Sandra Villata

Curriculum Vitae

EMAIL: sandra.villata@unikore.it

NATIONALITY: Italian

PERSONAL WEBSITE: https://sandravillata.com

Main Areas of Competence: Experimental Linguistics, Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Statistics

EDUCATION

2024	National Scientific qualification as associate professor in the Italian higher education system for the disciplinary field of 10/G1 (Historical and general linguistics)
2017	Ph.D., Linguistics, mention très honorable University of Geneva Advisors: Luigi Rizzi, Julie Franck, Committee: Ur Shlonsky, Jon Sprouse, Whitney Tabor, Patrick Sturt
2013	Certificate of Specialization in Linguistics University of Geneva
2011	M.A. in Philosophy, summa cum laude University of Turin Advisor: Diego Marconi
2008	B.A. in Philosophy, summa cum laude University of Turin Advisor: Diego Marconi

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023 – to date	University of Enna "Kore", Italy, Assistant Professor
2022 – 2023	New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), Department of Psychology, Postdoctoral researcher
2018 – 2022	University of Connecticut, Department of Linguistics, Department of Psychological Sciences (joint appointment), Postdoctoral researcher
2017 – 2018	University of Strathclyde and University of Stirling, Department of Psychology, Postdoctoral researcher
2014 – 2017	University of Geneva, Department of Linguistics, PhD student
2011 – 2017	Department of Psychology, University of Geneva, Teaching Assistant

PUBLICATIONS

M:	าทเ	scri	nts
	4114		

- In prep **Villata, S.** & Sprouse, J. *An experimental investigation of [+np] amelioration in Italian islands.*
- in prep **Villata, S.** & Sprouse, J. A nearly exhaustive test of the "d-linking" amelioration effect on island effects in English.
- in prep **Villata, S.** & Sprouse, J. Narrowing down the source of the "d-linking" amelioration effect on island effects in English. A Jabberwocky acceptability judgment study.
- in prep **Villata, S.** & Sprouse, J. *Gap-filling in English syntactic islands: Evidence from Forced Choice and Maze Tasks.*

Book

Villata, S. Intervention Effects in Sentence Processing. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- Pañeda, C., Kush, D., **Villata, S.** & Sprouse, J. *A translation-matched, experimental comparison of three types of wh-island effects in Spanish and English.* Glossa: A journal of general linguistics, 9(1), 1-45. https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.11164
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. *An empirical investigation of featural similarity in wh-islands*. International Journal of Linguistics, 16(1), 1-27. https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v16i1.21596
- Villata, S., & Tabor, W. A self-organized sentence processing theory of gradience: The case of islands. Cognition. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2021.104943
- Fukumura, K., Hervé, C., **Villata, S.**, Zhang, S., & Foppolo, F. *Representations underlying pronoun choice in Italian and English*. Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, 75(8), 1428–1447. https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218211051989
- Shlonsky, U., **Villata, S.**, & Franck, J. Covert movement in multiple wh-questions: Experimental and Theoretical investigations. Syntax. https://doi.org/10.1111/synt.12192
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. Similarity-based interference in agreement comprehension and production: Evidence from object agreement. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition, 46(1), 170–188. https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0000718
- Villata, S., Tabor, W., & Franck, J. Encoding and retrieval interference in sentence comprehension: Evidence from agreement. Frontiers in Psychology. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00002
- Villata, S., Rizzi, L., & Franck, J. Intervention effects and Relativized Minimality: New experimental evidence from graded judgments. Lingua (179), 76-96. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2016.03.004
- Hirèche, S., & **Villata, S.** Eating Animals and the Moral Value of Non-Human Suffering. Grazer Philosophische Studien, 88(1), 247-256. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789401210508_013

Villata, S., Sprouse, J., & Tabor, W. *Modeling Ungrammaticality: A Self-Organizing Model of Islands*. In Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society: Creativity + Cognition + Computation, *CogSci 2019*, pp. 1178-1184.

- Villata, S., & Franck, J. Semantic similarity effects on weak islands acceptability. Research in Generative Grammar (38), pp. 269-285.
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. The Complex Case of Weak Islands. *Bollettino della Società di linguistica italiana*, (33), pp. 141-143.

Book Chapters

- Sprouse, J., & **S. Villata**. *Island Effects*. The Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Syntax. Edited by Grant Goodall. Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.010
- Villata, S., & P. Lorusso. When initial thematic roles attribution lingers: Evidence for digging-in effects in Italian relative clauses. In Torrens, V. (ed.) Typical and Impaired Processing in Morphosyntax. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 57-71. https://doi.org/10.1075/lald.64.03vil

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Villata, S. Feature Manipulation in Ungrammatical Sentences: A Jabberwocky Study on the Source of Amelioration Effects in Syntactic Islands. Beyond Agreement Closing Workshop, University of Geneva (Switzerland). June 20-21.
- Villata, S. Comprendre l'architecture de la grammaire: apports de la linguistique expérimentale. Department of Linguistics, University of Geneva (Switzerland). June 14.
- Villata, S. The strong/weak island distinction A large-scale acceptability judgment study in English. Workshop "Mente e linguaggio II. Prospettive psicolinguistiche sulla percezione e sulla produzione del linguaggio". University of Udine, May 26.
- **Villata, S.** The strong/weak island distinction A large-scale acceptability judgment study in English. University of the Basque Country, HiTT Linguistic Group, April 21.
- **Villata, S.** Experimental evidence for gradient effects and their consequences for theories of grammar. University of Geneva, December 19.
- Villata, S. Gradient Effects. An investigation of the nature of the grammar, the parser, and their relation. University of Florence, May 10.
- Villata, S. Gradient Effects. An investigation of the nature of the grammar, the parser, and their relation. University of Georgia (US), January 21. Job talk interview for tenure track position.
- 2020 **Villata, S.** *Intermediate Grammaticality*. Logic UConn Group, November 13.
- Villata, S. Experimental evidence for gradient effects in islands, and their consequences for theories of islands. University of Geneva, Department of Linguistics, December 17.
- Villata, S. Gradient Effects in Islands. Experimental and Computational Modeling Results. Symposium on Syntactic Islands in Scandinavian and English, Aarhus University, June 11-12.
- Villata, S. A new approach to gradient effects in islands. Department of Linguistics, UMass, March 26.

2017	Villata, S.	Similarity	effects in	wh-island	acceptability:	A new	perspective.
	Geneva Pa	ssives Work	shop. 10-14	1 January, G	Seneva (Switzei	rland).	

- Villata, S. Attraction and similarity-based interference in object gender agree ment. Language and Cognition Seminar, UConn, Connecticut (US), March 15.
- Villata, S. Locality and Intervention effects: Evidence from acceptability judgments. Seminaire de recherche en Linguistique. Genève (Switzerland). April 14.

CONFERENCE TALKS

- Villata, S., & Sprouse, J. An experimental investigation of [+np] island effect amelioration within featural Relativized Minimality in Italian. Incontro di Grammatica Generative (IGG50), Padova, 19-21 February.
- Villata, S., & Sprouse, J. The amelioration effect of "which" on strong/weak islands in English: an experimental study. Glow 46, Vienna, 11-15 April.
- **Villata, S.** An empirical investigation of ungrammatical sentence processing. Meetand-Speak Event. University of Connecticut. October 10.
- Tabor, W., **Villata, S.**, & Sprouse, J. *Strong and weak islands: A theory of graded accessibility in linguistic domains*. AMLaP 2020, Potsdam, 3-5 September.
- Tabor, W., **Villata, S.**, & Sprouse, J. *A theory of island semi-accessibility: the case of the strong/weak distinction*. The 33rd Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Amherst, 19-21 March.
- Villata, S., Sprouse, J, & Tabor, W. Modeling Ungrammaticality: A Self-Organizing Model of Islands. CogSci, Montreal, 25-27 July.
- Fukumura, K., **Villata, S.,** Foppolo, F., Pozniak, C., Carminati, M. N., & Alario, X. Ambiguity avoidance independent of non-linguistic similarity. CUNY, Colorado (US), 29-31 March.
- Villata, S., Franco, L., & Lorusso, P. Digging-in effects in Italian relative clauses. Experimental Psycholinguistics Conference. 28-30 June, Menorca (Balearic Islands).
- Villata, S. Disentangling encoding and retrieval interference: Evidence from agreement. Language et communication. 15 September, Geneva (Switzerland).
- Villata, S. Attraction and similarity-based interference in object gender agreement. Syncart Workshop. 11-15 July, Chiusi (Italy).
- 2016 Mirdamadi, F., **Villata, S.**, Shlonsky, U., & Franck, J. Experimental judgment on multiple wh-questions in Persian. 9th Days of Swiss Linguistics, Geneva (Switzerland), June 29-30.
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. Attraction and similarity-based interference in object gender agreement. CUNY, Florida (US), March 3-5.
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. The complex case of weak islands. Workshop *Hard sentences: how to measure clausal complexity?* Congresso Internazionale SLI, Malta, 25 September.
- Villata, S., & Franck, J. Processing and grammar constraints in extraction from weak islands. IGG41. Perugia (Italy), February 26-28.
- Villata, S., Rizzi, L., Omaki, A., & Franck, J. New insights into intervention effects: an empirical investigation on Relativized Minimality. IGG40. Trento (Italy), February 12-14.

Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., Panizza, D., **Villata, S.**, & Franck, J. Linking cognitive control to revision of garden-path Wh-questions in adults and children. AMLaP. Riva del Garda (Italy), September 6-8.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

2017

2017

2015

- CONTRACTOR	102 1 001210
2023	Villata, S. , & Sprouse, J. The strong/weak island distinction – A large-scale acceptability judgment study in English. AMLaP 29 th , San Sebastian, 31 August-2 September.
2023	Pañeda, C., Villata, S. , Kush, D., & Sprouse, J. No cross-linguistic variation in Spanish and English wh-island effects. AMLaP 29 th , San Sebastian, 31 August-2 September.
2023	Tabor, W., & Villata, S. Metric Grammars. The 36 th Annual Conference on <i>Human Sentence Processing</i> (HSP), University of Pittsburgh, 9-11 March.
2022	Villata, S. , Tabor, W., & Sprouse, J. A Bayesian estimation of the gradience of island effects with complex wh-phrases. The 35 th Annual Conference on <i>Human Sentence Processing</i> (HSP), UC Santa Cruz, 24-26 March.
2020	Villata, S. , Tabor, W., & Sprouse, J. Gap-filling in English syntactic islands: Evidence from Forced Choice and Maze Tasks. AMLaP 2020, Potsdam, 3-5 September.
2020	Pañeda, C., Villata, S. , Kush, D., & Sprouse, J. Processing embedded question islands in Spanish: Evidence from the Maze Task. AMLaP 2020, Potsdam, 3-5 September.
2020	Villata, S. , Tabor, W., & Sprouse, J. <i>Gap-filling in syntactic islands: Evidence for island penetrability from the Maze Task</i> . The 33st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Amherst (US), 19-21 March.
2019	Fukumura, K., Villata, S. , K., Foppolo, F., Céline Pozniak, & Alario, X. Avoiding ambiguous pronouns: A cross-linguistic study. AMLaP. Moscow (Russia), 6-8 September.
2019	Villata, S. , Sprouse, J. & Tabor, W. A self-organizing model of islands. CUNY, Colorado (US), 29-31 March.
2019	Fukumura, K., Herve, C., Villata, S. , Foppolo, F. & Alario, X. Cross-linguistic investigation of the choice of pronouns. CUNY, Colorado (US), 29-31 March.
2018	Fukumura, K., Herve, C., Villata, S. , Foppolo, F. & Alario, X. Cross-linguistic investigation of the representations driving the choice between pronouns and nouns. AMLaP. Berlin (Germany), September 6-8.
2018	Villata, S. , & Lorusso, P. Early vs late cues in the processing of Italian relative clauses. 31 st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. San Diego, March 15-17.
2018	Schmid, S. Villata, S. , Tabor, W., & Franck, J. Two mechanisms underlying agreement errors. 31 st Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing. San Diego, March 15-17.

comprehension. SSP-SGP Conference. Geneva (Switzerland), September 8-9.

Villata, S., Ludovico, F., & Lorusso, P. Digging-in effects in Italian relative clauses.

Villata, S., Tabor, W., & Franck, J. Disentangling encoding and retrieval interference:

Villata, S., McElree, B., Wagers, M., & Franck, J. Interference effects in language

evidence from agreement. AMLaP. Lancaster (UK), September 7-9.

AMLaP. Lancaster (UK), September 7-9.

2015	Villata, S. , Canal, P., Franck, J., Moro, A., & Chesi, C. Intervention effects in wh-islands: an eye-tracking study. AMLap. Malta, September 3-5.
2015	Villata, S. , & Franck, J. Processing and grammar constraints in extraction from weak islands. CUNY. Los Angeles (US), March 19-21.
2015	Villata, S. , McElree, B., Wagers, M., & Franck, J. Temporal dynamics of weak islands: A speed-accuracy trade-off study. CUNY. Los Angeles (US), March 19-21.
2015	Villata, S. , Rizzi, L., & Franck, J. Intervention effects in wh-islands and non-islands: experimental evidence. IGG41. Perugia (Italy), February 26-28.
2015	Villata, S. , McElree, B., & Franck, J. The temporal dynamics of intervention effects: a speed-accuracy trade-off study on wh-islands. Biolinguistics Investigations on the Language Faculty. Pavia (Italy), January 26-28.
2014	Villata, S. , McElree, B., & Franck, J. Temporal dynamics of extraction from whislands: a speed-accuracy trade-off study. AMLaP. Edinburgh (UK), September 3-6.
2014	Villata, S. , Rizzi, L., Omaki, A., & Franck, J. Relativized Minimality: a systematic investigation on intervention effects. CUNY. Columbus (Ohio), March 13-15.
2013	Villata, S. , Omaki, A., Rizzi, L., & Franck, J. Relativized Minimality and parsing: new insights on the role of similarity. AMLaP. Marseille (France), September 2-4.
2012	Lassotta, R., Omaki, A., Panizza, D., Villata, S. , & Franck, J. Sentence revision and executive control in French-speaking children and adults: Evidence from whquestions with filled-gaps. BUCLD. Boston (US), November 1-4.

APPROVED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2020 2022 Project title: *Bridging the gap between grammar and language processing: an M/EEG investigation of gradient effects*. Swiss National Science Foundation, Early Post Doc Mobility grant. PI: Sandra Villata
- 2018 2020 Project title: *The nature of island constraints: a behavioral, neurophysiological and computational investigation*. Fondazione Marica De Vincenzi Onlus. Pl: Sandra Villata

RESEARCH FUNDINGS

2019	Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences (IBACS) Seed Grant funding for the project "An empirical investigation of ungrammatical sentence processing". PI: Sandra Villata, Collaborators: Prof. Jon Sprouse, Prof. Whitney Tabor, \$2300
2019	NBL Innovation Incentive funding, UConn, for the project "An investigation of gradient effects in ungrammatical sentences". PI: Sandra Villata, Collaborators: Prof. Jon Sprouse, Prof. Whitney Tabor, \$1800
2017	Administration of Psychology, University of Geneva, CHF1713
2016	Fonds General de l'Université de Genève, University of Geneva, CHF1800
2016	Société Académique de Genève, Fonds Paul Moriaud, Geneva, CHF2000
2015	Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny, Geneva, CHF500
2014	Académie suisse des sciences humaines et sociales, Geneva, CHF700
2014	Société Académique de Genève, Fonds Alain Patry, Geneva, CHF1450

2013 Fond National Suisse, Geneva, CHF4200

AWARDS AND HONORS

2015	Fondazione Marica De Vincenzi Onlus. Award to the best paper by an Italian researcher selected for IGG (Incontro di Grammatica Generativa)
2012	Paula Menyuk Travel Award
2012	Essay Award from the Society for Analytic Philosophy and Grazer Philosophische Studien
2011	Prize Optime for outstanding graduates of the University of Torino
2009 – 2010	Best graduate student award, Department of Philosophy, University of Torino

TEACHING

University of E	Enna "Kore"
-----------------	-------------

2024-2025 "Experimental Methods and data Analysis with R", 18 hours, spring semester (PhD

program in "Processi educativi nei contesti eterogenei e multiculturali")

"Introduction to Linguistics", Fall semester (BA class)
"Computational Linguistics", Spring semester (MA class) 2023-2025

New York University Abu Dhabi

2022-2023 "Statistics for Psychology" (Teaching Assistant), Spring semester

University of Geneva

2017	"Language" (Teaching Assistant), Spring semester
2011-2017	"Descriptive approaches to oral language" (Teaching Assistant), Fall semester
2011-2017	"Introduction to language acquisition" (Teaching Assistant), Fall semester
2011-2017	"Linguistics experimental approaches" (Teaching Assistant), Spring semester
2011-2016	"Language and cognitive development" (Teaching Assistant), Spring semester

PhD COMMITTEES

PhD external committee member

2024	PhD Thesis, Ingrid Bondevik, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Language and
	Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 8th May, Trondheim

2024 PhD Thesis, Danil Khristov, Center for Cognitive Science of Language, University of Nova Gorica

ACTIVITY OF SUPERVISION

Co-supervision

6/2018	M.A. Thesis, Ostertag Lisa Line, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva
9/2015	M.A. Thesis, Lorraine Ortiz, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva
6/2014	M.A. Thesis, Elodie Cherbuin, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva

MA Committee member

6/2017 M.A. Thesis, Laure Ermacora, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva

6/2017	M.A. Thesis, Sybille Blanc, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva
9/2013	M.A. Thesis, Julie Maeder, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva
9/2013	M.A. Thesis, Buhler Areti Helena, Department of Psychology, University of Geneva

Laboratory and research supervision

University of Connecticut

2018-19 Supervised students: Emily Kaplan, Melissa Rayment, Augden Shaw, Panat Taranat

University of Aix-Marseille

2017-18 Supervised students: Baptiste Maerten, Héloise Charrière, Lana Vizeu Oliviera, Giulia Pozzo di Borgo, Chloe Perrin

University of Strathclyde

2017-18 Supervised students: Alaistair McLachlan, Elizabeth Hunter, Amy McCluskey, Holly Doyle

University of Geneva

	z - · · · · ·
2016-17	Supervised student: Stephanie Poncelet
2015-16	Supervised students: Solange Vilpert, Samuel Schmid, Clarisse Cao, Varvara Kuz
2014-15	Supervised students: Justine Page, Florence Piantchenko-Graf
2013-14	Supervised students: Cassandre Mabut, Emilie Dupraz
2012-13	Supervised students: Lorraine Ortiz, Sofia Carvalho, Justine Dupont, Fernandez
	Lopez Yessica
2011-12	Supervised students: Elodie Cherbuin, Tamara Schmid, Villedieu de Torcy
	Emmanuelle

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ENNA "KORE"

2023-present Vice-coordinator of the Master in Engineering of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Security

2024-present International mobility coordinator (Erasmus), Department of Engineering and Architecture

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

2025 Course instructor for "Experimental Syntax" at the NYI Global Institute of Cultural, Cognitive, and Linguistic Studies (V-NYI), July 10-25

2024-present Editorial board for Glossa

Refereeing: Natural Language and Linguistic Theory; Cognition; Language, Cognition & Neuroscience; Glossa; Glossa Psycholinguistics; Journal of Memory and Language; Frontiers in Psychology; PLOS ONE; Probus; Scandinavian Journal of Psychology; Journal of Cognitive Science; Squibs in Construction Grammar; Applied Psycholinguistics; Quaderni di Linguistica e Studi Orientali (QULSO)

Refereeing for International Conferences: Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG), HSP (previously CUNY), AMLaP, CogSci

EXTRA TRAINING

2023	"Introduction to Bayesian Data Analysis", Prof. Shravan Vasishth, Dr. Anna Laurinavichuyte, 25 January – 13 March, online course on Open HPI. Certificate earned on March 10 th .
2020	"Introduction to Neural Networks", Prof. Jon Sprouse (University of Connecticut)
2018	"Introduction to EEG Methods", Prof. Jon Sprouse (University of Connecticut)
2018	"Grammars and Parsers", Prof. Jon Sprouse (University of Connecticut)
2018	"Python Programming: A Concise Introduction" by Wesleyan University on Coursera.org, Prof. Bill Boyd. Certificate earned on April 27, 2018.
2017	Summer School in Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology, Prof. Shravan Vasishth, University of Potsdam (Germany)
2016	"Improving your statistical inferences" by Eindhoven University of Technology on Coursera.org, Prof. Daniel Lakens. Certificate earned on December 10, 2016.
2016	"From Maps to Principles: Syntactic Cartography and Locality", 1 st Syncart Workshop, Chiusi (Italy).
2016	Syntactic Summer School AIP Bertinoro, "Meta-analysis and results replicability: theoretical aspects and application in R". Coordinators: Massimiliano Pastore, Gianmarco Altoé (University of Padova).
2016	"Methods in Experimental Syntax", Prof. Jon Sprouse (University of Connecticut)
2013	LSA Linguistic Institute, University of Michigan, USA.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Scripting: R, RStudio, Matlab, LaTeX, Python

Experimental tools: Ibex Farm, Qualtrics, E-Prime, EEGLAB, FieldTrip, Praat

Experimental techniques: acceptability judgment experiments, self-paced reading, maze task

LANGUAGES

Italian (native); French (fluent); English (fluent)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Jon Sprouse, NYUAD
Julie Franck, University of Geneva
Luigi Rizzi, Collège de France
Ur Shlonsky, University of Geneva
Whitney Tabor, University of Connecticut
Brian McElree, New York University
Dave Kush, University of Toronto
Paolo Lorusso, University of Udine

Akira Omaki, John's Hopkins University (in memoriam)
Cristiano Chesi, IUSS, Pavia
Paolo Canal, IUSS Pavia
Alessandro Treves, SISSA, Trieste
Xavier Alario, Université Aix-Marseille
Matt Wagers, University of California, Santa Cruz

Claudia Pañeda, University of the Basque Country Francesca Foppolo, University of Milano Bicocca

REFERENCES

Prof. Luigi Rizzi – Chair of General Linguistics, Collège de France – <u>luigi.rizzi@college-de-france.fr</u>

Prof. Julie Franck – Maître d'Enseignement et de Recherche, Psycholinguistics, University of Geneva – $\underline{\text{julie.franck@unige.ch}}$

 $Prof.\ Jon\ Sprouse-Full\ Professor,\ Department\ of\ Psychology,\ New\ York\ University\ Abu\ Dhabi-\underline{jon.sprouse@nyu.edu}$

Prof. Whitney Tabor – Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Connecticut - whitney.tabor@uconn.edu