinguistic program
2024–2025	Shir Egozi – BA research project in the psycholinguistic program

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017–2021	Research Assistant to Professor Mira Ariel at Tel Aviv University
2012–2013	Research Assistant to Professor Avital Feuer at the University of Maryland

ACADEMIC TRAINING

July 2022	Corpus Linguistics Summer School at Birmingham University (online program)
June 2022	North American Summer School for Logic, Language & Information (NASSLLI) at University of South California (USC), Los Angeles, USA
August 2021	Anaphora and Presuppositions at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (online program)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

2024	Member of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)
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WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

June 2022	Workshop co-organizer. Linguistic and Philosophical readings in “Philosophical Investigation” by Ludwig Wittgenstein – a student/faculty workshop. Hosted by Tel Aviv University School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies
July 2018	Conference Assistant. The 4th Usage-Based Linguistics Conference, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

REVIEWER

2025	Journal paper in <i>Philosophical Studies</i>
2025	Journal paper in <i>Synthese</i>
2024	Journal paper in <i>Cognitive Processing</i>
2023	Journal paper in <i>Second Language Research</i>
2023	Book chapter in <i>Advances in Experimental Philosophy</i>
2018	Book chapter in <i>Deception: Motivations, Recognition Techniques and Behavioral Control</i>