

# ESZTER RONAI

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

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- 2016– **The University of Chicago, USA**  
PhD in Linguistics (expected June 2022)  
*Thesis:* Scales, alternatives, context: Experimental investigations into scalar diversity  
*Committee:* Ming Xiang (chair), Chris Kennedy, Itamar Francez
- 2016–2018 **The University of Chicago, USA**  
MA in Linguistics
- 2013–2016 **University of Cambridge, UK**  
BA (Hons) in Linguistics, *Double First Class with Distinction*  
Ranked the best-performing student in Linguistics for three consecutive years

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed

- 2020 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Pragmatic inferences are QUD-sensitive: An experimental study. *Journal of Linguistics*, pp. 1-30. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022226720000389>
- 2020 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. NP ellipsis bleeds allomorphy in Hungarian. *Snippets* 39, pp. 10-12. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7358/snip-2020-039-rost>
- 2020 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. Adjectival sluices in Hungarian: An argument for isomorphic sources. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 38(4), pp. 1197-1210. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-020-09468-w>
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai**, Yen-an Sun, Alan Yu & Ming Xiang. Integration of contextual-pragmatic and phonetic information in speech perception: An eye-tracking study. *Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology* 10(1): 20, pp. 1–15. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/labphon.186>

### Manuscripts in the pipeline

- under review **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Memory vs. expectation: processing relative clauses in a flexible word order language.

### Conference Proceedings

- 2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Exploring the connection between Question Under Discussion and scalar diversity. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 6(1), pp. 649-662. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v6i1.5001>

- 2021 **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Licensing of nominal ellipsis in Hungarian possessives. In *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America* 6(1), pp. 600-607. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3765/plsa.v6i1.4994>
- in press **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Is multiple fronting necessary for multiple sluicing? The view from Hungarian. In *Proceedings of the 38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*.
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Calculating scalar inference under QUDs. In Maggie Baird and Jonathan Pesetsky (eds.), *NELS 49: Proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society: Volume Three*, pp. 73–86. GLSA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 2018 **Eszter Ronai**. Quantifier scope in heritage bilinguals: a comparative experimental study. In Sherry Hucklebridge and Max Nelson (eds.), *NELS 48: Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society: Volume Three*, pp. 29–38. GLSA, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

### Edited Volumes

- 2019 **Eszter Ronai**, Laura Stigliano and Yenan Sun (eds.), *Proceedings of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society*. CLS.

(\* = co-first authors)

## GRANTS & AWARDS

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### External

- 2020-2022 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant *Tracking alternatives: Experimental investigations into focus and scalar inference* BCS-2041312, Co-PI with Ming Xiang (\$13,773)
- 2020 Labex 'Empirical Foundations of Linguistics' mobility grant (€4050 ≈ \$4470)

### The University of Chicago

- 2021-2022 Mellon Foundation-University of Chicago Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$28,000)
- 2021 Council on Advanced Studies Graduate Student Research Grant (\$4150)
- 2019-2022 International House Graduate Fellowship (\$3000; awarded yearly)
- 2019 Three Minute Thesis Competition, 1st Runner-up
- 2018 GRAD Global Impact Internships Award (\$4000)
- 2017-2020 Graduate Research Aid Initiative in Linguistics Award (awarded yearly)

### Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge

- 2016 Sidney Allen Prize (for the best graduating Modern Languages/Linguistics student)
- 2014-2015 Linguistics Ambassador

### Newnham College, University of Cambridge (for academic excellence)

- 2015-2016 Myra Curtis Award (awarded yearly)
- 2014-2016 Anne Jemima Clough Prize (awarded yearly)
- 2015-2016 Sparke Third-Year Scholarship
- 2014-2015 Chadburn Second-Year Scholarship

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2016 Gates Cambridge Scholarship (declined)  
2016 MIT Ida M. Green Fellowship (declined)  
2016 Yale Sterling Prize Fellowship (declined)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Presentations

2021 **Eszter Ronai**. Quantifying scalar diversity with relative entropy. Talk presented at the Cornell University *Linguistic Meaning (LiMe) Lab*, September 23.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Explaining scalar diversity: Discourse context and alternative availability. Talk presented at the University of Pennsylvania *Language & Cognition Lab*, April 7.

### Refereed Conference Presentations

[2022] **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Degree estimates predict likelihood of scalar inference. Talk to be presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America (LSA 96)*, Washington, DC, January 6-9.  
[2022] **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Overt exhaustification, but not discourse context, reduces scalar diversity. Talk to be presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America (LSA 96)*, Washington, DC, January 6-9.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Three factors in explaining scalar diversity. Talk presented at *Sinn und Bedeutung 26 (SuB 26)*, Cologne [virtual], September 8-10.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Quantifying scalar diversity: a first look. Talk presented at the 27th *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLAP 27)* Conference, Paris [virtual], September 2-4.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Scalar diversity in discourse contexts. Poster presented at the 4th *Experimental Pragmatics in Italy (XPRAG.it 4)* Conference, Turin [virtual], July 8-9.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Exploring the connection between Question Under Discussion and scalar diversity. Talk presented at the 95th Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America (LSA 95)*, San Francisco [virtual], January 7-10.  
2021 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. Licensing of nominal ellipsis in Hungarian possessives. Talk presented at the 95th Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America (LSA 95)*, San Francisco [virtual], January 7-10.  
2020 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Question availability as a predictor of scalar diversity. Poster presented at the 26th *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLAP 26)* Conference, Potsdam [virtual], September 3-5.  
2020 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. Variation in the size of nominal ellipsis in Hungarian: evidence from nouns and pronouns. Talk presented at the 22nd *Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar (SICOGG 22)*, Jinju [virtual], August 12-14.  
2020 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. Interpretation cannot determine the source of multiple sluicing in Hungarian. Talk presented at the 3rd *Experimental and Corpus-based Approaches to Ellipsis Conference (ECBAE 3)*, Florence [virtual], July 15-17.  
2020 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Accounting for syntactic complexity in Hungarian relative clauses. Poster presented at the 33rd Annual *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing (CUNY 33)*, Amherst [virtual], March 19-21.  
2020 **Eszter Ronai**\* & Laura Stigliano\*. Is multiple fronting necessary for multiple sluicing? The view from Hungarian. Talk presented at the 38th *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 38)*, Vancouver, March 6-8.

- 2020 **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Interpreting multiple sluicing: Experimental evidence from Hungarian. Talk presented at the 19th Meeting of the *Texas Linguistics Society* (TLS 19), Austin, February 14-15.
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Clausal ellipsis has an isomorphic source: Evidence from Hungarian adjectival sluicing. Talk presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the *Linguistics Association of Great Britain* (LAGB 2019), London, September 9-12. **\*Best Student Abstract Award\***
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. The interplay of memory and expectation in Hungarian relative clause processing. Talk presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the *Linguistics Association of Great Britain* (LAGB 2019), London, September 9-12.
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Sluicing and pseudosluicing in Hungarian. Talk presented at the 55th Annual Meeting of the *Chicago Linguistic Society* (CLS 55), Chicago, May 16-18.
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Relative clause processing in a flexible word order language: Evidence from Hungarian. Poster presented at the 32nd Annual *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (CUNY 32), Boulder, March 29-31. **\*Student Travel Award\***
- 2019 **Eszter Ronai\*** & Laura Stigliano\*. Adjectival sluices in Hungarian: An argument for isomorphic sources. Talk presented at the 43rd Annual *Penn Linguistics Conference* (PLC 43), Philadelphia, March 22-24.
- 2018 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Computing implicatures under QUDs. Talk presented at the 49th Annual Meeting of the *North East Linguistic Society* (NELS 49), Ithaca, October 5-7.
- 2018 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Processing quantity implicatures under QUDs. Poster presented at the 24th *Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing* (AMLAP 24) Conference, Berlin, September 6-8.
- 2018 Yenan Sun, **Eszter Ronai**, Alan Yu & Ming Xiang. The role of contextual-pragmatic information in speech perception: an eye-tracking study. Poster presented at the 31st Annual *CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing* (CUNY 31), Davis, March 15-17.
- 2018 Yenan Sun, Laura Stigliano, **Eszter Ronai**, Amara Sankhagowit, Anisia Popescu, Alan Yu & Ming Xiang. The role of contextual-pragmatic information in speech perception: an eye-tracking study. Poster presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the *Linguistic Society of America* (LSA 92), Salt Lake City, January 4-7.
- 2017 **Eszter Ronai**. Quantifier scope in heritage bilinguals: a comparative experimental study. Poster presented at the 48th Annual Meeting of the *North East Linguistics Society* (NELS 48), Reykjavík, October 27-29.

### Other Presentations

- 2019 **Eszter Ronai**. The interplay of memory and expectation in Hungarian relative clause processing. Talk presented at the *Chicago Area Sentence Processing Meeting*, Chicago, June 21.
- 2018 **Eszter Ronai** & Ming Xiang. Computing implicatures under QUDs. Talk presented at the *Chicago Area Psycholinguistics Meeting*, Chicago, June 15.
- 2017 **Eszter Ronai**. Quantifier scope in heritage bilinguals: a comparative experimental study. Talk presented at the *Semantics Workshop of the American Midwest and Prairies* (SWAMP 2017), East Lansing, October 14.

(\* = co-first authors)

## TEACHING & WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor at the University of Chicago

AUTUMN 2020      Psycholinguistics

## Teaching Assistant at the University of Chicago

SPRING 2021	Course Design and College Teaching (Instructor: Joseph Lampert)
WINTER 2020	Psycholinguistics (Instructors: Jeffrey Geiger, Ming Xiang)
AUTUMN 2019	Introduction to Linguistics (Instructors: Itamar Francez, Alan Yu)
AUTUMN 2018	Structure of Hungarian (Instructor: Adam Singerman)

## Writing Pedagogy at the University of Chicago

WINTER 2021	Writing Intern <i>Language and the Human (Instructor: Robert Marineau)</i>
2019–2020	ESL/EAL Writing Tutor <i>English Language Institute, The University of Chicago</i>
WINTER–SPRING 2019	College Core Writing Tutor <i>Writing Program, The University of Chicago</i>

## Other

SPRING-SUMMER 2020	Research Assistant <i>Chicago Center on Democracy</i>
WINTER–SPRING 2019	Research Mentor <i>Sapir Scholars Program, The University of Chicago</i>
JUNE–JULY 2015	Research Assistant <i>Hungarian Academy of Sciences (PI: Anna Babarczy)</i>
2014–2019	Linguistics Mentor (to high school students) <i>Milestone Institute of Advanced Studies, Hungary</i>

## SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

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2019–2021	Elected Student Representative <i>Department of Linguistics, The University of Chicago</i>
2018–2021	Co-founder and Co-coordinator <i>Language Evolution, Acquisition &amp; Processing Workshop</i>
2017–2018	Conference Organizer <i>54th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 54)</i>
2017–	Reviewer Conference: <i>Chicago Linguistic Society</i> (2017–2021) Journal: <i>Language and Cognition</i> (2020)

## NON-DEGREE STUDY

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2020	College Teaching Certificate Chicago Center for Teaching, USA
2018	Humanities Common Core Writing Program Training The University of Chicago, USA
2017	29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information University of Toulouse, France

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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LANGUAGES Hungarian: native  
English: near-native  
German: intermediate (B2)  
Russian: beginner (A1)

COMPUTING R, Ixex, E-Prime, PsychoPy,  $\LaTeX$ , MS Office