

# Jekaterina Mažara

Department of Comparative Language Science  
University of Zurich  
Affolternstrasse 56  
8050 Zürich  
Switzerland

Email: [jekaterina.mazara@uzh.ch](mailto:jekaterina.mazara@uzh.ch)  
Citizenship: Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ukraine  
Website: [ivs.uzh.ch/de/staff/mazara.html](http://ivs.uzh.ch/de/staff/mazara.html)  
[jekaterima.github.io](https://jekaterima.github.io)  
Children: 1 child, born September 2020

## Academic Positions Held

Jan 2021–

Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Comparative Language Science and Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution, University of Zurich.

Internal collaborator, National Center for Competence in Research (NCCR) Project *Evolving Language*.

Jun 2016–May 2020.

Corpus Collection and Workflow Manager, SNF Project “The morphosyntax of agreement in Tuatschin: acquisition and contact”, PIs, Prof. Michele Loporcaro and Prof. Sabine Stoll, Department of Comparative Language Science, University of Zurich.

Sep 2015–Aug 2019.

Researcher, ERC Project “ACQDIV: Acquisition processes in maximally diverse languages: Min(d)ing the ambient language”, PI, Prof. Sabine Stoll, Department of Comparative Language Science, University of Zurich.

Apr 2012–Jun 2015.

Researcher, SNF Project “Implicit interaction strategies in political discourse of Post-Socialist Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic”, PI, Prof. Daniel Weiss, Slavic Department, University of Zurich.

Sep 2010–Aug 2015.

Lecturer, Slavic Linguistics and Russian Language Courses,  
Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Slavic Department, University of Zurich.

## Education

Sep 2015–Feb 2020.

Ph.D., General Linguistics, University of Zurich.

Dissertation Title: *Development of Morphological Flexibility in the Acquisition of Aspect: Input Patterns and Children’s Production* (defended: April 27, 2020)

Supervision: Prof. Dr. Sabine Stoll (Department of Comparative Language Science, University of Zurich), Prof. Dr. Jean-Pascal Pfister (Department of Physiology, University of Berne and Institute of Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich)

Committee: Prof. Dr. Balthasar Bickel (Department of Comparative Language Science, University of Zurich), Prof. Dr. Elena Lieven (Div. of Psychology Communication and Human Neuroscience, University of Manchester)

2012.

Visiting Scholar, Department of Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley. Faculty sponsor: Johanna Nichols.

Feb 2009–Aug 2010.

M.A., Double Major in Slavic Linguistics and English Literature, Minor in General Linguistics, University of Zurich.

Sep 2006– Dec 2008.

B.A., Double Major in Slavic Studies and English Linguistics and Literature, University of Zurich.

## Additional training

August 2010. – Summer School in Linguistic Typology, University of Leipzig.

October 2011. – Digital humanities and corpus linguistics course, joint doctoral school in linguistics, U Zurich and Munich.

Spring semester 2022. – Eye tracking: From experiment design to statistical and machine learning-based data analysis class at UZH.

September 2023. – Computational Psychiatry Course, Translational Neuromodeling Unit, ETH and U of Zurich.

## Continuing education in university teaching

Research-based teaching and learning.

Teaching and learning in laboratory practical classes.

Developing a personal teaching profile and portfolio.

Voice modulation and presentation techniques.

Examinations with Multiple Choice: different types and best practices.

Creating a good classroom atmosphere in online-classes.

Fostering interaction in lectures for large classes.

## Peer-reviewed publications

2024. **Jekaterina Mažara**, Michele Loporcaro, and Sabine Stoll. Acquisition of gender agreement depends on frequency distributions in specific contexts. To appear in: *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. California Digital Library UC Merced.

2024. Selma Hardegger, **Jekaterina Mažara**, Birgit Hellwig, Aylin Küntay, Barbara Pfeiler, and Sabine Stoll. Verbs or Nouns? A cross-linguistic study examining the effect of morphological complexity and input on children's early lexical development. To appear in: *Proceedings of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. California Digital Library UC Merced.

2024. (*under review*) **Jekaterina Mažara**, Elena Lieven, and Sabine Stoll. Pointing and Language Are Used in Similar Ways but not at Similar Rates in Different Cultures. Under review in: *Human Development*.

2024. (*under review*) **Jekaterina Mažara** and Sabine Stoll. Why children deviate from input distributions: Frequency and salience of optional markers. Under review in: *Language Acquisition*.

2024. (*under review*) **Jekaterina Mažara**, Michele Loporcaro, and Sabine Stoll. Lexical and morphological acquisition of gender agreement: Data from Romansch Tuatschin. Under review in: *Journal of Child Language*.

2024. (*under review*) Sakine Çabuk-Ballı, Paul Widmer, **Jekaterina Mažara**, Aylin C. Küntay, Birgit Hellwig, Shanley Allen, Sabine Stoll. Negation in First Language Acquisition: Universal or Language-specific? Under review in: *Cognitive Science*.

2024. (*under review*) Sabine Stoll, Michele Loporcaro, **Jekaterina Mažara**, and Balthasar Bickel. Entropy reduction during learning affects language change differently from language acquisition: evidence from a natural experiment in Romance. Under review in: *Open Mind*.

2022. **Jekaterina Mažara**, Elena Lieven, and Sabine Stoll. How Do Children Combine Pointing and Language in the Earliest Stages of Development? A Case Study of Russian and Chintang. In: *Proceedings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. California Digital Library, UC Merced, 3696-3702.
2021. **Jekaterina Mažara** and Sabine Stoll. Frequency vs. Salience in First Language Acquisition: The Acquisition of Aspect Marking in Chintang. In: *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. California Digital Library, UC Merced, 840-846.
2019. **Jekaterina Mažara** and Sabine Stoll. How Do Children Become Flexible in Their Use of Grammatical Categories? The Aspect Hypothesis Revisited. In: *Proceedings of the 44th annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Cascadilla Press, 363-375.
2019. **Jekaterina Mažara** and Sabine Stoll. Development of Verb Morphology: From Item-Specificity to Proficient Use. In: *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*.
2017. Sabine Stoll, **Jekaterina Mažara**, and Balthasar Bickel. The acquisition of polysynthetic verb forms in Chintang. In: Fortescue, M. D., Mithun, M., Evans, N. (eds.). *The Oxford Handbook of Polysynthesis*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 495 - 514.
2013. Ten in der Obecná Čeština: Jugendjahre eines zukünftigen Artikels?. In: Velmezova, E. (ed.). *Schweizerische Beiträge zum XV. Internationalen Slavistenkongress in Minsk*, August 2013. Bern: Peter Lang, 143-164.
2013. Irony in the face(s) of politeness: Strategic use of verbal irony in Czech political TV debates. In: Thielemann, N., Kosta, P. (eds.). *Approaches to Slavic Interaction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 187-213.
2012. Ironie - Freund oder Feind?: Zur Auswirkung von Ironie auf das Höflichkeitsmanagement. In: Behensky, S. (ed.). *Konferenzsammelband m\*OST 2010*. München: Verlag Otto Sagner, 24-31.
2012. Strategičeskoe upotreblenie ironii v social'nyx i političeskix televizionnyx tok-šou. In: Rozanova, N. (ed.). *Problemy rečevogo obščeniija*. Moscow: Nauka/FLINTA, 278-287.
2011. Missing verbs in colloquial Russian: Ambiguity or Vagueness?. In: Karl, K B ; Krumbholz, G., Lazar, M. (eds.). *Beiträge der europäischen Slavistischen Linguistik (POLYSLAV)*. München: Verlag Otto Sagner, 137-145.
2011. Every Mama Needs a Baby: Ein neuer Zugang zur Semantik von Mutterrollen im Russischen. In: Heeg, D. (ed.), *Konferenzsammelband m\*OST 2009*. München: Verlag Otto Sagner, 8pp.
2010. Swiss Cheese for Lazy Speakers: Verb Omissions in Russian and Czech. In: Grønn, A., Marijanovic, I. (eds.). *Russian in Contrast*. Oslo: University of Oslo, 231-242.

## Awards and Grants

2023. SAGW conference organization grant for the organization of X-PPL 2023. [CHF 8000]
2023. SNF Scientific Exchanges grant for keynote speakers and travel stipends for PhD students attending X-PPL 2023. [CHF 3000]
2022. SAGW conference organization grant for the organization of X-PPL 2022. [CHF 8000]
2021. SAGW conference organization grant for the organization of X-PPL 2021. [CHF 8000]
2019. SAGW travel grant to attend ICLC in Nishinomia, Japan. [CHF 1200]
2018. Graduate Campus Travel Grant for the attendance of CogSci in Montreal. [CHF 1500]
2012. Travel grant from the Graduate School in Linguistics, UZH, for the stay at UC Berkeley, USA, as part of the visiting scholar program. [CHF 6000]
2010. Travel and accommodation grant from the Graduate School in Linguistics, UZH, for the attendance of the Summer School in Linguistic Typology in Leipzig, Germany. [CHF 2500]

2009. Best student paper prize of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Zurich.  
 2008. Undergraduate fellowship for the attendance of a 4-week summer school in scientific translation from the Saint Petersburg State University, Russia.  
 2008. Best student paper prize of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Zurich.

## Teaching

- Spring 2024. Language Development.  
 Fall 2023. Statistics for Linguistic Research.  
 Fall 2022. Introduction to Statistics.  
 Spring 2022. Introduction to Language Acquisition Research.  
 Fall 2021. Statistics for Linguistic Research.  
 Spring 2021. Introduction to Language Acquisition Research.  
 Fall 2018. TA and tutorial for Bayesian Quantitative Methods (Instructor: Chundra Cathcart).  
 Fall 2016. TA for seminar on The Acquisition of Negation (Instructor: Sabine Stoll).  
 Spring 2015. Tutorial for Quantitative Methods in Linguistics (Main instructor: Balthasar Bickel).  
 Spring 2015. MA-level Seminar on L1 and L2 Acquisition of Aspect in Slavic Languages  
 Fall 2014. Cognitive Linguistics  
 Spring 2014. Introduction to Linguistics  
 Spring 2014. Russian Phonology: Theory and Practice.  
 Fall 2013. History and Typology of the Slavic Languages  
 Fall 2013. Syntax of Colloquial Russian (together with Daniel Weiss)  
 Spring 2013. Introduction to Linguistics  
 Spring 2013. Ellipsis and Zero in Russian Syntax (together with Daniel Weiss)  
 Spring 2012. Aspect in Russian: Theoretical Approaches and Use  
 Spring 2012. Advanced Russian: Conversation and Reading Skills  
 Fall 2011. History and Typology of the Slavic Languages  
 Fall 2011. Intermediate Russian: Grammar  
 Spring 2011. Introduction to Linguistics  
 Fall 2010. Aspect in Russian: Theoretical Approaches and Use  
 Spring 2010. Tutorial for Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Daniel Weiss)  
 Fall 2009. Undergraduate TA for Milan Kundera's Czech Novels (Instructor: German Ritz).  
 Fall 2009. Tutorial for Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Anna Möhl)  
 Spring 2009. Tutorial Morphology and Syntax of Czech for the course Typology of Slavic Languages (Instructor: Daniel Weiss)  
 Fall 2008. Tutorial for Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Isabelle Sandoz)

## Supervision of Students

- BA theses: Nick Hintermann (2015); Irina Largey (2021); Oliwia Oleszawska (2021); Joey Ke-Yi Huang (2022); Lilith Ackermann (2024).  
 MA theses: Mariana Illescas Buendia (2024, co-supervision with Sabine Stoll); Selma Hardegger (2022, co-supervision with Sabine Stoll); Danica Pajović (2017, in an unofficial capacity).  
 PhD co-supervision: Sakine Çabuk-Ballı (2024).  
 main supervisor MA thesis: Zuzana Wagner (2013). Attrition phenomena in second generation heritage speakers of Czech growing up in the Zurich and Basel regions of Switzerland: A pilot study of 20 young adult speakers based on questionnaires, narratives, and structured interviews. (MA not completed/not filed for personal reasons)

## Organization of Conferences and Symposia

- 2024. Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning (X-PPL), University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2024. Symposium on *Acquisition of Complex Predicates* at the 16th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Prague.
- 2023. Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning (X-PPL), University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2022. Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning (X-PPL), University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2021. Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning (X-PPL), University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2017. Workshop *First Language Acquisition in the Languages of the World*, at SLE 2017 in Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2013. Ain't misbehavin? Implicit and explicit strategies in Eastern European political discourse. Workshop organized at the University of Zurich.
- 2013. Panel on Indirect communication in political discourse at the Fifteenth International Congress of Slavic Studies in Minsk.

## Service

- 2020–2023. Early Career Researcher Representative to the department assembly and university-wide body of representatives for the Department of Comparative Language Science, University of Zurich.
- 2021–. Peer mentorship group for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Personal peer mentorship of 2 PhD students.
- 2019. Presenter at *Scientifica* (joint science fair for U. Zurich and ETH Zurich).
- 2017–2022. Early career research delegate to the Program Development committee of the Department of Comparative Language Science. Involved in reviewing and developing BA and MA course structures and programs Comparative Language Science (BA) and Evolutionary Linguistics (MA) and the inter-departmental Monomaster Linguistics, the University of Zurich.
- 2018–2020. Design of University fair materials (posters, flyers) for the presentation of study programs at the Department of Comparative Language Science.
- 2017. Presenter at *Scientifica* (joint science fair for U. Zurich and ETH Zurich).
- 2014. Student contact for Erasmus Student Exchange Program at Slavic Department of the University of Zurich.

## Outreach

- 2022. Presentation of results of project on Tuatschin language acquisition and local development of grammar project for the population and town council of Val Tavetsch.
- 2017. Presentation of the project and corpus of the Tuatschin project for the population of Val Tavetsch.
- 2017. Radio interview on Radio24 (Zurich) about mono- and multilingual language acquisition.
- 2016–2018. Several articles in the local press about the Tuatschin project and corpus collection.
- 2016. Article in *Terra Grischuna*, a bi-monthly magazine in German, Rumansch, and Italian, on the Rumasch Tuatschin project and multilingual language acquisition and documentation in the context of an endangered language.
- 2016. Radio SRT interview and report about the Tuatschin project.
- 2016. Full day course for high school students on language corpus work with R and Python at Kantonsschule Baden; part of a series of hands-on workshops aimed at introducing less-known university programs to high school students.
- 2016–2018. Annual talks at the high schools of Baden and Wettingen (AG) about linguistic and psycholinguistic research and possible career paths of linguistics students.
- 2015,2017,2019. Participation in *Scientifica* (UZH/ETH science fair)

## Professional Membership

2018–. Cognitive Science Society.

2018–. International Cognitive Linguistics Association.

2018–. Association for Linguistic Typology.

2015–. Societas Linguistica Europaea.

2014–. Swiss Society of Linguistics.