

Jessica Rett

Associate Professor of Linguistics

UCLA Linguistics
3103L Campbell Hall
Los Angeles, CA, 90095
☎ 310-429-3962
☎ 310-206-5743
✉ rett@ucla.edu

Education

- 2002–2008 **PhD**, *Rutgers University*, New Brunswick, NJ.
Degree Modification in Natural Language
- 1999–2001 **BA**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI, High honors.
Japanese Numeral Classifiers: The Effect of Linguistic Configurations on Category Membership

Employment

- 2015 **Parental Leave**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014–present **Associate Professor**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2008–2014 **Assistant Professor**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.

Books

- 2015 **The Semantics of Evaluativity**, *Oxford University Press*.

Peer-reviewed articles

- in preparation **Before and after across languages**, *The semantics of structured elements*, with D. Altschuler.
- under revision **Immediate commitment, but cost-free processing, for individual/degree polysemy**, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition*, with M. Grant and S. Michniewicz.
- under revision **The semantics of attitude markers and other illocutionary content**, *Semantics & Pragmatics*.
- forthcoming **The semantics of many, much, few, and little**, *Language & Linguistic Compass*.
- 2017 **Evaluativity across adjective and construction types: An experimental study**, *Journal of Linguistics*, 1-67. doi:10.1017/S0022226717000123, with A. Brasvoveanu.
- 2016 **Elements of Formal Semantics, by Yoav Winter**, *Glossa*, 1(1): 42. 1–3, <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.231>.
- 2016 **On a shared property of deontic and epistemic modals**, *Deontic Modality*, eds. N. Charlow and M. Chrisman, Oxford University Press, 200-229.
- 2015 **Measure phrase equatives and modified numerals**, *Journal of Semantics*, 32(3):425–475.
- 2014 **The polysemy of measurement**, *Lingua*, 143:242–266.
- 2014 **The acquisition of syntactically encoded evidentiality**, *Language Acquisition* 21:1–27, with N. Hyams.

- 2013 **Similatives and the degree arguments of verbs**, *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 31(4): 1101–1137.
- 2012 **On modal subjectivity**, *UCLA Working Papers in Linguistics 16*, ed. Denis Paperno, 131–150.
- 2011 **Exclamatives, degrees and speech acts**, *Linguistics & Philosophy*, 34(5): 411–442.
- 2006 **Context, compositionality and calamity**, *Mind & Language*, 21: 541–552.

Conference proceedings

- 2015 **Antonymy in space and other strictly-ordered domains**, *Perspectives on Spatial Cognition*, vol. 10 of *The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication*, eds. M. Glanzberg, P. Svenonius, J. Skilters, 1–33.
- 2015 **Children’s comprehension of syntactically encoded evidentiality**, *Proceedings of NELS 45*, with L. Winans, N. Hyams and L. Kalin, vol. 3, 189–202.
- 2013 **A semantic account of mirative evidentials**, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XXIII*, with S. Murray, 453–472.
- 2013 **The effects of syntax on the acquisition of evidentiality**, *Proceedings of BUCLD 37*, with N. Hyams and L. Winans, vol. 1, 345–357.
- 2010 **Equatives, measure phrases and NPIs**, *Proceedings of the 17th Amsterdam Colloquium*, Logic, Language and Meaning: Lecture Notes in Computer Science vol. 6042, eds. Aloni, Bastiaanse, de Jager & Schulz, 364–373.
- 2009 **A degree account of exclamatives**, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XVIII*, eds. Friedman & Ito, 601–618.
- 2008 **Antonymy and evalutivity**, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XVII*, eds. Gibson & Friedman, 210–227.
- 2007 **How many maximizes in the Balkan Sprachbund**, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XVI*, eds. Gibson & Howell, 190–207.
- 2006 **Prenominal vs. determiner *wh*-words: evidence from the copy construction**, *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics vol.6*, eds. Bonami & Cabredo-Hofherr, 355–374.

Conference presentations

- Mar. 7, 2017 **Immediate commitment, but no evidence for a coercion cost, in individual/degree polysemy**, with M. Grant, S. Michniewicz, Coercion Across Linguistic Fields (CALF), Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken.
- Sep. 24, 2016 **Conversational implicature in degree semantics**, Philosophical Linguistics and Linguistical Philosophy (PhLiP) III, Columbia University and Princeton University.
- Mar. 4, 2015 **Incremental interpretation in cases of individual/degree polysemy**, with M. Grant, S. Michniewicz, 29th Annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Florida.
- Jan. 10, 2015 **The production/comprehension lag in evidential systems crosslinguistically**, with L. Winans, N. Hyams, and L. Kalin, 89th LSA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- Nov. 1, 2014 **Children’s comprehension of syntactically encoded evidentiality**, with L. Winans, N. Hyams, and L. Kalin, North East Linguistics Society 45, MIT.
- July 25, 2013 **The effects of syntax on the acquisition of evidentiality**, with N. Hyams and L. Winans, The 19th International Congress of Linguistics, Université de Genève, Switzerland.
- May 13, 2013 **The acquisition of evidentiality in English**, with N. Hyams, 25th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics, University of Iceland, Reykjavík.
- May 3, 2013 **A semantic account of mirative evidentials**, with S. Murray, Semantics and Linguistic Theory XXIII, University of California, Santa Cruz.

- Nov. 23, 2012 **Locative Ps and scale structure**, The Meaning of P, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany.
- Nov. 4, 2012 **The effects of syntax on the acquisition of evidentiality**, with N. Hyams and L. Winans, Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), Boston University.
- Oct. 27, 2012 **Mirativity across constructions and theories**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 5, University of San Diego.
- June 22, 2012 **Equation constructions and argument structure**, Workshop on Aspect and Argument Structure of Adjectives and Participles, University of Greenwich, London.
- Feb. 3, 2012 **Verbs, scales and manners**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 4, University of Southern California.
- Dec. 18, 2009 **Equatives, measure phrases and NPIs**, The 18th Amsterdam Colloquium, University of Amsterdam.
- Nov. 20, 2009 **Measuring difference**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 2, UC Santa Cruz.
- Mar. 21, 2008 **A degree account of exclamatives**, SALT XVIII, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- May 11, 2007 **Antonymy and evaluativity**, SALT XVII, University of Connecticut.
- April 20, 2007 **Comments on “Donkey sentences and quantifier variability”**, Central APA Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- May 22, 2006 **The African Anaphora project**, (with K. Safir, A. Angheliescu and S. Murray), Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC), Genoa, Italy.
- April 22, 2006 **Exclamatives are degree constructions**, Rutgers Linguistics Conference 1 (RULing), Rutgers University.
- Mar. 23, 2006 **How many maximizes in the Balkan Sprachbund**, SALT XVI, University of Tokyo.
- Oct. 15, 2005 **Different agreement morphemes for different agreement configurations: evidence from complementizer agreement in West Germanic**, Michigan Linguistics Society Annual Meeting, Michigan State University.
- Oct. 1, 2005 **Pronominal vs. determiner *wh*-words: evidence from the copy construction**, Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique à Paris (CSSP), Campus Jussieu, Paris.
- April 6, 2001 **Unpacking metalinguistic metaphor: A cross-linguistic study of language-as-conduit semantics**, (with A. Burke), Research and Applying Metaphor (RAAM) IV, Tunis, Tunisia.

Invited talks

- Oct. 16, 2017 **Conversational implicature in degree semantics**, *The New York Philosophy of Language Workshop*, New York University.
- Sept. 22, 2017 **Explaining ‘earliest’**, *Logic Colloquium*, University of Connecticut.
- Sept. 21, 2017 **Explaining ‘earliest’**, *LingLunch*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Nov. 12, 2016 **The semantics of attitude markers and other illocutionary content**, *6th Cornell Workshop in Linguistics and Philosophy*, Cornell University.
- Oct. 14, 2016 **Conversational implicature in degree semantics**, *Colloquium*, University of Arizona.
- April 28, 2016 **Conversational implicature in degree semantics**, *Colloquium*, Michigan State University.
- Nov. 19, 2015 **Attitude markers and sincerity conditions in a compositional semantics**, *Berkeley Meaning Sciences Club*, University of California, Berkeley.
- Mar. 30, 2015 **The production and comprehension of syntactically encoded evidentiality**, *Developmental Lunch*, University of California, San Diego.
- Sep. 12, 2014 **Antonymy in space and other strictly ordered domains**, *The 10th International Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication*, University of Latvia.
- Sep. 10, 2014 **Manner implicature in modified numerals, “Two days at least”: a workshop on scalarity**, Utrecht University.

- May 9, 2014 **Sincerity conditions in a Stalnakerian update semantics**, *Philosophy Colloquium Series*, University of California, Davis.
- April 5, 2014 **Children are expert semanticists**, *Michigan Linguistics 50th Anniversary Symposium*, University of Michigan.
- Nov. 24, 2013 **Illocutionary mood and speaker attitude**, *Michigan Philosophy and Linguistics Workshop*, University of Michigan.
- Oct. 13, 2012 **Expressing exceeded expectations in exclamatives and other constructions**, *Cornell Workshop on Speech Acts*, Cornell University.
- Sep. 29, 2012 **Space, time and antonymy**, *Rutgers Semantics Workshop*, Rutgers University Cognitive Science Center.
- April 11, 2012 **The surprisingly similar ways in which languages express similarity**, *Undergraduate Linguistics Club*, University of California, Los Angeles.
- May 28, 2010 **Equatives and Scale Subjectivity**, *Comparative Constructions Crosslinguistically*, University of Tübingen.
- May 15, 2010 **Degree quantifiers & NPIs**, *Semantics Babble*, University of California, San Diego.
- Apr. 17, 2009 **Scales and the equative**, *Scales Fest*, Stanford University.
- Nov. 14, 2008 **Exclamatives, Degrees and Speech Acts**, *Colloquium*, University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Nov. 4, 2007 **Quantum Semantics**, *Seminar on Measures and Parts*, University of Southern California.
- April 13, 2007 **The distribution of evaluativity**, *Linguistics Colloquium*, University of California, Los Angeles.
- Mar. 6, 2007 **The distribution of evaluativity**, *Research on Language at Princeton (ROLAP)*, Princeton University.
- Feb. 9, 2007 **The distribution of evaluativity**, *Linguistics Colloquium*, UMass, Amherst.
- Feb. 8, 2007 **On exclamatives**, *Semantics Seminar*, UMass, Amherst.

Teaching

- Spring 2018 **Language and Identity**, *UCLA*, 7.
- Winter 2018 **Undergraduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, 120C.
- Fall 2017 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 200C.
- Spring 2017 **Graduate Semantics 2**, *UCLA*, Ling 201C.
- Winter 2017 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 200C.
- Fall 2016 **Undergraduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 120C.
- Spring 2016 **Seminar: The semantics of degrees**, *UCLA*, Ling 252.
- Winter 2015 **Mathematical Linguistics 2**, *UCLA*, Ling 218.
- Fall 2014 **Language in context**, *UCLA*, Ling 8.
- Fall 2014 **Seminar: The semantics of speech acts**, *UCLA*, Ling 252.
- Spring 2014 **Undergraduate Semantics 2**, *UCLA*, Ling 165C.
- Winter 2014 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 200C.
- Winter 2014 **Undergraduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 120C.
- Fall 2013 **Seminar: The semantics of irrealis**, *UCLA*, with G. Greenberg, Ling 252.
- Winter 2013 **Introduction to Linguistics**, *UCLA*, Ling 20.
- Winter 2013 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 200C.
- Fall 2012 **Undergraduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 120C.
- Spring 2012 **Seminar: The Acquisition of Semantics**, *UCLA*, with N. Hyams, Ling 252.
- Winter 2012 **Undergraduate Semantics 2**, *UCLA*, Ling 165C.
- Fall 2011 **Fiat Lux: Facts and Gossip Across Languages**, *UCLA*.

- Spring 2011 **Graduate Semantics 2: Dynamic Theories**, *UCLA*, Ling 207C.
- Spring 2011 **Seminar: The Semantics of Evidentiality**, *UCLA*, Ling 252.
- Spring 2010 **Seminar: The Semantics of Sums & Scales**, *UCLA*, Ling 252.
- Winter 2010 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, 200C.
- Fall 2009 **Introduction to Language**, *UCLA*, Ling 1.
- Winter 2009 **Topics in Semantics: The Semantics of *Wh*-Phrases**, *UCLA*, Ling 252.
- Winter 2009 **Graduate Semantics 1**, *UCLA*, Ling 200C.
- Fall 2008 **Introduction to Language**, *UCLA*, Ling 1.
- Spring 2005 **Introduction to the Study of Language**, (*TA*), *Rutgers University*, Ling 101.
- Fall 2004 **Introduction to the Study of Language**, (*TA*), *Rutgers University*, Ling 101.
- Summer 2004 **Introduction to the Study of Language**, *Rutgers University*, Ling 101.
- Spring 2004 **Introduction to the Study of Language**, (*TA*), *Rutgers University*, Ling 101.
- Fall 2003 **Introduction to the Study of Language**, (*TA*), *Rutgers University*, Ling 101.

Grants & awards

- 2017 **UCLA Council on Research**, *Research Enabling Grant*, \$2,000.
- 2016 **UCLA Council on Research**, *Faculty Research Grant*, \$5,000.
- 2014 **UCLA Council on Research**, *Faculty Research Grant*, \$6,000.
- 2012 **UCLA Council on Research**, *Faculty Research Grant*, \$6,000.
- 2011 **UCLA Council on Research**, *Faculty Research Grant*, (with Nina Hyams), \$7,000.
- 2011 **UCLA Faculty Diversity & Development**, *Faculty Career Development Award*.
- 2010 **UCLA Council On Research**, *Faculty Summer Research Program*, \$6,000.
- 2009 **UCLA Council On Research**, *Research Enabling Grant*, \$1,000.

Advising

Dissertation committees

- ongoing **Member**, *Title TBA*, Marju Kaps.
- ongoing **Member**, *Title TBA*, Margit Bowler.
- 2016 **Co-chair**, *Counterfactuals in discourse*, Jos Tellings.
- 2016 **Co-chair**, *Inferences of will*, Lauren Winans.
- 2016 **Member**, *Voice and valence in Q'anjob'al*, Niki Foster.
- 2014 **Member**, *Making the most of It: word sense annotation and disambiguation in the face of data sparsity and ambiguity*, David Jurgens, **UCLA Computer Science**.
- 2014 **Member**, *Backtracking and have to: Maintaining a Unified Analysis of Conditionals*, Kaeli Ward.
- 2014 **Member**, *Evaluating the future: modal verbs, negation, and free choice*, Melanie Bervoets.
- 2012 **Member**, *Semantics and syntax of non-standard coordination*, Denis Paperno.
- 2012 **Member**, *The grammar of tolerance: On vagueness, context-sensitivity, and the origin of scale structure*, Heather Burnett.
- 2011 **Chair**, *Question embedding and the semantics of answers*, Benjamin George.
- 2010 **Member**, *The generation of implicit propositions by alleged Korean topics*, Jieun Kim.
- 2010 **Member**, *Polarity and modality*, Vincent Homer.

MA thesis committees

- 2017 **Member**, *n/a*, Kane Wheelock.
2016 **Member**, *Two types of quantity expressions in Serbo-Croatian*, Daniela Culinovic.
2016 **Member**, *Even-NPIs in embedded polar questions*, Maayan Abenina-Adar.
2014 **Member**, *Getting rid of number features*, John Gluckman.
2014 **Member**, *Conjunction and disjunction in a language without 'and'*, Margit Bowler.
2012 **Chair**, *Dynamic binding of split antecedents*, Jos Tellings.
2012 **Chair**, *The perfect of evidentiality in Georgian*, Natalia Korotkova.
2012 **Co-Chair**, *Too*, Ivan Kapitonov.
2012 **Chair**, *Alternative disjunctions in Egyptian Arabic*, Lauren Winans.
2012 **Chair**, *A micro-typology of pluractionality*, Kaeli Ward.
2011 **Member**, *Multidominant Minimalist Grammars*, Meaghan Fowlie.
2011 **Chair**, *An investigation into patterns of syntactic island repair in TP ellipsis*, Melanie Bervoets.
2010 **Member**, *Not just emphatic reflexives themselves: their syntax, semantics and prosody*, Byron Ahn.
2010 **Member**, *A corpus study of switch-reference markers in Chickasaw*, Niki Foster.

Research advising

- 2017 **The semantics of serial verb constructions**, *Lisa Bohm*, Linguistics 199.
2016 **The semantics of diminutives**, *Jordan Innabi*, Linguistics 199.
2014 **The semantics of reduplicated classifiers in Mandarin**, *Ann Zeng*, Linguistics 199.
2012 **Actually, actually is all around**, *Hannah Bower*, Linguistics 189HC.
2012 **Vector semantics and adpositions**, *Dana Kleifield*, Linguistics 197.
2011-2012 **Plurality in Bole**, *Kaeli Ward*, Research Mentorship Program.
2011 **Disjunctive questions in Egyptian Arabic**, *Lauren Winans*, Summer Research Mentorship Program.
2011 **Action at a distance in Bole**, *Kaeli Ward*, Summer Research Mentorship Program.
2010 **Pluractionality in Pomo**, *Kaeli Ward*, Summer Research Mentorship Program.
2009 **A cross-linguistic study of equatives**, *Natasha Abner*.
2005-2007 **GradFund, Rutgers University**, *Research Mentor*.

Service

Research service

- 2012–present **Semantics & Pragmatics**, *Member*, Editorial Board.
2007 **Young Investigator Award Committee**, *Member*, New York Academy of Sciences.

Research review

Journal articles, *Glossa* (2016); *Journal of Linguistics* (2013–2014, 2017); *Journal of Logic, Language, and Information* (2014); *Journal of Semantics* (2009–2016); *Language* (2016); *Lingua* (2014); *Linguistic Inquiry* (2015); *Linguistic Variation* (2014); *Linguistics* (2015); *Linguistics & Philosophy* (2010–2013); *Natural Language Semantics* (2007–2012, 2016); *Semantics & Pragmatics* (2013–2016); *Studia Linguistica* (2008).

Conference abstracts and proceedings, *Amsterdam Colloquium (2013–2015)*; *Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW, 2013)*; *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL, 2006)*; *Logic and Engineering of Natural Language Semantics (LENLS, 2009)*; *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory (2009)*; *North East Linguistics Society (NELS, 2007–2016)*; *Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT, 2008–2017)*; *Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB, 2009–2014)*; *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL, 2008–2011)*.

Book manuscripts, *Cambridge University Press (2004)*; *Edinburgh University Press (2016)*; *MIT Press (2010, 2012)*; *Oxford University Press (2016)*.

Grant proposals, *Council for the Humanities of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO, 2009)*; *Funds for Scientific Research, FNRS, Brussels (2014)*; *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (2014–2015)*.

Conference organizing

- 2019 **Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 29**, *Organizer*.
- 2017 **European Summer School for Logic, Language, and Information (ESLLI) 2017, Toulouse**, *Member*, Program Committee.
- 2014 **California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 7**, *Co-organizer*.
- 2014–2015 **The Eleventh Tbilisi Symposium on Logic, Language, and Computation (TbiLLC)**, *Member*, Program Committee.
- 2009 **California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 1**, *Organizer*.
- 2009 **California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 1**, *Co-Founder*.

University Administration

- 2017 **UCLA Humanities Welcome**, *Invited Faculty Speaker*.
- 2017–present **UCLA Committee on Continuing and Community Education**, *Member*.
- 2015–present **UCLA Committee on Diversity and Inclusion**, *Member*, Humanities Division.
- 2017–2018 **Graduate Research Mentorship Review Committee**, *Member*, Graduate Division.
- 2015–2017 **UCLA Legislative Assembly**, *Department Representative*.

Departmental administration

- 2016–present **Vice Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2016–2017 **Chair, Hiring Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- Spring 2017, 2015–2016 **Chair, Website Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2015–2016 **Member, Steering Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2015–2016 **Member, Undergraduate Awards Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2014–2015 **Member, Fellowships and Awards Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2014–2015 **Member, Graduate Admissions Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2013–2014 **Member, Hiring Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2012–2015 **Member, Merits Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2011–2014 **Faculty Representative**, *Humanities Residential College*.
- 2010–2012 **Faculty Mentor**, *UCLA Regent Scholarship Mentorship Program*.
- 2010–2011 **Member, Fellowship and Awards Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2010–2011 **Member, Hiring Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2009–2010 **Member, Hiring Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2009–2010 **Member, Graduate Admissions Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.
- 2008–2010 **Member, Visiting Scholar Committee**, *UCLA Linguistics*.

Community

- 2017–present **Member**, *Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics*, Linguistic Society of America.
- 2015–present **Member**, *American Association of University Women*.
- 2012–present **Member**, *Los Angeles Mycological Society*.
- 2009–2010 **Mentor**, *Fulfillment Fund of Los Angeles*.
- 2005–present **Member**, *Linguistics Society of America*.