Yağmur Sağ-Parvardeh

Lecturer
Rutgers University
Department of 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-   The Meaning Across Languages Lab (MAL) at Rutgers University
             (PI: Dorothy Ahn)

             The Meaning and Modality Lab (M&M) at Harvard University
2021-2024   (PI: Kathryn Davidson)

Publications & Manuscripts

Journal Submissions

2025   Yağmur Sağ, Ömer Demirok, and Muhammet Bal. A Novel Architecture for Pseudo-incorporation. Accepted with minor revisions in *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*.

2025   Zeynep Nur Demirok, Erdoğdu Akça, Ömer Demirok, Yağmur Sağ, Mehmet Kemal Kuşu. The Role of Communication in Social Functioning in Schizophrenia: Verbal and Nonverbal Aspects. Accepted in *Archives of Neuropsychiatry*.

Journal Papers

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

upcoming   Pseudo-incorporation, Event Kinds, and Atelicity. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 29 (SuB 29).*

upcoming   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)*, Casscadilla 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 Tümcesel 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

upcoming — 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 ∧ Grammar ∧ 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.

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

Rutgers University
Lecturer

| 2025 Spring | *Semantics (LING 325)* [undergraduate]
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-   Project: *The Open Handbook of (In)definiteness: A Hitchhiker's Guide to Interpreting*
2022   *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 Spring	*Advanced English Syntax (Syntax II) (LCD 220)* [undergraduate]
2020 Fall	*Understanding English Grammar (Syntax I) (LCD 120)* [undergraduate]
2020 Spring	*Advanced English Syntax (Syntax II) (LCD 220)* [undergraduate]

Rutgers University

2019 Fall	Visiting Scholar
2017 Spring	*Introduction to the Study of Language (LING 101)* [undergraduate]
2016 Fall	*Introduction to the Study of Language (LING 101)* [undergraduate]
2016 Spring	*Introduction to Linguistics (LING 201)* [undergraduate]
2015 Fall	Teaching Assistant to *Introduction to Linguistics (LING 201)* [undergraduate]

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 Spring	Intern EFL Instructor, IDV Özel Bilkent Okulları (Bilkent Collage)
2009 Spring	Intern EFL Instructor, The Inholland University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

Advising

Harvard University

2022- 2023	Ankana Saha. Kind Reference in Bangla, Committee member for Generals Paper [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 | Conference: *SALT 35* |

| 2024 | Article: *Natural Language Semantics, Glossa* |
| | Conference: *SuB 29* |

| 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 Araştırmaları 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* |

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