# YIANNIS KATOCHORITIS

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## Education

2023- PhD *Linguistics*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2021-2023 MA *Linguistics*, Leipzig University Supervisor: Gereon Müller
Thesis: *Syntactic Ergativity as epiphenomenon of Feature Inheritance and competition: A Minimalist account of Merge, Agree and the A/A-bar distinction*

2016-2020 BA *Linguistics*, Kapodistrian University of Athens Supervisor: Vassilis Spyropoulos
Thesis: *The Past Augment in the synchrony of Ancient and Modern Greek: an Optimality-Theoretic analysis within Distributed Morphology*

## Visits

02-07 2018 *Erasmus student*, Ghent University Supervisor: Klaas Willems

## Employment

2022 IGRA (Graduate Research Group: Interaction of Grammatical Building Blocks) research assistant (wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter), Leipzig University

## Publications

2026 Katochoritis, Y. **How I learned to stop worrying about distance and love the covert spec-head.** In: Correa, G., and Morand, K. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 56, vol 2.*. GLSA, Amherst, MA, USA, pp. 61-74.

2025 Katochoritis, Y. **The Modern Greek augment and past morphology in Harmonic Serialism.** In: Müller, G. (ed.), *Morphology by Serial Optimization.* John Benjamins, pp. 159-203.

2025 Katochoritis, Y. **Long-distance pivot movement measures Phase Unlocking: Malagasy vs. Dinka** In: Demiray, D. et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of NELS 55, vol II.* Cascadilla Proceedings Project, Somerville, MA, USA, pp. 37-50.

2025 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. **Between topics and subjects: an A/A' typology of Austronesian pivots.** In: Akolkar, S. et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 42nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics.* Cascadilla Proceedings Project, Somerville, MA, USA, pp. 224-231.

## Presentations

### Invited

2026 Katochoritis, Y. 2026. It's just a phase, it'll pass: the key to unlock locality domains.
Invited talk at **Theoretical Linguistics Colloquium, Vienna University**, Vienna, Austria (November 6).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. How I learned to stop worrying (about distance) and love the covert spec-head.
Invited talk at **Mini-seminar on Long-Distance Agree**, organized by Léa Nash and Nikos Angelopoulos (December 1).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. It's just a Phase, it'll pass: Measuring Unlocking in Malagasy vs. Dinka.
Invited talk at **Yale University SynRG**, New Haven, US (October 31).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. It's just a Phase, it'll pass: Measuring Unlocking in Malagasy vs. Dinka.

Invited talk at **Morphology-Syntax Colloquium, Leipzig University**, Leipzig, Germany (June 13).

2023 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2023. Between topics and subjects: The A'/A distribution of Austronesian pivots.
Invited talk at **Yale University**, New Haven, US (November).

### Conferences

2026 Katochoritis, Y. 2026. Long-distance agreement is neither long nor from a distance: covert syntax, PF reflexes and LF effects.
Talk at ***SalCoS***, Salzburg University, Salzburg, Austria (May 21).

2026 Lohninger M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2026. Topic-to-subject grammaticalization: the case of Malayo-Polynesian pivots.
Poster at ***GLOW48***, University of Siena, Italy (April 22).

2026 Katochoritis, Y. 2026. To Unlock is to (Re)Merge: Phase Theory, Locality and Minimal Compliance revis(it)ed.
Poster at ***GLOW48***, University of Siena, Italy (April 21).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. How I learned to stop worrying (about distance) and love the covert spec-head.
Talk at ***NELS56***, New York University, New York, US (October 18).

2024 Katochoritis, Y. and Lohninger, M. 2025. Same but Different: Balinese vs. Malagasy Pivots.
Talk at ***WCCFL43***, University of Washington, Seattle, US (April 25).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. An argument for Syntactic Reconstruction: Distributivity as Variable Binding
Poster at ***WCCFL43***, University of Washington, Seattle, US (April 26).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. If Distributivity is Variable Binding, Scope Reconstruction must be Syntactic
Poster at ***GLOW47***, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany (March 26).

2025 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. A Case of the Timings: How Austronesian Control Aligns with Subjecthood.
Talk at ***ConSOLE 33***, Georg-August-University, Göttingen, Germany (January 30).

2024 Katochoritis, Y. 2024. Long-distance Pivot Movement measures Phase Unlocking: Malagasy vs. Dinka.
Talk at ***NELS55***, Yale University, New Haven, US (October 18).

2024 Katochoritis, Y. 2024. Scope reconstruction via covert variable binding feeds Condition C in Modern Greek.
Talk at ***AMGL44***, Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece (May 30).

2024 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2024. Between topics and subjects: An A'/A typology of Austronesian pivots.
Poster at ***WCCFL42***, Berkeley, California, US (April 13).

2023 Katochoritis, Y. 2023. The bigger the inventory, the bigger the legacy: Syntactic ergativity as epiphenomenon of feature inheritance
Talk at ***ICLC-10***, Mannheim, Germany (July 20).

2023 Katochoritis, Y. 2023. A reanalysis of Cupeño lexical accent in Colored Turbid Accents
Talk at ***RFP***, Lille, France (June 29).

2023 Katochoritis, Y. 2023. How spanning fits within late insertion: a view from portmanteaus
Talk at ***AMGL43***, Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece (May 6).

2023 Katochoritis, Y. 2023. Reducing Cross-Linguistic Variation to Labeling and Feature Inheritance
Poster at ***IGG48***, Florence, Italy (February 17).

2022 Katochoritis, Y. 2022. The Past Augment in Harmonic Serialism: An Analysis of Multiple Exponence in Optimality Theory
Talk at ***11th MA and PhD Philology Candidates Conference***, Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (October 4).

### Workshops & reading groups

2024 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. Micro-variation is a conspiracy: Condition C, Case and Wholesale Late Merge in Balinese vs. Malagasy.
Talk at ***Syntax Sqaure Reading Group***, MIT, Cambridge, US (October 21).

2024 Katochoritis, Y. 2025. Long-Distance Agreement on Procustes' bed: A revival of Spec-Head.
Talk at ***LingLunch***, MIT, Cambridge, US (October 9).

2025 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2023. Austronesian pivots: topics or subjects? A Malayo-Polynesian typology.
Talk at ***LingLunch***, MIT, Cambridge, US (September 4).

2024 Katochoritis, Y. 2024. It is a Case of the Timing: Lessons from Austronesian Control.
Talk at the ***BerlinBrnoVienna (BBV) Workshop***, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic (June 27).

2024 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2024. From topics to subjects: An A'-A scale of Austronesian pivots.
Talk at the ***Leiden/Bielefeld Workshop on Comparative Syntax (LeiBieCos)***, Leiden University, Netherlands (May).

2023 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2023. Somewhere between topics and subjects: A typology of Austronesian pivots.
Talk at ***Forum for Research in Morphology (FoRiM)***, Harvard University, Cambridge, US (December).

2023 Lohninger, M. and Katochoritis, Y. 2023. It's getting out of control! Control, the A/A'-distinction and the subjecthood of pivots in Austronesian languages.
Talk at ***Syntax Square Reading Group***, MIT, Cambridge, US (November).

## Teaching

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2025 Teacher Assistant **Graduate 24.951 Intro to Syntax** (instructors: Elise Newman, David Pesetsky)

2024 Teacher Assistant **Undergraduate 24.900 Intro to Linguistics** (instructor: David Pesetsky)

## Service to the field

### Conference & Workshop Organization

2024-2026 **Colloquium organizer**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
*Friday MIT Linguistics Colloquium co-organizer (with Paul Meisenbichler and Vlad Orlov)*

## Research

### Research Interests

- **Syntax** (A/A'-distinction; Phase Unlocking, Phase Theory; locality domains, islands; Austronesian voice, argument structure, subjecthood; long-distance agreement, semantic agreement, covert movement; case theory, alignment, syntactic ergativity; clitic-left-dislocation, clitic-doubling)
- **Syntax/Semantics** (Quantifier Raising; binding/scope theory, reconstruction effects; distributivity; implicit domain restrictions; Plural Pronoun Construction; de se/ de re)
- **Morphology** (Allomorphy, Multiple exponence, Portmanteaus, Affix order, Harmonic Serialism)

### Languages worked with

**Theoretical**
- Austronesian (Acehnese, Balinese, Cebuano, Madurese, Malagasy, Standard Indonesian, Sundanese,

Tagalog, Tongan)
- Nilotic (Dinka Bor)
- Algonquian (Innu-aimûn, Passamaquoddy)
- Indo-European (English, Greek)
- Indo-Aryan (Hindi-Urdu, Kashmiri, Marathi)
- Nakh-Dagestanian (Godoberi, Hinuq, Kwarshi, Qunqi Dargwa, Tsez)
- Chukotko-Kamchatkan (Chukchi, Itelmen)
- Panoan (Shipibo-Konibo)
- Inuit (Inuktitut, Kalaallisut)

**Fieldwork**
- Austronesian (Balinese, Cebuano, Malagasy, Tagalog)
- Indo-Aryan (Hindi-Urdu)
- Basque

## Languages spoken

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|---|---|
| Native | Greek |
| Fluent | English |
| Professional | French, German |