

Thomas de Haven Roberts

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		Citizenship	United States
		Residence	Netherlands

Research Interests

Broad: Formal semantics, pragmatics, syntax-semantics interface, semantics-pragmatics interface, computational methods

Narrow: Attitudes, clausal embedding, questions, context update, lexical semantics, discourse particles, Estonian, internet linguistics

Employment

2023-	Assistant Professor of Computational Linguistics, Utrecht University Linguistics section, Department of Languages, Literature, and Communication
2021-2023	Postdoctoral Researcher , University of Amsterdam Institute for Logic, Language and Computation

Education

2021	Ph.D., Linguistics , University of California, Santa Cruz, USA Dissertation: <i>How to make believe: Inquisitiveness, veridicality, and evidentiality in belief reports</i> Committee: Pranav Anand (chair), Donka Farkas, Jim McCloskey, Floris Roelofsen
2017	M.A., Linguistics , University of California, Santa Cruz, USA
2014	S.B., Linguistics and Philosophy , Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Publications

* = equal contribution, authors listed alphabetically

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

2022 Nguyen, A., **T. Roberts**, P. Anand, & J. Fox Tree. Look, Dude: How Hyperpartisan and Nonpartisan Writing Differ in Online Communities. *Discourse & Society* 33(3): 371-390.

MANUSCRIPTS

Under revision **Roberts, T.*** & K. Sasaki*. What embeds exclamatives and why. Under revision for *Semantics & Pragmatics*.

Under revision Roberts, T. How to build a question-embedder: The case of *can't believe*. Invited submission for Wataru Uegaki & Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *The interface between logic and grammar in the domain of clausal complementation* (Special issue of *Glossa*; invited submission).

Under revision Roberts, T. Inquisitive responsive predicates and the logic of contemplation. Under revision for *Journal of Semantics*.

In preparation Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Bare adverbial responses and the typology of polarity ellipsis.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2023 Roberts, T. Uninquisitive questions. In *Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary*, 21-30.

2022 Hoeks, M.*, J. Pesetsky*, D. Özyıldız*, & **T. Roberts***. Event plurality and quantifier scope across clause boundaries. In J.R. Starr, J. Kim, & B. Öney (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics & Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 32, 443-462.

2021 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and nominal complements. In A. Farinella & A. Hill (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society (NELS)* 51 vol. 2, 167-180.

2019 Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed veridicality. In K. Blake, F. Davis, K. Lamp, & J. Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 29, 665-685.

2019 M. Kroll* & **T. Roberts***. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. In M.T. Espinal, E. Castroviejo, M. Leonetti, L. McNally, C. Real-Puigdollers (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 23, 37-53.

2018 Roberts, T. Responsive predicates are question-embedding: Evidence from Estonian. In S. Solt & U. Sauerland (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung* 22, 271-288.

2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White. On double access, cessation and parentheticality. In S. D'Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney, & M. Wiegand (eds.), *Proceedings of SALT* 25, 18-37. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.

2013 Chang, A., D. Nunez, **T. Roberts**, D. Sengeh, & C. Breazeal. Pre-pilot findings on developing a literacy tablet. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, 471-474. New York, NY: ACM.

2012 Chang, A., C. Breazeal, F. Faridi, **T. Roberts**, G. Davenport, H. Lieberman, & N. Montfort. Textual tinkrability: encouraging storytelling behaviors to foster emergent literacy. In *CHI '12 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 505-520. New York, NY: ACM.

IN WORKING PAPER VOLUMES

- 2020 Roberts, T. The root of it all: Affectedness across lexical categories. In A. Hedding & M. Hoeks (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics at Santa Cruz 4*, 77-96.

Presentations

* = *equal contribution, authors listed alphabetically*

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Roberts, T. Parenthetically-embedded questions. MECORE workshop on approaches to the semantics of clause-embedding predicates: theories, cross-linguistic data, and experimentation, University of Edinburgh, October 22-24. [virtual]
- 2020 **Roberts, T*** and K. Sasaki*. What embeds exclamatives and why. Words with Friends, Stanford University, November 13. [virtual]
- 2019 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Polarity ellipsis derives bare adverbial responses, and stripping, too. UCSC-Stanford Negation, Polarity, & Ellipsis Workshop, November 2.
- 2018 Roberts, T. I can't believe what's not butter: Deriving distributed factivity. Syntax & Semantics Circle, UC Berkeley, November 5.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS)

- 2024* Sbardolini, G. & **T. Roberts**. Getting not even. Talk at the 4th Tsinghua Interdisciplinary Workshop on Logic, Language, and Meaning, Beijing, China, March 29-31.
- 2023 Nguyen, A., **T. Roberts**, P. Anand, & J. Fox Tree. Writing style affects partisanship and persuasiveness ratings. 5th Symposium on Multidisciplinary International Symposium on Disinformation in Open Online Media, November 21-22, Centrum Wiskunde en Informatica, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2023 Özyıldız, D. * & **T. Roberts.***. Bad attitudes: Impossible presuppositions and the false belief gap. 14th Tbilisi International Symposium on Logic, Language and Computation (TbiLLC), September 18-22, Telavi, Georgia.
- 2023 **Roberts, T.*** & D. Özyıldız*. Bad attitudes: Impossible presuppositions and the false belief gap. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 28, September 5-8, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany.
- 2023 **Roberts, T.*** & D. Rudin*. Polarity reversal questions and the semantics of prosodic integration. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 28, September 5-8, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany.
- 2023 Roberts, T. Uninquisitive questions. Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB) 4, University of Lorraine, France.
- 2023 Roberts, T. There isn't a form-meaning mismatch in double negation shifting, I don't think. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 53, January 12-14, University of Göttingen, Germany.

- 2022 Hoeks, M.*, J. Pesetsky*, D. Özyıldız*, & **T. Roberts***. Event plurality and quantifier scope across clause boundaries. *Semantics & Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 32, June 8-10, El Colegio de Mexico & Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- 2022 Hoeks, M.*, J. Pesetsky*, D. Özyıldız*, & **T. Roberts***. Event plurality and quantifier scope across clause boundaries. *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW)* 45, April 26-29, Queen Mary University of London, UK. [*poster*]
- 2021 **Roberts, T.*** & K. Sasaki*. Which predicates embed exclamatives and why. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [*virtual*]
- 2021 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [*poster; virtual*]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and the syntactic status of embedded clauses. Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 13, December 17-18, KU Leuven. [*virtual*]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 51, November 6-8, Université du Québec à Montréal. [*virtual*]
- 2019 Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed factivity. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 29, May 15-17, UCLA.
- 2019 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 29-31, University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 2019 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Are bare adverbial responses derived by ellipsis? Definitely. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 3-6, New York, New York.
- 2018 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. *Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)* 23, September 5-7, University Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Pragmatic Licensing of Polar Questions in Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 54, April 26-28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. The syntax of statives across categories. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 4-8, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2017 Roberts, T. Relating form and meaning in negative polar questions. *Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB)* 2, December 18-19, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2017 Roberts, T. The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. *Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB)* 22, September 7-10, University of Potsdam/ZAS, Germany.
- 2017 Roberts, T. Responsive Predicates are Question-Embedding: Evidence from Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53, May 25-27.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White (2015). On double access, cessation and parentheticality. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT)* 25, Stanford University, California.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 2, University of Southern California, December 1-2.
- 2018 Kroll, M.* & **T. Roberts***. I hold these truths to be self-evident: The semantic and pragmatic contributions of *of course*. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 11, UC Berkeley, October 28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Bias in Estonian negative polar questions. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 10. [*poster*]
- 2017 Roberts, T. The semantics of responsive predicates and their complements in Estonian. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 18.
- 2015 Roberts, T. Thinking about thinking in Estonian. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Workshop (CUSP) 8, Stanford University.

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY:

- 2024 **Formal and Natural Languages** (Spring, BA Artificial Intelligence)
Language and Computation (Spring, BA Linguistics)

INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM:

- 2023 **Human Cognition** (Spring, BA Cognition, Language, & Communication)
- 2022 **Semantics & Pragmatics** (Spring, BA Linguistics)
- 2021 **Logic and Conversation** (Fall, MSc Logic)

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR, UCSC, BA LINGUISTICS:

- 2021 **Language OnLine (LOL)** (Summer; online)
Structure of Uralic Languages (Spring; online)
- 2019 **Semantics 1** (Fall)

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UCSC, BA LINGUISTICS:

- 2020 **Semantics 1** (Fall; online)
Instructor: Jake Vincent
Syntax 2 (Spring; online)
Instructor: Ivy Sichel
Semantics 2 (Winter)
Instructor: Jess H.-K. Law
- 2019 **Invented Languages** (Spring; online)
Instructor: Pranav Anand
Semantics 2 (Winter)
Instructor: Donka Farkas

2018	Introduction to Linguistics (Spring) <i>Instructor: Pranav Anand</i> Syntax 1 (Winter) <i>Instructor: Jim McCloskey</i>
2017	Pragmatics (Fall) <i>Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu</i> Language, Society, and Culture (Spring) <i>Instructor: Jim McCloskey</i> Semantics 1 (Winter) <i>Instructor: Donka Farkas</i>
2016	Introduction to Linguistics (Fall) <i>Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu</i>

Advising

MASTER'S THESIS, ADVISOR:

Ongoing	Fiona Spencer (Master of Logic, UvA, co-advised with Maria Aloni)
2023	Nathan Malik (Master of Logic, UvA, co-advised with Maria Aloni) <i>Morphology and Compositional Interpretation</i>

MASTER'S THESIS, COMMITTEE MEMBER:

2023	Siyuan Cao (Master of Logic, UvA) Marleen Gaasbeek (Master of Logic, UvA)
2022	Tomasz Klochowicz (Master of Logic, UvA) Flavia Nährlich (Master of Logic, UvA)

BA THESIS, ADVISOR:

2022	Hamin Lee (BA Linguistics, UvA, co-advised with Milica Denić) <i>Semantics and pragmatics of Dutch response particles jawel and ja...wel</i>
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RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

2018-2019	Honig Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, UCSC Mentees: Madeleine King & Koy Rugama Project: Memory for prosodic features <i>Co-supervised with Jennifer Bellik</i>
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Awards and fellowships

2020	Dissertation Quarter Fellowship, UCSC
2019	Summer Dissertation Fellowship, The Humanities Institute, UCSC
2015-2016	Regents Fellowship, UCSC
2014-2015	Baggett Fellowship, University of Maryland

2014	1st place, S. Klein Prize for Technical Writing, MIT
2010-2014	James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

Service

JOURNAL REVIEWING

Glossa
Journal of Slavic Linguistics
Philosophical Quarterly

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT REVIEWING

Amsterdam Colloquium
California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics
European Summer School on Language, Logic, and Information (x3)
Semantics and Linguistic Theory (x2)
West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (x2)

GRANT REVIEWING

2022	National Science Centre of Poland: OPUS Grants
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CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

2022	Amsterdam Colloquium, Organizing Committee and Proceedings Editor
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SERVICE TO THE FIELD

2015-	Organizing & Program Committees, North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO)
2014-2015	NACLO site host, University of Maryland

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

2022-2023	Organizer, Meaning, Logic & Cognition seminar series, ILLC
2019	Coordinator, Graduate Student open house, UCSC
2018-2019	Coordinator, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Language Philosophy (SPLAP) reading group
2017-2018	Events Committee Chair, UCSC Linguistics
2016-2017	Computer Czar & Editor of the WHASC newsletter, UCSC Linguistics

Computer skills

Languages	Python, R, PHP, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Bash
Programs	Praat, Audacity, IbexFarm, OpenSesame

Languages

Native	English
Advanced	Dutch, French
Intermediate	Estonian, Japanese