

# Itamar Kastner

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## Positions Held

- 08.2016–current **Post-doctoral Researcher**, *Research Group on (Experimental) Syntax and Heritage Languages*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.  
PI: Artemis Alexiadou.
- 10.2010–09.2011 **Research Assistant**, *Sign Language Research Lab*, University of Haifa, Israel.  
PIs: Wendy Sandler and Irit Meir.
- 07.2010–09.2010 **Research Assistant**, *Department of Linguistics*, Queen Mary University of London.  
PIs: David Adger and Daniel Harbour.
- 04.2008–07.2008 **Research Assistant and Programmer**, *Department of Computer Science*, Queen  
05.2007–07.2007 Mary University of London.  
PI: Christof Monz.

## Education

### Academic Degrees

- 09.2011–06.2016 **PhD Linguistics**, *New York University*, Department of Linguistics.  
Dissertation: *Form and Meaning in the Hebrew verb*.  
Committee: Alec Marantz, Maria Gouskova, Stephanie Harves, Michael Becker, Edit Doron.
- 09.2006–06.2010 **BA German, Linguistics and Computer Science (Hon)**, *Queen Mary University of London*, First Class Honours (*summa cum laude*).

### Other Academic

- 06.2012 **NASSLLI**, *North American Summer School in Logic, Language and Information*, Austin, TX.
- 03.2009–07.2009 **Exchange student**, *University of Heidelberg, Germany*, Department of Computational Linguistics.

## Publications

### Papers

- 2017 **Itamar Kastner**. Reflexive verbs in Hebrew: Deep unaccusativity meets lexical semantics. *Glossa* 2(1). doi:10.5334/gjgl.299
- 2017 **Itamar Kastner** and Frans Adriaans. Linguistic constraints on statistical word segmentation: the role of consonants in Arabic and English. *Cognitive Science*. doi:10.1111/cogs.12521
- 2017 **Itamar Kastner** and Vera Zu. Blocking and paradigm gaps. *Morphology*. doi:10.1007/s11525-017-9309-8

- 2017 Irit Meir, Mark Aronoff, Calle Börstell, So-One Hwang, Deniz Ilkbasaran, **Itamar Kastner**, Ryan Lopic, Adi Lifshitz Ben Basat, Carol Padden and Wendy Sandler. The effect of being human and the basis of grammatical word order: Insights from novel communication systems and young sign languages. *Cognition* 158:189–207. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2016.10.011.
- 2015 **Itamar Kastner**. Factivity mirrors interpretation: The selectional requirements of presuppositional verbs. *Lingua* 164:156–188.
- 2015 Masha Westerlund, **Itamar Kastner**, Meera Al Kaabi and Liina Pyykkänen. The LATL as locus of composition: MEG evidence from English and Arabic. *Brain and Language* 141:124–134. doi:10.1016/j.bandl.2014.12.003
- 2014 **Itamar Kastner**, Irit Meir, Wendy Sandler and Svetlana Dachkovsky. The Emergence of Embedded Structure: Insights from Kafr Qasem Sign Language. *Frontiers in Psychology* 5(525), doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2014.00525.
- 2009 **Itamar Kastner** and Christof Monz. Automatic Single-Document Key Fact Extraction from Newswire Articles. In *Proceedings of EACL 2009: The 12th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 415–423. Athens, Greece.
- [Submitted](#)
- Resubmitted Templatic morphology as an emergent property: Roots and functional heads in Hebrew. [lingbuzz/003103](#)
- Resubmitted Shared neural correlates for building phrases in signed and spoken language.
- Under revision The form of morphemes: MEG evidence from masked priming of two Hebrew templates.
- [Book Reviews](#)
- 2016 Review of *The Syntax of Roots and the Roots of Syntax* (Alexiadou, Borer and Schäfer 2014, Oxford University Press). *Language* 92(1):210–212.
- [Proceedings](#)
- 2016 Syntactic versus phonological generalizations in Hebrew verbal morphology. In the proceedings of *The 46th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 46)*, eds. Christopher Hammerly and Brandon Prickett. Volume 2, pages 189–198. Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- 2016 Nonactive voice in Hebrew and elsewhere: Between unaccusativity and agentivity. *UPenn Working Papers in Linguistics, Volume 22.1 (Proceedings of PLC 39)*, Article 19.
- 2015 Nonconcatenative Morphology with Concatenative Syntax. In the proceedings of *The 45th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 45)*, eds. Thuy Bui and Deniz Özyıldız. Volume 2, pages 83–96. Amherst, MA: GLSA.
- [Conference Presentations](#)
- (2017) A morphosyntactic inductive bias in artificial language learning. Poster presentation at *The 48th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 48)*. University of Iceland (with Tal Linzen).
- 2017 Revisiting the roots of Semitic morphology. **Roots V**. Queen Mary University of London, UK.

- 2017 The trivalency of Voice. *Cambridge Workshop on Voice (CamVoice)*. Cambridge, UK (with Yohei Oseki).
- 2017 Coercing propositional anaphora. Workshop on *Polysemy and coercion of clause-embedding predicates*, 39th Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (**DGfS 39**). Saarbrücken, Germany.
- 2016 Impossible morphemes: The case of Semitic templates. *Generative Grammatik des Südens (GGS) 44*. Leipzig, Germany.
- 2016 The zero-derived causative alternation in Hebrew is rare, but systematic. Workshop on *The Word and the Morpheme*. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.
- 2016 Learning segmentation and phonotactics from consonants in Arabic but not in English. *Experimental Approaches to Arabic and other understudied Languages (EXAL+)*. New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE (with Frans Adriaans).
- 2016 A non-uniform account of intransitive verbal forms in Hebrew. *The 90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA 2016)*. Washington, DC.
- 2015 Consonant representations aid in learning segmentation and phonology for Arabic but not English. Poster presentation at *The 40th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 40)*. Boston University, Boston, MA (with Frans Adriaans).
- 2015 Language-specific representations: learning segmentation and cooccurrence restrictions in Arabic. *The 9th Northeast Computational Phonology Circle (NECPHON 9)*. University of Delaware, Newark, DE (with Frans Adriaans).
- 2015 Syntactic versus phonological generalizations in Hebrew verbal morphology. Poster presentation at *The 46th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 46)*. Concordia University, Montreal, QC.
- 2015 Arabic consonants as bootstrapping for segmentation and acquisition. *The 10th Mediterranean Morphology Meeting (MMM10)*. University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel (with Frans Adriaans).
- 2015 Nonactive voice in Hebrew and elsewhere: Between unaccusativity and agentivity. *The 39th annual Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 39)*. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2014 Nonconcatenative Morphology with Concatenative Syntax. *The 45th meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 45)*, Special Session on the Phonological Consequences of Morphological Structure. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.
- 2014 Paradigm Gaps in the Hebrew Passive: Licensing, Referentiality and Agentivity. Poster presentation at *The 32nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 32)*. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (with Vera Zu).
- 2014 The Left Anterior Temporal Lobe as locus of Combinatory Language Processing: MEG evidence from English and Arabic. *NYU Abu Dhabi Annual Research Conference* (with Masha Westerlund, Meera Al Kaabi and Liina Pykkänen).
- 2013 Nominalizing Clauses: Evidence from ASL and a New Typology of Embedding. *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR 11)*. University College London, London, UK (with Kathryn Davidson).

- 2012 Cognate Objects and Unaccusative Predicates. *The 14th SUNY Stony Brook, Yale University, New York University and CUNY Graduate Center Conference (SYNC 14)*. City University of New York, New York, NY.

#### Invited Talks and Articles

- 2017 Consonants and vowels, Roots and functional heads. Phonology colloquium, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. July 2017.
- 2017 Traditional Roots and Contemporary Syntax in Semitic Morphology. Seminar, *Structures formelles du langage*, CNRS/Paris-8. February 2017.
- 2016 Passives in non-concatenative morphology. *Genus Verbi*, workshop on linguistic theories of the passive. Wittenberg, Germany.
- 2016 On deriving reflexive verbs in *hitpa'el*. Seminar, *Language, Logic and Cognition Center*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. April 2016.
- 2016 Language-specific representations in the acquisition of Semitic. *Language Learning and Processing Lab*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. April 2016.
- 2016 Argument structure at the interfaces: The case of Hebrew reflexives. University of Southern California. February 2016.
- 2016 On the syntactic reflexes of lexical semantics: The case of reflexives. University of California, Santa Cruz. February 2016.
- 2015 Towards a compositional semantics for reflexives in Hebrew. *LFRG*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. November 2015.
- 2014 What it means to be a direct object: Lessons from presupposition. *Clausal Completion: Current Perspectives*, Rutgers University. October 2014.
- 2013 The Factivity and Semantics of Presupposed Complements. *Syntax Supper*, The Graduate Center, City University of New York. September 2013.
- 2013 Presuppositional Verbs: A Factivity Puzzle Defactivized. *Ling Lunch*, Queen Mary University of London. July 2013.
- 2009 Automatisches Extrahieren von zusammengefassten Hauptfakten in den Nachrichten. In *Proceedings of TaCoS: The 19th Conference of Computational Linguistics Students in Germany*. Heidelberg, Germany.
- 2009 Developments in information retrieval. *Library and Information Update* 12:17–19 (plus additional online material).

#### Software

- 2013 *slgloss*, a  $\LaTeX$  package for glossing sign language examples (with Jonathan Keane). [github.com/itamarkast/slgloss](https://github.com/itamarkast/slgloss)

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## Grants and Awards

### External Grants (as PI or Co-PI)

- 06.2008 **Undergraduate Science Research Bursary**, *Nuffield Foundation*, United Kingdom.

### Travel Awards

- 10.2015 **Student Senator Council's Conference Fund**, *New York University*.
- 03.2013, 07.2015 **Dean's Travel Grant**, *New York University*.
- 06.2013 **Bursary**, *TISLR 2013*.
- 06.2012 **Scholarship**, *NASSLLI 2012*.

- 04.2009 **John Campbell Trust Travel Bursary**, *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*, United Kingdom.
- 03.2009 **EACL Student Scholarship**, *Association for Computational Linguistics*.  
[Other](#)
- 2011–2016 **Henry H. MacCracken Fellowship**, *New York University*.
- 07.2010 **Westfield Trust Prize**, *Westfield Trust/Queen Mary University of London*.
- 09.2008 **Erasmus Exchange Student Grant**, *European Union*.

## Teaching

### [University of Vienna](#)

Winter 2016/17 **Morphology**, *Visiting lecturer, two-week block course*.

### [Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin](#)

Winter 2016/17 **Introduction to Syntax**.

### [New York University \(TA\)](#)

Fall 2014 **Grammatical Analysis**, *Prof. Stephanie Harves*.  
Recitation leader and guest lecturer.

Spring 2014 **Morphology**, *Prof. Alec Marantz and Prof. Maria Gouskova*.  
Course assistant (grader).

Spring 2014, **Language**, *Prof. Anna Szabolcsi*.

Spring 2015 Guest lecturer (*Sign language linguistics*).

Fall 2013 **Language and Mind**, *Prof. Brian McElree and Prof. Anna Szabolcsi*.  
Recitation leader and guest lecturer.

Spring 2013 **Language**, *Prof. Anna Szabolcsi*.  
Recitation leader and guest lecturer.

### [University of Haifa](#)

Spring 2011 **Morphology and Phonology**, *Prof. Wendy Sandler*.  
Guest lecturer.

### [Queen Mary University of London \(TA\)](#)

Spring 2010 **Language and Communication**, *Profs. Peter O'Hearn and Max Kanovich*.  
Lab TA and grader.

Spring 2010 **Further Networks and Operating Systems**, *Prof. William Marsh*.  
Lab TA and grader.

Spring 2010 **Essential Object-Oriented Programming**, *Prof. William Marsh*.  
Lab TA.

Fall 2009 **Computer Architecture**, *Profs. William Marsh and Graham White*.  
Lab TA.

Year 2009–10 **Year Abroad Mentor**, *Prof. Anouk Lang*.

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## Service

### Reviewer

Articles *Canadian Journal of Linguistics, Erkenntnis, Information Systems Frontiers, Journal of Linguistics, Lingua/Glossa, Linguistics, Morphology, Natural Language & Linguistic Theory, PLOS Biology, Sign Language & Linguistics*

Chapters *Language Science Press*

Abstracts *Endpoints 2018, FASL 24 morphology workshop, IATL, NELS, SYNC*

### Conference Organization

11.2017 **Co-organizer**, *SelectionFest 2017* (with Patrick D. Elliott and Tom McFadden).

09.2017 **Co-organizer**, *What is in a morpheme? Theoretical, experimental and computational approaches to the relation of meaning and form in morphology*, Workshop at the 50th annual meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, **SLE 2017**, (with Stela Manova and Harald Hammarström).

06.2015 **Co-organizer**, *Roots IV* (with Alec Marantz).

05.2015 **Local committee**, *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) 24*.

05.2014 **Organizing committee**, *Formal Semantics Beyond Spoken Language*, NYU.

05.2014 **Local committee**, *Semantics And Linguistic Theory (SALT) 24*, NYU.

### At the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

03.2017 **Member**, *Habilitation Committee*, Florian Schäfer: Argument structure and event structure phenomena in the verbal and the nominal domain.

01.2017–07.2017 **Organizer**, *Professional development workshops for PhD students*.

### At New York University

05.2016 **Co-instructor**, *Job market workshop*, (with Nicole Holliday).

04.2015 **Instructor**, *Abstract writing workshop*.

2012–2015 **Webmaster**, *Morphology Research Group homepage*.

2011–2015 **Webmaster**, *Department of Linguistics website*.

2011–2015 **Organizer**, *MorphBeer reading group*, (2011–2013 with Katherine Wallace).

06.2012–05.2013 **President**, *LANYU*, Linguistics Association of New York University.

12.2012, 10.2014 **Co-instructor**, *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X workshop*, (with Maria Gouskova).

### At the University of Haifa

10.2010–08.2011 **Organizer**, *Sign Language Reading Group*.

### Outreach

07.01.2015 **Co-organizer**, *More than words: Morphology and the universality of language*, Public panel event collocated with Roots IV.

07.2009–present **Editor and co-founder**, *Dagesh Kal*, Linguistics website in Hebrew.

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## Languages

Hebrew **Native**

English **Native**

German **Fluent**

Arabic **Advanced**

*Good reading skills, rusty conversation skills in Levantine dialects.*

ASL **Intermediate**  
Galician **Intermediate**  
Yiddish **Intermediate**  
Israeli Sign **Beginner**  
Language

*Basic reading, writing and conversation skills.*

*Basic reading skills.*

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## Computer skills

Programming Java, Perl, Python

Processing R, Matlab, (My)SQL