Simon Charlow ⬤

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Research

Specialization: formal and computational semantics for natural language.

Interests: scope and binding; indefiniteness; dynamic semantics; continuations; monads; ellipsis.

Academic employment

2024–	Associate Professor, Yale University, Department of Linguistics Faculty member, Wu Tsai Institute (2025–)
2020–24	Associate Professor, Rutgers University, Department of Linguistics Graduate Program Director (2020–22) Member, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (2016–24)
2014–20	Assistant Professor, Rutgers University, Department of Linguistics

Non-academic employment

2023–24	Principal Research Scientist, Analog Devices Spoken Language Understanding, Algorithmic Systems Group, Analog Garage

Education

2008–14	New York University, Ph.D. Linguistics. Dissertation: On the semantics of exceptional scope.
2003–07	Brown University, B.A. Linguistics (Honors) & Visual Art.

Honors & awards

2020	Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence, Rutgers University (recognizes the exceptional research accomplishments of newly-promoted and tenured faculty).
2014	Start-up grant, Rutgers University.
2013	Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University.
2009	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
	Dean of the College Outstanding Honors Thesis Award, Brown University.
2008	Henry M. MacCracken fellowship for graduate study, New York University.
	George W. Hagy Prize in Linguistics, Brown University Department of Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences (awarded to the outstanding graduating student in linguistics).
	Magna cum laude, Brown University.
2007	Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University.

Work

accepted	Effect-driven interpretation: Functors for natural language composition. Dylan Bumford & Simon Charlow. Accepted with minor revisions, Cambridge University Press *Elements in Semantics*. 149pp.
	Static and dynamic exceptional scope. In press at *Journal of Semantics*. 51pp.

Post-suppositions and semantic theory.
Accepted with minor revisions at *Journal of Semantics*. 49pp.

submitted /
in progress

Dynamic semantics with static types.
Dylan Bumford *&* Simon Charlow.
Submitted to *Linguistics and Philosophy*. 41pp.

Dynamic semantics.
Revised entry for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Scalar implicature and exceptional scope.
Under revision for *Linguistic Inquiry*. 14pp.

A modular theory of pronouns and binding.
Under revision for *Natural Language Semantics*. 15pp.

2022
On Jacobson's "Towards a Variable-Free Semantics".
Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy 100, 171–196. DOI:10.1007/978-3-030-85308-2_10.

2021
∃-closure and Alternatives.
Linguistic Inquiry 52(1), 143–152. DOI:10.1162/ling_a_00367.

2020
The scope of alternatives: indefiniteness and islands.
Linguistics and Philosophy 43, 427–472. DOI:10.1007/s10988-019-09278-3.

2019
Where is the destructive update problem?
Semantics and Pragmatics 12(10), 1–24. DOI:10.3765/sp.12.10.

2017
Parsing with Dynamic Continuized CCG.
Michael White, Simon Charlow, Jordan Needle *&* Dylan Bumford.
Proceedings of the 13th International Workshop on Tree Adjoining Grammars and Related Formalisms (TAG+13), Association for Computational Linguistics, 71–83.
https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/W17-6208/

2015
GIVENNESS, compositionally and dynamically.
Short 'schrift for Alan Prince. 7pp.

2014
Bound 'de re' pronouns and the LFs of attitude reports.
Simon Charlow *&* Yael Sharvit.
Semantics & Pragmatics 7(3), 1–43. DOI:10.3765/sp.7.3.

Stochastic time analysis of syllable-referential intervals and simplex onsets.
Adamantios I. Gafos, Simon Charlow, Jason A. Shaw *&* Philip Hoole.
Journal of Phonetics 44, 152–166. DOI:10.1016/j.wocn.2013.11.007.

2012
Cross-categorial donkeys.
Selected Papers from the 18th Amsterdam Colloquium, 261–270.
DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-31482-7_27.

2010
Can DP be a scope island?
ESSLLI 2008 & ESSLLI 2009 Student Sessions, Selected Papers, 1–12.
DOI:10.1007/978-3-642-14729-6_1.

2009
"Strong" predicative presuppositional objects.
Proceedings of New Directions in the Theory of Presupposition, ESSLLI 2009. 11pp.

2008
Free and bound pro-verbs: a unified treatment of anaphora.
Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory 18, 194–211. DOI:10.3765/salt.v0i0.2487.

External teaching and short visiting positions

2025   Effectful composition in natural language semantics (with Dylan Bumford). North American Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information (NASSLLI). University of Washington.

2022   Effectful composition in natural language semantics (with Dylan Bumford). 33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI 2022). Galway, Ireland.

2019   Extensible semantics.
        Invited minicourse, Yale University, Aug 28–Sep 10, part of a two-week visiting position.

        Alternatives in semantics.
        Invited advanced course, Eastern Generative Grammar (EGG), Wrocław, Jul 29–Aug 9.

        Extensible semantics.
        Invited minicourse, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 3 & 4.

Selected presentations (∗ = refereed, † = colloquium, ‡ = keynote/plenary)

2024   ‡ Effect-oriented interpreters for natural language.
        Invited plenary keynote address, 2nd Symposium on Philosophy of Computing, UNAM, Mexico City, November 28.

2023   Staged updates.
        Invited talk, New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, November 6.

        † Effect-driven interpretation.
        Invited colloquium, Yale University Department of Linguistics, February 28.

        Post-suppositions and modified numerals.
        Invited semantics group talk, Yale University, Department of Linguistics, March 1.

2022   Compositional semantics and functional programs.
        Invited lecture, Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University, December 22.

        The syntax-discourse interface.
        Invited talk, Language Diversity, Linguistic Theory and Cultural Identity in South Asia, Yale University, April 29.

        † [*Cancelled due to COVID-19*].
        Colloquium, University of Amsterdam (ILLC).

2020   † Givenness and local contexts.
        Colloquium, University of Chicago, April 9.

2019   † Givenness and local contexts.
        Colloquium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, December 6.

        † Givenness and local contexts.
        Colloquium, University of Delaware, November 1.

        Givenness and local contexts.
        Invited talk, Yale University Syntax/Semantics Group, September 3.

        ‡ Givenness and local contexts.
        Keynote address, Semantics and Linguistic Theory 29, UCLA, May 18. (slides)

        † Local contexts in ellipsis.
        Colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 5. (Also given at NYU, Rutgers.)

2018   Effectful composition in natural language semantics (with Dylan Bumford).
Invited lecture, New type-theoretic tools in natural language semantics, Carnegie Mellon
University (NASSLLI 2018), June 28.

Static and dynamic exceptional scope.
Invited talk, Meaning as action, All Souls College Oxford University, Mar 19.

2017   † Modularity and computation in semantic theory.
Colloquium, Princeton University, Nov 29.

∗ A modular theory of pronouns and binding.
Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics 14, Tokyo, Nov 14. (slides)

Modular alternative semantics.
UMass Amherst Semantics Group talk, Oct 25. (slides)

∗ A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Philosophical Linguistics & Linguistical Philosophy, Tarrytown, Oct 14. (slides)

A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Invited talk, New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, NYC, Sept 25. (slides)

∗ Parsing with Dynamic Continuized CCG.
Michael White, Simon Charlow, Jordan Needle & Dylan Bumford.
13th International Workshop on Tree-Adjoining Grammar and Related Formalisms
(TAG+13), Umeå, Sept 5. (slides)

A modular theory of pronouns (and binding).
Invited talk, Philosophy of Language & Linguistics, Dubrovnik, Sept 4. (slides)

Exceptional implicature.
Invited talk, Nova Scotia Meaning Workshop, Shobac NS, Jul 27. (slides)

The scope of alternatives: Indefinites and islands
Invited talk, UCSD Semantics Babble, Jun 1. (slides)

Meaning as computation?
Invited lecture, UCSD Graduate Semantics (Ling 230), May 30. (slides)

What is dynamic semantics?
Invited lecture, Rutgers Semantics Group (SURGE), Apr 20.

2016   Alternatives, and alternative semantics.
NYU Semantics Group, November 4. (abstract, slides)

∗ Monadic dynamic semantics: Side effects and scope (with Dylan Bumford).
Natural Language & Computer Science 4, Columbia Univ, July 10. (slides)

The syntax-semantics interface.
Invited lecture, Cognitive Science Proseminar, Rutgers University, October 18.

2015   † The grammar of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, University of Maryland, November 20. (abstract, slides)

Comments on "Are attitude reports ambiguous?" (Sam Cumming).
5th Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy, November 7.

† The grammar of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, Cornell University, November 5. (abstract, slides)

Monadic dynamic semantics for anaphora.
Invited talk, Dynamic Semantics: Modern type theoretic and category theoretic approaches,
The Ohio State University, October 24. (slides)

Leading issues at the interface of syntax and semantics.
Invited lecture, Cognitive Science Proseminar, Rutgers University, October 20.

Compositional licensing of silent structure.
Invited talk, CUNY Syntax Supper, October 13. (slides)

Monadic dynamic semantics for anaphora.
NYU Semantics Group, October 9.

Monads, applicative functors, and scope.
Invited lecture, Monads and Natural Language (ESSLLI 2015), Uni. Pompeu Fabra, August 7.

Conventional Implicature as a scope phenomenon.
Workshop on continuations and scope, New York University, May 22. (slides)

∗ The scope of alternatives.
Semantics and Linguistic Theory 25, Stanford University, May 15. (slides)

‡ The scope of alternatives.
Plenary address, Going Heim: Linguistic Meaning Between Structure and Use, University
of Connecticut, May 3. (handout)

Formal semantics.
Invited lecture, Advanced Topics in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, April 7.

2014   † The dynamic core of exceptional scope.
Colloquium, Rutgers University, February 28. (handout)

Locality in the syntax and semantics of attitude ascriptions.
Invited talk, Rutgers University, February 27. (handout)

2013   Ellipsis really is binding.
NYU Semantics Group, March 28.

2011   ∗ Cross-categorial donkeys.
The 18th Amsterdam Colloquium, University of Amsterdam, December 20. (slides)

More on the LFs of attitude reports.
Invited session, University of Michigan Workshop in Philosophy and Linguistics, April
9. Comments by Nicholas Fleisher, Ezra Keshet. Reported joint work with Yael Sharvit.

∗ Bound 'de re' pronouns and concept generators (with Yael Sharvit).
The 33rd Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS), Georg August
University, Göttingen, February 23.

2010   ∗ Bound 'de re' pronouns and concept generators (with Yael Sharvit).
The 41st Annual Meeting of North East Linguistic Society, University of Pennsylvania,
October 24. (handout)

∗ *De re* anaphors.
Poster at Semantics and Linguistic Theory 20, University of British Columbia and Simon
Fraser University, Vancouver, April 30. (poster)

Two kinds of *de re* blocking.
Presentation in MIT's Ling-Lunch series, March 18. (handout)

2009	∗ "Strong" predicative presuppositions. New Directions in the Theory of Presupposition, Bordeaux, July 29. (slides)
	∗ Can DP be a scope island? ESSLLI 2009 Student Session, Bordeaux, July 23. (slides)
2008	∗ Free and bound pro-verbs: a unified treatment of anaphora. Semantics and Linguistic Theory 18, UMass Amherst, March 23. (handout)

Curriculum development

| 2018–19 | Co-developed (w/Adam Jardine) Rutgers undergraduate course Computational Linguistics. Approved 2019 and offered since Spring 2020. |

Teaching

Semantics I (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2024) (course site)

Semantics II (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020) (course site)

Semantics III (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

Seminars in semantics:
- Spring 2015: Alternatives in semantics (course site)
- Spring 2017: Computational semantics (course site)
- Spring 2022, Fall 2024: Dynamic semantics
- Fall 2022: Effectful composition in natural language semantics

Qualifying paper workshop (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Fall 2016, Fall 2018)

Honors Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Fall 2016, Spring 2020)

Semantics (Spring 2016, Spring 2018)

Computational Linguistics (Fall 2021)

Advising

As dissertation chair:

ongoing	Sreekar Raghotham. Title TBD (verbal reflexives). Co-chair: Mark Baker.
2022	Ang Li. Comparing Alternatives. Data scientist, J.P. Morgan NY.
	Lydia Newkirk. Be flexible, but not too flexible: limited variable-force modals in Kinande and the typology of modal force. Lecturer in Linguistics, Yale University.
2021	Yu Cao. Plurality and quantification in graph representation of meaning. Applied Researcher, eBay.
2020	Haoze Li (NYU). A dynamic semantics for *wh*-questions. Co-chair: Anna Szablcsi. Yunshan Scholar (Assistant Professor), Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.
2020	Augustina Owusu. Cross-categorial definiteness/familiarity. Visiting Assistant Professor, Boston College.
2019	Jess H.-K. Law. Constraints on distributivity. Co-chair: Veneeta Dayal. Assistant Professor, UC Santa Cruz.

As dissertation committee member:

2020   Livia Camargo Souza. Switch-reference as anaphora: a modular account.

Samuel Carter. Exploring information.

2019   Yağmur Sağ. The semantics of bare nouns, counting, and measurement.

2018   Yi-Hsun Chen. Superlative modifiers: Ignorance and concession.

2017   Dylan Bumford (NYU). Split-scope effects in definite descriptions. External member.

Beibei Xu. Biased questions.

2016   Mingming Liu. Varieties of alternatives.

As qualifying paper committee chair:

2022   Indira Das. Unique and Anaphoric definites in Odia. Co-chair: Dorothy Ahn.

Gérard Avelino. The Tagalog particle *sana*: Modals and subjunctives at the syntax-semantics interface.

2019   Yu Cao. Scope-taking in graph representation of meaning. Co-chair: Adam Jardine.

Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini. Non-speaker-oriented conventional implicatures as mixed quotations (RuCCS Cog Sci Certificate project).

Lydia Newkirk. *Benché* and the subjunctive.

2017   Simon Goldstein. Alternator semantics (RuCCS Cog Sci Certificate project).

Ang Li. Distributing events: Mandarin verbal classifiers.

2016   Augustina Owusu. Actuality entailment in Akan.

2015   Jess Law. Modal variation, exhaustivity, and cumulativity. Co-chair: Veneeta Dayal.

As qualifying paper committee member:

2022   Jiaxing Yu. The non-deictic uses of Mandarin Demonstratives.

2021   Akane Ohtaka. *Wh-ka* and *wh-demo* in Japanese.

2020   Chaoyi Chen. The concessive reading of scalar particles.

Jillian Harper. Temporal ambiguity in possessive constructions.

Sreekar Raghotham. Disjunctions and polarity.

2018   Eileen Blum. On the locality of vowel harmony over multi-tiered ASRs.

Shiori Ikawa. The role of functions in concealed questions and identity questions.

2017   Livia Camargo Souza. Modal inference and negative dependencies in Brazilian Portuguese.

Deepak Alok. Semantics of various internal components of Magahi numeral phrases.

2016   Jess Law. The discourse potential of bare NPs in Mandarin.

Kunio Kinjo. Contrastively topicalized *wh* in Japanese and Okinawan.

Yağmur Sağ. The semantics of number in Turkish.

2015   Yi-Hsun Chen. Actuality entailment, aspect and genericity.

Ümit Atlamaz. Focus in questions.

Other advising:

2020   Alexandra Maris. Crossover and the proportion problem in conditionals. Undergraduate Independent Study Project.

Florence Verity. Implicatures in continuation-based dynamic semantics by reasoning in the context. External examiner: Australia National University MPhil thesis.

2019   Rory Harder (University of Toronto Philosophy PhD candidate). Rutgers faculty host.

Service to the field

ongoing	**Journal refereeing:** *Journal of Logic, Language and Information, Glossa, Journal of Applied Logics, Journal of Semantics, Language, Snippets, Lingua* (pre-exodus), *Linguistics & Philosophy, Semantics & Pragmatics, The Linguistic Review, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language Semantics,* Oxford University Press, MIT Press.
	Conference refereeing: Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT), Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB), Amsterdam Colloquium (AC), Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC), Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS), Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW), Semantics and Philosophy in Europe (SPE), North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), ESSLLI Student Session, Conference of the Student Organisation of Linguistics in Europe (ConSOLE), West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL).
2024	Program committee, NELS 55.
2021	Program committee, Computational and Experimental Explanations in Semantics and Pragmatics (ExpSem2021, ESSLLI 2021 workshop).
2019–22	Semantics and Linguistic Theory steering committee, technology coordinator.
2019	Program committee, Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP 6).
2018	Program committee, Natural Language in Computer Science (NLCS 18).
2017–24	*Snippets.* Member, Review Board.
2015–	Member, Editorial Board, *Semantics & Pragmatics*
2015–16	NASSLLI 2016. Member, Organizing Committee; member, Program Committee.
2014	MACSIM IV. Member, organizing team.
2013–14	Semantics and Linguistics Theory 24. Member, program committee.
2009–11	*Journal of Semantics.* Scientific Assistant (paid).
2009–10	Linguistics Association of NYU (LANYU). Vice President.

Editorial responsibilities

2023–	Associate Editor, *Journal of Semantics*

Service to the university

2022	Chair, Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Admissions Committee
2020–22	Member, Rutgers School of Graduate Studies Executive Council
2020–22	Graduate Program Director, Rutgers Linguistics
2020	Rutgers Linguistics Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee
2019–20	Co-chair, Rutgers Linguistics tenure-track semantics hiring committee
2019	Rutgers Linguistics, visiting semantics position hiring committee
2018–22	Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Program Committee
2017–18	Rutgers Linguistics semantics hiring Committee
2017	Rutgers Linguistics Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee
	Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Admissions Committee
2016–24	Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS) Executive Council
2016–17	RuCCS Web Content Committee
2016	Rutgers Linguistics Graduate Admissions Committee.