

The “Language in Neurodiversity Lab” (Lindy Lab) invites applications for a four-year fellowship to carry out a PhD thesis on a topic related to language in autism spectrum conditions.

This thesis will be framed within the project “Variation in the structuring of discourse: the grammar of perspective, clause typing and common ground management [VASTRUD]”, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities / Spanish Research Agency (PGC2018-096870-B-I00). The **purpose** of VASTRUD is to explore the interface between grammar and discourse across **three axes** (cross-linguistic variation, diachronic change, and **neuro-diversity**). Discourse is the object of study of semantics viewed as the discipline that is concerned with how the utterances of interlocutors in conversation affect the body of shared commitments and beliefs. In parallel, through the analysis of an increasing number of under-represented languages and varieties, some syntacticians have proposed to incorporate not only information structure notions and sentential force specifications in the architecture of grammar, but also information regarding the epistemic state of the agents in conversation, the interpretive effect of prosody or instructions as encoded in speech acts. Along with this, population with autism spectrum conditions is characterized by having difficulties with pragmatics. However, not much is known about whether/how this impairment is linked to grammar. All this makes the syntax-discourse interface a critical domain to understand how languages vary (in the three axes).

In particular, this dissertation will focus on the third axis, with the precise topic to be decided upon discussion with the supervisor. To elaborate this thesis, the student will collect data through experimental means, analyze it statistically and propose a formal explanation. Moreover, the PhD student will actively participate in the activities organized by the Hizkuntzalaritza Teorikorako Taldea (Basque Research Group in Theoretical Linguistics) as well as the Lindy Lab, including seminars, research networks, conferences, research stays abroad, and project-related admin work. For more info on who we are, take a look at the following web sites:

HiTT: <https://hittlinguistics.wixsite.com/hitt>

Lindy Lab: <https://lindy-lab.eus/>

The ideal candidate should hold a degree in linguistics or psychology, enroll in the PhD Program in Linguistics at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), be fluent in Spanish and/or Basque, have excellent proficiency in spoken and written English, and have a good command of experimental methodologies. Previous experience with atypical populations will be considered an asset.

The call opens on October 17, 2019 and closes on November 7, 2019.

The interested candidates should contact Elena Castroviejo at elena.castroviejo@ehu.eus. Feel free to circulate this advertisement among whoever may be interested.

To check out all information and submit your candidacy, click on the following link:

<http://www.ciencia.gob.es/portal/site/MICINN/menuitem.dbc68b34d11ccbd5d52feb801432ea0/?vgnextoid=14d767e8fd8cd610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD&vgnnextchann el=115222e988f75610VgnVCM1000001d04140aRCRD>