Giulia Rambelli
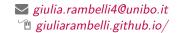*Curriculum Vitae*

✉ *giulia.rambelli4@unibo.it*
🏠 *giuliarambelli.github.io/*

Research Interests

Lexical and Computational Semantics, Usage-based Constructionist Approaches, Distributional and Neural Models of Language, Language Processing, Analogy, Linguistic Productivity, Generalization

Academic positions

Nov 2022 – present
Post-doctoral Research Fellow ("assegno di ricerca").
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy)
Founded by the European Union (GRANT AGREEMENT: ERC-2021-STG-101039777), *ABSTRACTION: Unlocking meaning from experience through language*, PI: Prof. Marianna Bolognesi

Education

2018 – 2022
Ph.D. in Linguistics.
Dissertation Title: *Integrating Distributional and Constructional Approaches: Towards a New Model of Language Comprehension*
Supervisors: Prof Alessandro Lenci (University of Pisa), Prof. Philippe Blache (Aix-Marseille University)
Jury: Prof. Marcella Bertuccelli, Prof. Alessandro Lenci, Prof. Philippe Blache, Prof. Florent Perek, Prof. Giosuè Baggio, Prof. Adele Goldberg, Prof. Aline Villavicencio
Judgement: OTTIMO E LODE (*summa cum laude*)
Graduation date: 14/09/2022

joint degree between

University of Pisa – Italy, *XXXIV Corso di Dottorato in Discipline Linguistiche e Letterature Straniere*, L-LIN/01.
ColingLab laboratory, Pisa, Italy

Aix-Marseille Université – France, *ED 356 Cognition, Langage, Éducation* , Sciences du Langage.
LPL - Laboratoire Parole et Langage, Aix-en-Provence, France | ILCB

2015–2018
M.Sc. degree in Informatica Umanistica (LM-43), University of Pisa, Italy.
Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Lenci
Graduation date: 03/05/2018 | Final mark: *110/110 cum laude*

2012-2015
B.A. degree in Informatica Umanistica (L-10), University of Pisa, Italy.
Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Lenci, Co-supervisor: Prof. Laurent Prévot
Graduation date: 01/10/2015 | Final mark: *110/110 cum laude*

Visiting Research

April-May 2025
Research visiting, *Computational Linguistics Group*, Faculty of Arts - Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Groningen (NL).
Collaboration: Prof. Tommaso Caselli

March – July 2017
Erasmus Traineeship, *Lattice laboratory*, Montrouge, France.
Supervisor: Prof. Thierry Poibeau

Sep – Dec 2015
Erasmus Traineeship, *Laboratoire Parole et Langage*, Aix-en-Provence, France.
Supervisor: Laurent Prévot

Foundings and Awards

2023 **MWE 2023 Best Paper Honorable Mention**, *Are Frequent Phrases Directly Retrieved like Idioms? An Investigation with Self-Paced Reading and Language Models*, (Rambelli et al., 2023).

2021 ***SEM 2021 Best Paper Award**, *Did the Cat Drink the Coffee? Challenging Transformers with Generalized Event Knowledge*, (Pedinotti et al., 2021).

2020 **AACL 2020 Best Paper Award**, *Comparing Probabilistic, Distributional and Transformer-Based Models on Logical Metonymy Interpretation*, (Rambelli et al., 2020), Sponsored by Baidu $\sim$ 800 EUR.

2019 **Grant allocation Bando VINCI 2020**, *Capitolo II: Contributi di mobilità per tesi di dottorato in cotutela*, Founded by Università franco-italiana (Université franco-italienne) – 4.700 EUR.

2018 **Ph.D. fellowship**, University of Pisa, Italy, $\sim$ 45.000 EUR.

2018 **Tuition fee grant–25th International summer school in cognitive science**, Sponsored by the Cognitive Science Society $\sim$ 500 EUR.

2017 **Fee waiver+accommodation grant–ESSLLI 2017 summer school**, $\sim$ 650 EUR.

2016 **Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeships (5 months)**, Founded by the European Commission $\sim$ 2.500 EUR.

2014 **Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeships (3 months)**, Founded by the European Commission $\sim$ 1.500 EUR.

Participation in Research Groups

Since 2022 ABSTRACTION group (ERC), University of Bologna, Italy.

2019-2020 Laboratoire Parole et Langage (LPL), Aix-en-Provence, France

2018-2022 The COmputational LINGuistics Laboratory (ColingLab), University of Pisa, Italy.

2017 Lattice Laboratory, Montrouge, France.

Publications

Manuscripts

2024 Giulia Rambelli (2024). *Constructions and Compositionality: Cognitive and Computational Explorations.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009437929

Peer-reviewed International Journal Articles

2024 **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Testa, D., Blache, P., & Lenci, A. (2024). Neural Generative Models and the Parallel Architecture of Language: A Critical Review and Outlook. *Topics in cognitive science.* https://doi.org/10.1111/tops.12733

2023 Kauf, C., Ivanova, A. A., **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., She, J. S., Chowdhury, Z., Fedorenko, E. & Lenci, A. (2023). *Event knowledge in large language models: the gap between the impossible and the unlikely.* Cognitive Science 47 (11):e13386. https://doi.org/10.1111/cogs.13386

Conference Proceedings

2025 Pedrotti, A., **Rambelli, G.**, Villani, C., & Bolognesi, M. (2025, to appear). How Humans and LLMs Organize Conceptual Knowledge: Exploring Subordinate Categories in Italian. In *Proceedings of the 63nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics.* To appear.

2024 **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Collacciani, C., & Bolognesi, M. (2024). Can Large Language Models Interpret Noun-Noun Compounds? A Linguistically-Motivated Study on Lexicalized and Novel Compounds. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)* (pp. 11823-11835). https://aclanthology.org/2024.acl-long.637/

Collacciani, C., **Rambelli, G.**, & Bolognesi, M. (2024). Quantifying generalizations: Exploring the Divide between Human and LLMs' Sensitivity to Quantification. In *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)* (pp. 11811-11822). https://aclanthology.org/2024.acl-long.636/

Rambelli, G. & Bolognesi, M. (2024). The Contextual Variability of English Nouns: The Impact of Categorical Specificity beyond Conceptual Concreteness. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING 2024)* (pp. 15854–15860). https://aclanthology.org/2024.lrec-main.1377/

2023   Collacciani, C. & **Rambelli, G.** (2023). Interpretation of Generalization in Masked Language Models: An Investigation Straddling Quantifiers and Generics. In *Proceedings of the 9th Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics (CLiC-it 2023)* (pp.144-154). https://ceur-ws.org/Vol-3596/paper17.pdf

Rambelli, G. & Bolognesi, M. (2023). Contextual Variability depends on Categorical Specificity rather than Conceptual Concreteness: A Distributional Investigation on Italian data. In *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Computational Semantics (IWCS 2023)* (pp.16–27). https://aclanthology.org/2023.iwcs-1.2/

Rambelli, G., Chersoni, E., Senaldi, M., Blache, P., & Lenci, A. (2023). Are frequent phrases directly retrieved like idioms? An investigation with self-paced reading and language models. In *Proceedings of the 19th Workshop on Multiword Expressions* (MWE 2023) (pp. 87–98). https://aclanthology.org/2023.mwe-1.13/

2022   **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., & Alessandro, L. (2022). Compositionality as an analogical process: Introducing ANNE. In *Proceedings of the Workshop on Cognitive Aspects of the Lexicon* (pp. 78-96). https://aclanthology.org/2022.cogalex-1.10/

2021   Pedinotti, P., **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Santus, E., Lenci, A., & Blache, P. (2021). Did the Cat Drink the Coffee? Challenging Transformers with Generalized Event Knowledge. In Proceedings of *SEM 2021: The Tenth Joint Conference on Lexical and Computational Semantics (pp. 1–11). https://aclanthology.org/2021.starsem-1.1/

Rambelli, G., Chersoni, E., Lenci, A., Blache, P., & Huang, C. R. (2020). Comparing probabilistic, distributional and transformer-based models on logical metonymy interpretation. In *Proceedings of the 1st Conference of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 10th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing* (pp. 224–234). https://aclanthology.org/2020.aacl-main.26/

2019   **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., Huang, C. R., & Lenci, A. (2019). Distributional semantics meets Construction Grammar. Towards a unified usage-based model of grammar and meaning. In *Proceedings of The First International Workshop on Designing Meaning Representations (DMR)* (pp. 110–120). https://aclanthology.org/W19-3312/

2017   **Rambelli, G.**, Lenci, A., & Poibeau, T. (2017). Udlex: Towards cross-language subcategorization lexicons. In *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Dependency Linguistics (Depling 2017)* (pp.207–2017). https://aclanthology.org/W17-6524/

2016   Chersoni, E., **Rambelli, G.**, & Santus, E. (2016). CogALex-V shared task: ROOT18. In *Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Cognitive Aspects of the Lexicon (CogALex-V)* (pp.98–103). https://aclanthology.org/W16-5313/

Rambelli, G., Lebani, G. E., Prévot, L., & Lenci, A. (2016). LexFr: adapting the LexIt framework to build a corpus-based French subcategorization lexicon. In *Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC'16)* (pp.930-937). https://aclanthology.org/L16-1148/

2025 Kuribayashi, T., **Rambelli, G.**, Takmaz, E., Wicke, P., Li, J., & Oh, B. (2025). Proceedings of The 14th edition of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics. Association for Computational Linguistics, Albuquerque, New Mexico. https://aclanthology.org/2025.cmcl-1.0/

2014 Kuribayashi, T., **Rambelli, G.**, Takmaz, E., Wicke, P., & Oseki, Y. (2024). Proceedings of the 13th edition of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics. Association for Computational Linguistics, Bangkok, Thailand. https://aclanthology.org/2024.cmcl-1.0/

2020 De Mattei, L., De Martino, G., Iovine, A., Miaschi, A., Polignano, M., & **Rambelli, G.** (2020). ATE ABSITA@ EVALITA2020: Overview of the aspect term extraction and aspect-based sentiment analysis task. In V. Basile, D. Croce, M. Maro, & L. C. Passaro (Eds.), *EVALITA Evaluation of NLP and Speech Tools for Italian*. https://doi.org/10.4000/books.aaccademia.6849

Currently under review

Blache, P., Chersoni, E., **Rambelli, G.**, & Lenci, A. (2024). Composing or Not Composing? Towards Distributional Construction Grammars. Under review in *Constructions and Frames*. Preprint: https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.07419

Conference talks

Included only conferences as presenter

2025 "Towards a better understanding of analogy: challenges, methods, and perspectives", workshop colocated with SLE 2025. Bordeaux, France. August 2025 (accepted). Talk: **Rambelli, G.** & Bolognesi, M. *How Analogy Drives Language Comprehension: Interpreting Novel Noun-Noun Compounds*.

2024 Analogy-ANGLE I (The First Workshop on Analogical Abstraction in Cognition, Perception, and Language), colocated with IJCAI 2024. Jeju, South Korea. 4 August 2024. Talk: **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Collacciani, C., Bolognesi, M. *Can Large Language Models Interpret Noun-Noun Compounds? A Linguistically-Motivated Study on Lexicalized and Novel Compounds*.

Analogy-ANGLE I, colocated with IJCAI 2024. Jeju, South Korea. 4 August 2024. Talk: **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., Lenci, A. *Compositionality as an Analogical Process: Introducing ANNE*

2023 IWCS 2023. Nancy, France. 20-23 June 2023. **Rambelli, G.** & Bolognesi, M. *Contextual Variability depends on Categorical Specificity rather than Conceptual Concreteness: A Distributional Investigation on Italian data*.

MWE 2023 (19th Workshop on Multiword Expressions), co-located with EACL 2023. Dubrovnik, Coratia. 6 May 2023. Talk: **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Senaldi, M., Blache, P., Lenci, A. *Are frequent phrases directly retrieved like idioms? An investigation with self-paced reading and language models*.

2022 CogALex-VII (7th Workshop on Cognitive Aspects of the Lexicon). Online. 20 Nov 2022. Talk: **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., Lenci, A. *Compositionality as an Analogical Process: Introducing ANNE*.

2020 AACL 2020 (1st Conference of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics). Online. 4-7 December 2020. Talk: **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Lenci, A., Blache, P., Huang, C. R. *Comparing probabilistic, distributional and transformer-based models on logical metonymy interpretation*.

2016 LREC 2016, in Portorož (Slovenia), 23-28 May 2016. **Rambelli, G.**, Lebani, G. E., Prévot, L., Lenci, A. *LexFr: adapting the LexIt framework to build a corpus-based French subcategorization lexicon*.

Conference posters

2024 CLiC-it 2024. Pisa, Italy. 4-6 December 2024. **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Collacciani, C., Bolognesi, M. *Can Large Language Models Interpret Noun-Noun Compounds? A Linguistically-Motivated Study on Lexicalized and Novel Compounds* (Research communication).

ACL 2024. Bangkok, Thailand. 11-16 August 2024. **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Collacciani, C., Bolognesi, M. *Can Large Language Models Interpret Noun-Noun Compounds? A Linguistically-Motivated Study on Lexicalized and Novel Compounds.*

ACL 2024. Bangkok, Thailand. 11-16 August 2024. Collacciani, C., **Rambelli, G.**, Bolognesi, M. *Quantifying generalizations: Exploring the Divide between Human and LLMs' Sensitivity to Quantification.*

LREC-COLING. Turin, Italy. 20-25 May 2024. **Rambelli, G.** & Bolognesi, M. *The Contextual Variability of English Nouns: The Impact of Categorical Specificity beyond Conceptual Concreteness.*

2023 CLiC-it 2023. Venice, Italy. 30 November-2 December 2023. **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., Lenci, A. *Compositionality as an Analogical Process: Introducing ANNE* (Research communication).

2022 HSP 2022 (35th Annual Conference on Human Sentence Processing). Online. 24-26 March 2022. **Rambelli, G.**, Lenci, A., Blache, P. *A Self-Paced Reading study on Processing Constructions with different degrees of Compositionality.*

2021 *SEM 2021. Online. 5-6 Aug 2021. Pedinotti, P., **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Santus, E., Lenci, A., Blache, P. (2021). *Did the Cat Drink the Coffee? Challenging Transformers with Generalized Event Knowledge*

2019 JAD 2019 (Journée Annuelle des Doctorants 2019). Aix-en-Provence, France. 13 Dec 2019. **Rambelli, G.**, Blache, P., Lenci, A. *Distributional Semantics Meets Construction Grammar. Towards a Unified Usage-Based Model of Grammar and Meaning*

DMR 2019, colocated with ACL 2019. Florence, Italy. 1 Aug 2019. **Rambelli, G.**, Chersoni, E., Blache, P., Huang, C. R., Lenci, A. *Distributional semantics meets Construction Grammar. Towards a unified usage-based model of grammar and meaning.*

2017 Depling 2017. Pisa, Italy. 18-20 Sep 2017. **Rambelli, G**., Lenci, A., Poibeau, T. *Udlex: Towards cross-language subcategorization lexicons.*

Invited talks

2025 *What Mechanisms Underlie Linguistic Generalizations In Large Language Models? Investigate How LLMs Process Generics and Noun-noun Compounds.* Invited talk at GroNLP reading group. Groningen (The Netherlands), 2 May 2025

Discovering Linguistic Abstraction. An overview of the ABSTRACTION project. Talk at the CLCG Linguistic Lunch, Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen. Groningen (The Netherlands), 1 May 2025

What Mechanisms Underlie Linguistic Generalization In Large Language Models? A Study On Noun-noun Compounds. Invited talk at the VU Amsterdam. Amsterdam (The Netherlands), 21 February 2025

2024 *Word Specificity: A Measure to Investigate Semantic Abstraction and Linguistic Creativity.* Invited talk at the CBS Seminars organized by prof. Emmanuele Chersoni, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Hong Kong, 6 August 2024.

Word Specificity: A Measure to Investigate Semantic Abstraction and Linguistic Creativity. Invited talk at Trinity College organized by prof. Tony Veale. Dublin (Ireland), 6 June 2024

2022   *Compositionality beyond simple compositionality. A constructionist and distributional perspective*. Invited talk at the Natural Language Processing group organized by prof. Aline Villavicencio, University of Sheffield. Online, 7 October 2022

   Compositionality as an Analogical Process. Invited talk at the CBS Research Group Meeting organized by prof. Emmanuele Chersoni, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Online, 28 Sep 2022

Organization of Scientific Events

2025   Co-Chair of the evaluation campaign EVALITA 2026: Evaluation of NLP and Speech tools for Italian.

   Member of the organizing committee of the international workshop *Analogy-angle II*, co-located with ACL2025.

   Member of the organizing committee of the international workshop *CMCL 2025* (The 14th edition of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics), co-located with NAACL2025.

2024   Member of the organizing committee of the international workshop *CMCL 2024* (The 13th edition of the Workshop on Cognitive Modeling and Computational Linguistics), co-located with ACL2024. Bangkok, Thailand.

2020   Member of the organizing committee of *ATE_ABSITA* task at EVALITA 2020. Online.

2019   Member of the organizing committee of the international graduate conference *Interruzioni & Cesure*. Pisa, Italy.

Research Activities

2025   Expert Meeting on *Analogy & Abstraction in AI*, UvA's Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), The Netherlands, May 19.

2024   Lab2Lab Abstraction group & Polifonia (Horizon 2020), prof. Valentina Presutti, University of Bologna, Italy, Jan 19.

2023   Lab2Lab Abstraction group & Marco Marelli' research group, University of Milan, Italy, June 16.

   Lab2Lab Abstraction group & Experimental Philosophy, prof. Valentina Cuccio, University of Messina, Italy, May 18.

Reviewing Activities

Journal Reviewer   IJCOL, Brain Research

Conference Reviewer   ACL2025, CogSci 2025;CogSci 2024, CliC-IT 2024, ACL 2023, *SEM 2023, EACL 2023, EMNLP 2022, COLING 2022, CMCL 2022; AIxIA2021, EMNLP 2021, CMCL 2021; CMCL 2020, COLING 2020, LiNCR 2020; ACL 2019, CMCL 2019, IWCS 2019

Teaching Activities

2025   **Cultore della Materia**, *Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*, academic year 2024-2025.

   Guest Lecturer (3hours), *MA in "Italian Culture and Language for Foreigners", Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*, Course of Idioms and Language held by prof. Marianna Bolognesi.
   Title: "Dall'uso al significato: Una prospettiva distribuzionale al linguaggio"

2024 **Teaching assistant in General Linguistics (40hours)**, *Laurea Triennale in Lingue e Letterature Straniere (BA in Foreign Languages and Literatures)*, in collaboration with prof. Marianna Bolognesi, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna.
academic year 2024-2025

2023 **Teaching assistant in General Linguistics (40hours)**, *Laurea Triennale in Lingue e Letterature Straniere (BA in Foreign Languages and Literatures)*, in collaboration with prof. Marianna Bolognesi, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna.
academic year 2023-2024

2022 **Guest Lecturer (3hours)**, *MA in "Italian Culture and Language for Foreigners"/ "Italian Studies, European Literary Cultures, Linguistics", Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*, Course of Lexical Semantics / Semantics and Lexicon held by prof. Francesca Masini.
Title: "Come processiamo espressioni con diversi gradi di composizionalità: un caso di studio"

Supervision

2024-2025 Co-supervisor of 2 MA grad thesis in Linguistics, University of Bologna, Italy

Public Engagement and Outreach

2024 **Festival della Scienza**, Genova (Italy), 30-31 October 2024.
An annual event that celebrates science and innovation through engaging exhibitions, workshops, and talks for all ages.

Penne amiche della scienza, November 2023-May 2024.
Italian version of *Letters to a Pre-Scientist*, a STEM education pen pal program that connects fifth to twelfth-grade students with STEM professional volunteers, who write snail mail letters back and forth throughout a school year

2023 **European Researchers' Night 2023**, Bologna (Italy), 29 September 2023.
An annual event that brings together scientists and the public to celebrate research through interactive activities, experiments, and discussions across Europe.

Skills

Technical skills

Programming: Python including ML and DL tools (Gensim, SciKit Learn, Pytorch); XML (annotation schemes).

DB language: MySQL and Neo4j (basic level)

Statistical Tools: *R*

Experiment design frameworks: jsPsych; PsychoPy; Gorilla; Qualtrics survey

Operating Systems: Unix/Linux, Mac OSX, Window

Languages

Italian: Native Speaker

English/French: Fluent (C2)

Membership in Scientific Organizations and Institutions

2025-current Italian Network of Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG.it)

2025-current Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE)

2019-current Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)

2015-current Associazione Italiana di Linguistica Computazionale (AILC)

Additional Training

23-27 June 2025 **MEDAL Summer School in Computational Linguistics**, *University of Birmingham*, Birmingham, UK.

19–21 June 2024 **Lectures on Computational Linguistics 2024**, *University of Bari*, Bari, Italy.

14–15 Jul 2021 **Summer School "Methods In Language Sciences"** - **Linear mixed models course**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, Belgium.
10 hours -Teacher: prof. Shravan Vasishth

29–31 May 2023 **Lectures on Computational Linguistics 2023**, *University of Pisa*, Pisa, Italy.

26 Jul – 13 Aug 2021 **32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI)**, *Free University of Bozen-Bolzano*, held virtually.

14–15 Jul 2021 **Summer School "Methods In Language Sciences"** - **Eye-Tracking course**, *Ghent University*, Ghent, Belgium.
12 hours

27 Jan – 12 Feb 2020 **Deep Learning for Natural Language Processing (5th edition)** , *Universidad del Pais Basco*, San Sebastian, Spain.
35 hours

2–6 Sep 2019 **Summer School of the Institute for Language, Communication and the Brain (2nd edition)**, *ILCB*, Marseille, France.

5–9 Aug 2019 **31st European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI)**, *University of Latvia*, Riga, Latvia.

9–20 Jul 2018 **25th International Summer School in Cognitive Science**, *New Bulgarian University*, Sofia, Bulgaria.

17–28 Jul 2017 **29th European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (ESSLLI)**, *Toulouse Capitole University*, Tolouse, France.

7 Apr – 27 May 2016 **Corso di Neurolinguistica**, *Scuola Normale Superiore*, Pisa, Italy.
Professor: Valentina Bambini.
30 hours

last updated: June 25, 2025