

# Yağmur Sağ-Parvardeh

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Swarthmore College Linguistics  
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## Education

- 2013-  
2019 Ph.D. in Linguistics, Rutgers University  
Thesis: The Semantics of Number Marking: Reference to Kinds, Counting, and Optional Classifiers  
Committee: Veneeta Dayal (chair), Simon Charlow, Mark Baker, Gennaro Chierchia
- 2010-  
2013 M.A. in Linguistics, Boğaziçi University  
Thesis: The Verbal Functional Domain in the Denizli Dialect of Turkish  
Committee: Aslı Göksel (chair), Meltem Kelepir, Martina Gračanin-Yüksek
- 2006-  
2010 B.A. in Foreign Language Education, Middle East Technical University

## Research Interests

### AREAS

Semantics, Pragmatics, Syntax, Syntax-Semantics Interface, Experimental Semantics, Fieldwork, Typology, Morphology

### TOPICS

Bare Nouns and Kind Reference; Number Marking; Pseudo-incorporation; Event Semantics; Lexical Aspect; Argument Structure; Case and Agreement; Classifiers and Numerals; Measurement; Definiteness and Indefiniteness; Demonstratives; Mass-Count Distinction; Distributive, Additive, and Scalar Partitives; Tense and Aspect Semantics; Light Verb Constructions

## LANGUAGES

Turkish, English, Laz, Farsi, Western Armenian, Mandarin

## Ongoing Projects

### FIELDWORK

- 2022- Jointly with Ömer Demirok and Muhammet Bal  
Laz [The Pazar (Atina) and Çamlıhemşin (Vica) dialects]  
The Interaction of Argument Structure, Case, Agreement, and Bare Noun Semantics

### EXPERIMENTAL

- 2023- Jointly with Agata Renans, Jacopo Romoli, Lyn Tieu, Nihan Ketrez  
An Experimental Investigation of Plural Mass Nouns in Turkish.  
  
As part of The Meaning and Modality Lab at Harvard
- 2022- Jointly with Ankana Saha, Jian Cui, and Kathryn Davidson  
Focus, Definite and Demonstrative Descriptions: Experiments in English, Turkish, Mandarin, and Bangla  
  
As part of DFG Scientific Network Definiteness Across Domains  
(coordinated by Agata Renans, Mira Grubic, and Reggie Duah)
- 2023- Jointly with Utku Türk and Florian Schwarz  
Exploring the contrast between weak and strong definiteness experimentally: Turkish  
  
[As part of the experiment series to be conducted in Swiss German, Dutch, Icelandic, Swedish, West Frisian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Akan, Ga, Dagbahni, Kusaal, Hausa, Turkish, Bangla, Thai, Cantonese, and Korean  
in collaboration with F. Schwarz, A. Renans, D. Ahn, F. Bergsma, N. Chanchaochai, R. Duah, I. Driemel, L. Geist, M. Grubic, S. Korsah, S-Y Lam, C. Meier, A. Saha, R. Simik, A. Simonenko]

## Lab Affiliations

- 2024-2025 The Meaning Across Languages Lab (MAL) at Rutgers University  
(PI: Dorothy Ahn)
- 2021-2024 The Meaning and Modality Lab (M&M) at Harvard University  
(PI: Kathryn Davidson)

## Publications & Manuscripts

### JOURNAL PAPERS

- 2025 Zeynep Nur Demirok, Erdoğan Akça, Ömer Demirok, Yağmur Sağ, Mehmet Kemal Kuşu. The Role of Communication in Social Functioning in Schizophrenia: Verbal and Nonverbal Aspects. To appear in *Archives of Neuropsychiatry*.
- 2025 Yağmur Sağ, Ömer Demirok, and Muhammet Bal. [A Novel Architecture for Pseudo-incorporation](#). *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 43 pp. 2871-2934
- 2025 [On the \(Non-\)Optionality of the Turkish Classifier \*tane\*](#), *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 43 pp. 907-964 [published online: 2024]
- 2023 Ömer Demirok and Yağmur Sağ. [Are there aspectless tensed clauses in Turkish?](#) “Theoretical Studies on Turkic Languages,” *Languages* 8(1), 60.
- 2022 [Bare Singulars and Singularity in Turkish](#), *Linguistics & Philosophy* 45 pp. 741-793 [published online: 2021]
- 2020 Agata Renans, Yağmur Sağ, F. Nihan Ketrez, Lyn Tieu, George Tsoulas, Raffaella Folli, Hanna de Vries, and Jacopo Romoli. [Plurality and Cross-linguistic Variation: An Experimental Investigation of the Turkish Plural](#), *Natural Language Semantics* 28 pp. 307-342.

### REVIEW PAPERS

- 2020 Veneeta Dayal and Yağmur Sağ. [Determiners and Bare Nouns](#), *Annual Review of Linguistics*. Volume 6.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- 2025 [Pseudo-incorporation, Event Kinds, and Atelicity](#). In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29 (SuB 29)*.
- 2025 Yağmur Sağ, Ömer Demirok, and Muhammet Bal. [Subject Pseudo-incorporation in Laz](#). In *Proceedings of The West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 41 (WCCFL 41)*.
- 2025 Ankana Saha, Yağmur Sağ, Jian Cui, and Kathryn Davidson. [Anaphoric Demonstratives in Mandarin](#). In *Proceedings of The 34th Meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 34)*.
- 2024 [Cardinality and \(In\)definiteness](#). In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 28 (SuB 28)*.
- 2024 [Fake Mass Nouns and Associative Plurality](#). In *Proceedings of The 54rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54)*.
- 2023 Ankana Saha, Yağmur Sağ, Kathryn Davidson. [Focus on Demonstratives: Experiments in English and Turkish](#). In *Proceedings of The 33rd Meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT 33)*.
- 2023 Yağmur Sağ and Ömer Demirok. [Getting Even without “even” in Turkish](#). In *Proceedings of The 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 53)*.
- 2020 [The Curious Case of Measure Semantics](#). In *Proceedings of The 55th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 55)*.
- 2018 [The Semantics of Turkish Numeral Constructions](#), In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22 (SuB 22)*, ZAS, Berlin/Postdam.
- 2018 [Person Agreement in the Denizli Dialect of Turkish](#), In *Proceedings of the 10th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (WAFL 10)*, MITWPL.
- 2017 [Verbal Head Incorporation in Turkish](#), In *Proceedings of the 12th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (WAFL 12)*, MITWPL.
- 2017 [Complex Predication via Phrasal Adjunction to a Head Category](#), In *Proceedings of the 34th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 34)*, Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

- 2015 The Spell-out of Combined Predicate Structures in Turkish: A Nano-syntactic Analysis, In *Ankara Papers in Turkish and Turkic Linguistics. TURKOLOGICA:103*. Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden.
- 2013 Denizli Ağzında Tümcisel Tümleçlerin Yapısı: Ölçünlü Türkçe ile Karşılaştırmalı bir Çalışma. [The structure of Sentential Complements in the Denizli Dialect: A Comparison with Standard Turkish], In *Proceedings of the 26th Dilbilim Kurultayı (All-Turkey Linguistics Conference)*, Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi.
- 2013 [Copula in Turkish](#), In *Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (WAFL 8)*, MITWPL.

#### EDITED VOLUMES

- 2019 Paloma Jeretič and Yağmur Sağ (eds). *Proceedings of the Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic: Vol. 4*. Linguistic Society of America.

#### OTHER OUTPUT

- 2016 On the Semantics of Classifiers: A New Perspective from an Optional Classifier Language, Turkish. Qualifying Paper, Rutgers University.
- 2016 Complex Predicate Formation via Adjunction to a Head Category: Evidence from Light Verb Constructions in Turkish. Qualifying Paper, Rutgers University.
- 2013 The Verbal Functional Domain in the Denizli Dialect of Turkish. M.A. Thesis, Boğaziçi University.

## Academic Presentations

#### INVITED

- upcoming TBA. The 11th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+11), MIT, April 11-12.
- upcoming TBA. Penn Integrated Language Science and Technology (ILST) Seminar, UPenn MindCore, February 20.
- 2025 Agent Pseudo-incorporation and (In)definiteness: Insights from Turkish and Laz. “A Hitchhiker’s Guide to Interpreting Bare Arguments”: The Workshop Nantes,

France. May 12-13.

- 2025 Rethinking Number Semantics: Kind Reference and Singularity in Turkish. Swarthmore College. March 7.
- 2024 Event Kinds and Two-layered Argument Structure: Insights from Agent Pseudo-incorporation. Colloquium Talk at Rutgers University. October 18.
- 2023 Number Marking, (Singular) Kind Reference, and Pseudo-incorporation. Linguistics Colloquium Talks at The University of Maryland. December, 8.
- 2023 On the (Non-)Optionality of the Turkish Classifier *tane*, Cardinality, and (In)definiteness. İzmir Dilbilim Çevresi. Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey. November, 22.
- 2023 Counting and Classifiers. Guest lecture at Yale University. October, 10.
- 2023 Focus on Demonstratives: Experiments in English and Turkish. The 4th Meeting of Definiteness Across Domains. Ruhr-Universität Bochum, September 9-10. (joint work with Ankana Saha and Kathryn Davidson).
- 2023 Mass vs. Count: Where does Turkish stand? Logic  $\wedge$  Grammar  $\wedge$  Meaning. University of Milano-Bicocca, June 7.
- 2023 Number Marking, Kind Reference, and Singularity. UMass Amherst Colloquium Series. April, 7.
- 2022 Cardinality and (In)definiteness. Language & Cognition Meeting at Harvard. October, 25.
- 2021 Bare Singulars and Singularity in Turkish. The Harvard Linguistics Circle Workshop. October, 29.
- 2019 On the (Non-)optionality of the Turkish Classifier. Workshop on Identifying (In) definiteness, Yale University, March, 29-30.

#### TALKS

- 2025 Metehan Eryılmaz, Ömer Demirok, and Yağmur Sağ. From Numeral to Indefinite: A Kind-Sensitive Pathway in Turkish. The 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 56), NYU, October, 17-19.

- 2024 Pseudo-incorporation, Event Kinds, and Atelicity. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 29 (*SuB* 29), Consorzio Universitario Mediterraneo Orientale, September 17-19.
- 2024 Ankana Saha, Yağmur Sağ, Jian Cui, and Kathryn Davidson. Mandarin Demonstratives as Strong Definites. *The 3rd Experiments in Linguistic Meaning (ELM 3)*, UPenn, June 12-14.
- 2024 Fake Mass Nouns and Associative Plurality. *The 54rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 54)*, MIT, January, 26-27.
- 2023 F. Schwarz, A. Renans, D. Ahn, F. Bergsma, N. Chanchaochai, R. Duah, I. Driemel, L. Geist, M. Grubic, S. Korsah, S-Y Lam, C. Meier, Y. Sağ, A. Saha, R. Simik, A. Simonenko. Two Types of Definites – Cross-linguistic Experimental Study. *Cross-linguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning (X-PPL 2023)*, University of Zurich, November 6-8.
- 2023 Cardinality and (In)definiteness. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 28 (*SuB* 28), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, September 5-8.
- 2023 Yağmur Sağ, Ömer Demirok, and Muhammet Bal. Subject Pseudo-incorporation in Laz. *The 8th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+ 8)*, Harvard University, March, 4-5.
- 2023 Yağmur Sağ and Ömer Demirok. Getting Even without “even” in Turkish. *The 53rd Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 53)*, University of Göttingen, January, 12-14.
- 2022 Fieldwork Notes on Laz. *Fieldwork Symposium at BU/MIT/Harvard*. October, 21.
- 2021 On the (Non-)Optionality of the Turkish Classifier *tane*. *The 6th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+ 6)*, University of Toronto, February, 19-20.
- 2019 The Curious Case of Measure Semantics. *The 55th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 55)*, The University of Chicago, May, 16-18.
- 2017 The Semantics of Numeral Constructions in Turkish. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 22 (*SuB* 22), ZAS, Berlin/Postdam, September, 7-10.
- 2017 Turkish, an Optional Classifier Language with Plurals. *The 41st Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC 41)*, UPenn, March, 24-26.

- 2016 Turkish, an Optional Classifier Language with Plurals. *MACSIM 6*, CUNY, October, 1.
- 2015 Complex Predicate Formation via Adjunction to a Head Category: Evidence from Light Verb Constructions in Turkish. Turkish, Turkic and the Languages of Turkey (*Tu+ 1*), UMass, Amherst, November, 21-22.
- 2012 The Copula and the Embedded Structure in Denizli Dialect of Turkish: A Nano-syntactic Analysis. The 16th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics (*ICTL 16*), Middle East Technical University, September, 18-21.
- 2012 Koşacın Denizli Ağzındaki Yeri ve İşlevi [The position and function of the copula in the Denizli Dialect]. 26. Ulusal Dilbilim Kurultayı (the 26th All-Turkey Linguistics Conference), Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi, May, 24-26.
- POSTERS
- 2024 Ankana Saha, Yağmur Sağ, Jian Cui, and Kathryn Davidson. Mandarin Demonstratives as Strong Definites. The 34th Meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (*SALT 34*), University of Rochester, May 28-30.
- 2023 Ankana Saha, Yağmur Sağ, Kathryn Davidson. Focus on Demonstratives: Experiments in English and Turkish. The 33rd Meeting of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (*SALT 33*), Yale University, May 12-14.
- 2023 Cardinality and (In)definiteness. The Workshop on (In)definiteness across Languages, Yale University, May 11.
- 2023 Yağmur Sağ, Ömer Demirok, and Muhammet Bal. Subject Pseudo-incorporation in Laz. The West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 41 (*WCCFL 41*), the University of California, Santa Cruz, May, 5-7.
- 2019 The Curious Case of Measure Semantics. *MACSIM 8*, NYU, April, 6.
- 2018 Pseudo-incorporation as Sub-event Kind Formation. The 14th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (*WAFL 14*), MIT, October 19-21.
- 2016 Verbal Head Incorporation in Turkish. The 12th Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics (*WAFL 12*), Central Connecticut State University, May, 12-15.

- 2016 Complex Predication via Phrasal Adjunction to a Head Category. The West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics 34 (*WCCFL 34*), The University of Utah, April, 29 - May, 1.
- 2016 Pseudo-verb Incorporation via Phrasal Adjunction to Vo. The 40th Penn Linguistics Conference (*PLC 40*), UPenn, March, 18-20.
- 2014 Person Agreement in the Denizli Dialect of Turkish. The 10th Workshop on Altaic Formal Languages (*WAFL 10*), MIT, May 2-4. [Winner of the Best Poster Award]
- 2012 The Nominalized Complements in Two Dialects of Turkish: Evidence from the Copula. The 8th Workshop on Formal Altaic Linguistics (*WAFL 8*), Stuttgart University, May, 18-20.

## Previous Fieldwork Experience

- 2018-  
2019 Western Armenian: in New Jersey and Istanbul  
Project: Bare Noun and Classifier Semantics in Western Armenian
- 2017-  
2019 Farsi: in New Jersey  
Project: Bare Noun and Classifier Semantics in Farsi
- 2012-  
2013 The Denizli dialect of Turkish: in Denizli-Çameli  
Project: The Verbal Functional Domain in the Denizli Dialect of Turkish (M.A. thesis)

## Other Projects

- 2019-  
2020 A medical project: Identifying linguistic problems of patients with schizophrenia  
- *Marmara University Research Hospital* - Istanbul, Turkey

## Employment & Teaching Experience

### **SWARTHMORE COLLEGE**

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- 2026  
Spring *Structure of Turkish (LING 065)*  
*Pragmatics (LING 041)*

2025            *Semantics (LING 040)*  
Fall            *Introduction to Language and Linguistics (LING 001)*

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

LECTURER

2025            *Semantics (LING 325)* [undergraduate]  
Spring        *Pragmatics (LING 350)* [undergraduate]

2024            *Semantics (LING 325)* [undergraduate]  
Fall            *Pragmatics (LING 350)* [undergraduate]

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE FELLOW

2024            *Structure of Turkish (Ling 187)* [graduate]  
Spring        *Knowledge of Meaning (Ling 106)* [undergraduate]  
                  *Senior Writing Thesis Year (Ling 99B)* [undergraduate]

2023            *Senior Writing Thesis Year (Ling 99A)* [undergraduate]  
Fall

2023            *Structure of Turkish (Ling 187)* [graduate]  
Spring        *Senior Writing Thesis Year (Ling 99B)* [undergraduate]

2022            *The Science of Language: An Introduction (Ling 101)* [undergraduate]  
Fall            *Senior Writing Thesis Year (Ling 99A)* [undergraduate]

LECTURER

2022            *Topics in Semantics [Bare Nominals] (Ling 207r)* [graduate]  
Spring        taught with Gennaro Chierchia  
                  *Knowledge of Meaning (Ling 106)* [undergraduate]

2021            *Semantic Theory I (Ling 116)* [graduate]  
Fall            *The Science of Language: An Introduction (Ling 101)* [undergraduate]

**YALE UNIVERSITY**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (CONTRACTOR)

2020-  
2022 Project: *The Open Handbook of (In)definiteness: A Hitchhiker's Guide to Interpreting Bare Arguments*, conducted by Veneeta Dayal

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

LECTURER

2021 *Introduction to Language and Linguistics (LIN 201)* [undergraduate]

Spring

2020 *Introduction to Language and Linguistics (LIN 201)* [undergraduate]

Fall

**QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY**

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

2021 *Advanced English Syntax (Syntax II) (LCD 220)* [undergraduate]

Spring

2020 *Understanding English Grammar (Syntax I) (LCD 120)* [undergraduate]

Fall

2020 *Advanced English Syntax (Syntax II) (LCD 220)* [undergraduate]

Spring

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

2019 Visiting Scholar

Fall

2017 *Introduction to the Study of Language (LING 101)* [undergraduate]

Spring

2016 *Introduction to the Study of Language (LING 101)* [undergraduate]

Fall

2016 *Introduction to Linguistics (LING 201)* [undergraduate]

Spring

2015 Teaching Assistant to *Introduction to Linguistics (LING 201)* [undergraduate]

Fall

**EFL/ESL EXPERIENCE**

2011-  
2013 EFL Instructor, Yıldız Technical University  
taught grammar, reading, writing, listening, speaking courses

- 2012 Material Development Coordinator, Yıldız Technical University  
Duties: Developing and improving course materials
- 2010 Intern EFL Instructor, IDV Özel Bilkent Okulları (Bilkent Collage)  
Spring
- 2009 Intern EFL Instructor, The Inholland University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands  
Spring

## Advising

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- 2022- Ankana Saha. Kind Reference in Bangla, Committee member for Generals Paper  
2023 [graduate]
- 2022- Ankana Saha. The Anaphoric Potential of Demonstrative Descriptions: An Experimental  
2024 Study, Committee member for Generals Paper [graduate]
- 2022- Daria Bikina. (In)definiteness in Russian Bare Arguments: An Experimental Study,  
2024 Committee member for Generals Paper [graduate]
- 2021 *Reading and Special Topics (Ling 301)* [graduate]  
Fall Yi-Chi Wu. The Semantics and Pragmatics of Information Structure in Mandarin.

## Academic Service

### EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2024- Editorial board member, *Semantics & Pragmatics*

### REVIEWING

- 2025 Article: *Linguistics & Philosophy*  
Conference: *SALT 35, Tu+10, SuB 30*
- 2024 Article: *Natural Language Semantics, Glossa, Semantics & Pragmatics*  
Conference: *SuB 29, Tu+9, WCCFL 42*
- 2023 Article: *Glossa*  
Conference: *SALT 34, NELS 54, SuB 28, SALT 33, WCCFL 41, Tu+8*

- 2022 Article: *Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Journal of Semantics*, *Glossa*, *Dilbilim Arařtırmaları Dergisi (Journal of Linguistics Research)*, *The Linguistic Review*, *Roczniki Humanistyczne (Annals of Arts)*  
Conference: *Tu+7*, *SuB 27*, *NELS 53*, *TLLC1*
- 2021 Project: *NSF*, Conference: *NELS 52*
- 2020 Article: *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, *Glossa*, Conference: *Tu+6*
- 2018 Article: *Journal of Semantics*
- 2018 Conference: *ConCALL*, *Tu+4*, *Tu+5*

#### OTHER SERVICE

- 2018-2019 Co-organizer of 4th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (*Tu+4*), New York University and Rutgers University, February 16-17, 2019.
- 2018 RULing XIII Co-organizer (Annual student-run Linguistics Conference at Rutgers)
- 2016-2017 St@r Co-organizer (Syntactic Theory at Rutgers- reading group)
- 2013-2019 Member of Linguistics Graduate Student Association (LGSA)
- 2014-2015 Colloquium Co-organizer at Rutgers

#### Awards & Grants

- 2023 College Fellowship at Harvard University
- 2024 College Fellowship at Harvard University
- 2022 College Fellowship at Harvard University
- 2023 Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence
- 2022 Spring Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2018-2019 TA/GA Professional Development Fund
- 2017-2018 Mellon Summer Research Grant

- 2014-2015 Mellon Summer Research Grant
- 2014 Best Poster Award. The 10th Workshop on Altaic Formal Languages (WAFL 10), MIT. May, 2-4
- 2013-2017 Excellence Fellowship for Doctoral Study at Rutgers University

## Tech Skills

HTML, Python,  $\LaTeX$  , Praat, R, PCibex

## Languages

Turkish (native), English (fluent), Farsi (intermediate)