

ELISABET VILA BORRELLAS

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I am a linguist and teacher with more than 8 years of experience in teaching and research. My areas of expertise include language in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), syntax and language teaching as well as having extensive research experience in sociolinguistics and phonetics. Currently, I am in the last year of my PhD under the supervision of Joana Rosselló and Wolfram Hinzen at the University of Barcelona. My dissertation focuses on question comprehension in ASD. Other professional skills include the ability to pass ADOS and ADI-R standardized tests and to work with SPSS. I also have extensive experience in participant recruitment, data collection and protection in school and research settings.

Education

- **PhD in COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND LANGUAGE** **2013 – December 2019 (expected)**
University of Barcelona – General Linguistics Department, Barcelona
Advisors: Joana Rosselló Ximenes and Wolfram Hinzen
Thesis: Profiling Question Comprehension in Autism Spectrum Conditions.
- **Master in APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION** **2011 - 2013**
University of Barcelona – Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and of English studies, Barcelona
Advisor: Francesc Xavier Vila
Thesis: The relation between Catalan ethno-national identity and Catalan oral competence in students of first year of ESO (Secondary Education).
- **Bachelor of Arts in LINGUISTICS** **2006-2011**
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona
Final project: Language teaching to ASD children [Ensenyament del llenguatge a infants autistes], published in [RECERCAT](#).
- **Bachelor of Arts in TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING** **2006-2011**
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona
English-Catalan, Spanish and German. Specialization in legal translation.

Professional Courses

CLASSROOM INTERVENTION

- **Language and communication stimulation to children with ASD and minimally verbal children** **January 2017**
[Estimulació de llenguatge i comunicació en infants amb TEA i nens no verbals]
Educatio Association – Barcelona

Professor: Sandra Freire
10 hours

- **I have a student with ASD** **November 2016**
[Tinc un alumne amb TEA]
Educatio Association – Barcelona
Professor: Marlene Orna
10 hours

- **Support to students with ADHD in the school** **February- June 2016**
[L'atenció als alumnes amb TDAH en el centre]
Servei Educatiu Berguedà – Berga (Barcelona)
Professor: Angela González
12 hours

- **The Neurolinguistics Programming and its application in educational settings** **April-June 2015**
[La Programació Neurolingüística (PNL) i la seva aplicació en els entorns educatius]
Education Science College (ICE) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona – Bellaterra (Barcelona)
Professor: Rosa Maria López Rodríguez
20 hours

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Autism Diagnostic Observational Schedule (ADOS)** **March 2015**
Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa – Sant Joan de Déu Hospital, Barcelona
Professor: Amaia Hervás Zuñiga
30 hours

- **Autism Diagnostic Interview (ADI-R)** **December 2014**
Hospital Universitari Mútua Terrassa – Sant Joan de Déu Hospital, Barcelona
Professor: Amaia Hervás Zuñiga
30 hours

RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

- **TOBII PRO workshops** **January 2018**
[1] Setting up combined eye-tracking and EEG
[2] Analyzing co-registered eye-tracking and EEG data
Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD'18)

September 2019

Professor: Louisa Kulke
3 hours

Teaching Experience

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

- **Catalan and English teacher** in preschool, elementary and secondary education **September 2013 –Present**
Escola Xarxa [Xarxa School], Berga (Barcelona)
Teaching English as a second language in preschool, primary and secondary education. In the last academic years, teaching Catalan language and literature in secondary education. Assist and teach to the school's students with ASD.
- **English teacher** **June 2009 – September 2013**
Words School, Berga, Barcelona
Teaching English as second language to children (3-18 years old) at this language school. Private English classes to children with learning disabilities.

UNIVERSITY

- **BA Invited Lecture: 'Theory of Mind: An Introduction'** **May 2015**
Course of Neurolinguistics, Bachelor of arts in Linguistics, **University of Barcelona**, Barcelona
Giving and preparing a lecture about Theory of Mind with Gabriel Sevilla, Ótávio Mattos and Kristen Schroeder.
- **Collaboration grant for academic activities**, Modern Languages and Literatures and of English Department **2011 – June 2012**
University of Barcelona, Barcelona
Preparation of various class materials and exams for the teaching staff in the Department of English and German Philology in the University of Barcelona.

Research Experience

- **Research Assistant**, Department of General Linguistics **September 2015 – Present**
University of Barcelona, Barcelona
Assisting a sociolinguistic research project funded by the Spanish Ministry.

Project: La Evolución (INTER)Generacional de la Bilingüización: Contextos, mantenimiento y sustitución lingüísticos [(INTER)generational bilingualization evolution: linguistic contexts, maintenance and shift] (FFI201-64459-P), directed by Emili Boix and Albert Bastardas.

Conducting, transcribing and analyzing participant's interviews. I have also taken part in the publishing process of the results.

- **Collaboration grant**, Department of General Linguistics **October 2011-June 2015**
University of Barcelona, Barcelona
Assisting the research conducted by professor Albert Bastardas.
Analyzing sociolinguistic data analysis, creation of the Sociocomplexity research group webpage, article and book editing and support of research project applications.
- **Research Assistant**, Department of Translation **January – June 2011**
and Language Sciences
Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona
Support to a phonetic research project funded by the Spanish Ministry.
Project: Distancia lingüística en los ejes espacial y temporal [Linguistic distance in spatial and temporal axis]
Development of phonetic experiments and passing them to participants.

Publications

IN PREPARATION

[1] **Elisabet Vila Borellas**, Joana Rosselló and Wolfram Hinzen. (*in preparation*). Question comprehension in children with autism spectrum conditions, with and without intellectual disability.

PUBLISHED OR UNDER PEER REVIEW

[2] Wolfram Hinzen, Kristen Schroeder, Gabriel Sevilla, Dominika Slusna and **Elisabet Vila Borellas** (*under peer review*). **Mind — Language =?** To appear in: *Mind and Language*.

[3] Elisabet Vila Borellas, Kristen Schroeder, Joana Rosselló and Wolfram Hinzen (2016), '**Aproximación al Lenguaje en el Trastorno del Espectro Autista**'. *Revista de psicopatología y salud mental del niño y del adolescente*, 27, 83-90.

[4] Wolfram Hinzen, Joana Rosselló Ximenes, Otávio Mattos, Kristen Schroeder and Elisabet Vila (2015), '**The Image of Mind in the Language of Children with Autism**'. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6: 841. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00841

Presentations

[1] **Elisabet Vila Borrellas**, Joana Rosselló Ximenes and Wolfram Hinzen (2019). **Question Comprehension in Autism Spectrum Conditions**. Poster presented at Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD 19), Budapest, 3rd-5th January.

[2] **Elisabet Vila Borrellas**, Joana Rosselló Ximenes and Wolfram Hinzen (2018). **Profiling Question Comprehension at the High-Functioning End of the Autism Spectrum Disorder**. Poster presented at the Semantics and Philosophy in Europe (SPE) colloquia, Barcelona, 17th-19th December.

[3] **Elisabet Vila Borrellas**, Joana Rosselló Ximenes and Wolfram Hinzen (2018). **Comprehension of Interrogative Sentences in Autism Spectrum Disorder**. Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting (INSAR Annual Meeting 2018), Rotterdam, 9th-12th May.

[4] **Elisabet Vila Borrellas**, Joana Rosselló Ximenes and Wolfram Hinzen (2018). **Profiling Question Comprehension in Autism Spectrum Disorders**. Poster presented at Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD 18), Budapest, 4th-6th January.

[5] Otávio Mattos, **Elisabet Vila Borrellas**, Camelia Dascalu and Kristen Schroeder (2015). **Correlations between Atypical Language Development and the Overuse of Imperative Communication in Autism**. At the conference Autism and the Foundations of Language and Communication, Dublin, 27th-29th of March.

Affiliations

- Grammar and Cognition Lab 2013 - present
Pompeu Fabra University and University of Barcelona
- Department of General Linguistics and Catalan Philology 2013 - present
University of Barcelona
- Sociolinguistics and Communication Research Centre [CUSC] 2013 – present
University of Barcelona
- INSAR Student member 2017-2018
International Society of Autism Research

Languages

- Catalan (native)
- Spanish (native)
- English (advanced)
- German (basic)

Computer skills

- MS Office Suite and LibreOffice
- IBM SPSS Software
- Programming languages: Java, Perl and Prolog
- Corpora analysis: CLAN
- Other: familiarity using and managing encrypted databases such as using SpiderOak Secure Software