

## Reut Tsarfaty, PhD | Curriculum Vitae

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CONTACT INFORMATION Weizmann Institute of Science Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science Visiting Address: Ziskind Building, Room 304 Postal Address: Box 26, Rehovot 76100, Israel

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RESEARCH INTERESTS Natural Language Processing, Statistical Parsing, Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages, Structure Prediction, Machine Learning, Semantic Parsing and Natural Language Programming, Cognitive Computational Modeling and Language Acquisition.

### ACADEMIC CAREER

Jun. 2013–Present  
**Weizmann Institute | Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science**  
Post-Doctorate Research Fellow  
Host | Prof. David Harel

Feb. 2013–Present  
**Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya | Efi Arazi School of Computer Science**  
Adjunct Lecturer

Apr. 2010–Dec. 2012  
**Uppsala University | Department of Linguistics and Philology**  
Post-Doctorate Research Fellow  
Host | Prof. Joakim Nivre

Jan. 2005–Mar. 2010  
**University of Amsterdam | Institute for Logic, Language and Computation**  
PhD | Awarded on 24/03/2010  
Advisors | Prof. Remko Scha, Dr. Khalil Sima'an

Sep. 2003–Dec. 2004  
**University of Amsterdam | Institute for Logic, Language and Computation**  
MSc | Awarded SUMMA CUM LAUDE  
Advisor | Prof. Michiel Van Lambalgen

Oct. 1998–Apr. 2002  
**Technion – Israel Institute of Technology | Faculty of Computer Science**  
BSc | Awarded CUM LAUDE

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

2013–2015 **Weizmann Institute | FGS Dean Fellowship**  
A two-year fellowship and a research grant for post-doctoral research trainees. Awarded by the Weizmann Institute for outstanding post-docs from all disciplines.

2005–2009 **Dutch Science Foundation | Mosaic Laurette**  
A four-year research and travel grant (180K EU) for excellent PhD students. Awarded by the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO) for outstanding students (10% acceptance).

**2006 Best Paper Award**

Awarded by the European Summer School for Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI 2006) for the paper “The Interplay of Syntax and Morphology in Building Parsing Models for Modern Hebrew” (single author).

2013–Present **Unrestricted Natural Language Programming** (with Prof. David Harel). In this project we view the programming task as automatically generating a system based on a verbal description of its behavior. Our task is to parse natural language requirements into code, using advanced statistical models for structure prediction. *Pre-Publications:* Google Grant Application (yet unpublished)

2013–Present **Natural Language Processing in Social Media** (with IDC MSc students). The vast amount of online information provides ample opportunities for text processing grounded in a certain reality. At IDC, we leverage online data for various NLP tasks: automated content analysis of the “knesset” corpus (Yonatan Graber),<sup>1</sup> automatic generation of agenda-driven user responses (Tomer Cagan), and translation of subtitles based on crowdsourced corpora (Mor Dar, Gal Frishman, Eli Pgrebetsky). *Pre-Publications:* IDC MSc theses proposals / Project reports (yet unpublished)

2009–Present **Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages.** (with Djame Saddeh, Sandra Kubler, Joakim Nivre). Most NLP models are developed with English in mind. What happens when applying them to a different language? In this project we investigate, develop and evaluate resources and models for parsing morphologically rich languages (e.g., Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish and more, which are known to be notoriously hard to parse), thus significantly broadening the empirical reach of statistical parsers.<sup>2</sup> *Publications:* # 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13

2010–2013 **Evaluation Algorithms for Structure Prediction** (Postdoc project). Statistical NLP systems predict complex graph structures that represent different notions of meaning. How can we quantitatively evaluate the correctness of these structures? How can we faithfully compare the resulting structures across frameworks? In this project we develop distance-based algorithms that solve complex evaluation tasks.<sup>3</sup> *Publications:* # 9, 12, 14, 15, 16

2005–2009 **Joint Morphological-Syntactic Parsing** (PhD project). Standard approaches to NLP separate word-level (morphology) and sentence-level (syntax) processing. There is ample evidence that this separation is empirically problematic. In this project we develop statistical morphosyntactic parsing architectures (lattice parsing, RR parsing) and show their superiority with respect to standard pipeline NLP approaches.<sup>4</sup> *Publications:* # 2, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 16, 28, 29

2003–2004 **Formal Semantics of Tense and Aspect** (MSc project). In this project we view the Semitic morphological templates (‘binyanim’) as formal semantic operators, and develop a formal logic that allows us to calculate the aspectual meaning of verbs by applying the operator realized by the template to the verbal class of the root. The project involved empirical evaluation in the realm of language acquisition (ages 3-30). *Publications:* # 27, 30

<sup>1</sup>Plenum corpus n-gram viewer: <http://ngrams.oknesset.org/viewer/>.

<sup>2</sup>Shared Task resources: <http://www.tsarfaty.com/data.html>.

<sup>3</sup>Software: <http://www.tsarfaty.com/unipar/index.html>.

<sup>4</sup>Promotional video-art [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41L95nMnU\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41L95nMnU_o).

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

*Lecturer and Course Designer | IDC Herzliya, 2013*

**Introduction to Natural Language Processing (BSc/MSc).**

This is an introductory course which covers broad topics in natural language processing, including: linguistic foundations, automata and formal language theory, search algorithms and dynamic programming, statistical models and machine learning.

*Lecturer and Course Designer | European Summer School for Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), Dusseldorf, 2013.*

**Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages (MSc/PhD).**

This course covers advanced topics in cross-linguistic parsing, including probabilistic grammars, transition systems, joint morphosyntactic modeling and machine learning.

*Co-Lecturer and Theme Designer | Uppsala University, 2010-2011.*

**Introduction to Natural Language Processing (BSc/MSc).**

This is an introductory course which covers broad topics in natural language processing: linguistic foundations, automata theory and formal languages, search algorithms, statistical modeling and machine learning. Designed and taught the ‘Morphology’ theme (25% of the course).

*Lecturer and Course Designer | University of Amsterdam, 2008.*

**Formal Approaches to Grammar (MSc/PhD)**

This course covers formal language theory, unification grammars, formal approaches to syntactic and semantic processing (GPSG, HPSG, LFG, CCG), and computational cognitive aspects of language processing.

*TA and Grader | University of Amsterdam, 2006-2007.*

**Probabilistic Grammars and Data-Oriented Parsing (BSc)**

This course covers probabilistic and statistical approaches to natural language parsing and disambiguation. TA role: tutorials, grading written/programming assignments.

*TA and Grader | University of Amsterdam, 2006-2007.*

**Language and Speech Processing (BSc)**

This course covers foundations in natural language processing including formal representation theory and practice, search algorithms, and statistical modeling. TA role: tutorials, grading written/programming assignments.

STUDENT  
SUPERVISION

- Amir More | MSc. candidate, IDC, 2013

**Topic:** Transition-Based Morphosyntactic Parsing

- Eli Pogrebetzky | MSc. candidate, IDC, 2013

**Topic:** Semantic Parsing for Natural Language Programming

- Tomer Cagan | NLP pre-publication, IDC, 2013

**Topic:** The Talkback System: Generating User Responses

- Yonatan Graber | NLP pre-publication, IDC, 2013

**Topic:** Automatic Content Analysis of Political Texts

- Shai Gretz | MSc. Technion 2012 | MSc. thesis committee

**Paper:** Parsing Hebrew CHILDES Transcripts (Accepted for publication at LREC)

- Roy Schwarz | MSc. Hebrew University 2011 | MSc. thesis committee

**Paper:** Neutralizing Linguistically Problematic Annotations in Unsupervised Dependency Parsing Evaluation (Published at ACL 2011)

PROFESSIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

**Journal Editor:**

- Computational Linguistics Special Issue on Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages

**Journal Reviewer:**

- Journal of Computational Linguistics
- Journal of Natural Language Engineering
- Journal of Linguistics
- Journal of Language Modeling

**PC Chair:**

- COLING Chair of Morphology, Tagging, Chunking, Word Segmentation Track. 2014
- EACL Workshops Chair, 2013, together with Anja Belz
- Chair of Shared Task of Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages. 2013 together with Djame Seddah and Sandra Kubler
- EMNLP Chair of Phonology, Morphology, Tagging, Chunking Track. 2012 received a **Recognition of Excellence** award in recognition of this service.
- Joint Workshop of Statistical Parsing and Semantic Processing of Morphologically Rich Languages. 2013. together with Djame Seddah and Sandra Kuebler
- The 2nd Workshop of Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages. 2011. together with Djame Seddah and Sandra Kuebler
- The 1st Workshop of Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages. 2010. together with Djame Seddah and Jennifer Foster

**PC Member/Conference Reviewer:**

- Best Paper Award Committee EMNLP-CoNLL
- Association for Computational Linguistics. ACL
- North American Association for Computational Linguistics. NAACL
- European Association for Computational Linguistics. EACL
- Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing. EMNLP
- International Conference on Computational Linguistics. COLING
- International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing. IJCNLP
- European Summer School for Logic, Language and Information. ESSLLI
- Symposium of Logic, Language and Computation
- Israeli Seminar of Computational Linguistics ISCOL
- Graduate Conference in Philosophy at HUJI

**Organization Committee:**

- The International Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) Uppsala University, Sweden, July 2010.
- Theory, Typology, Technology: Parsing in the Face of Diversity University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 2010.

**Professional Membership:**

- SPMRL: co-founder and coordinator (2009–present)
- SIG Semitic: Secretary (2011–present)
- SIG Parse: member (2009–present)
- ACL: member (2006–present)
- ISCOL: member (2006–present)
- IATL: member (2006–2007)
- LSA: member (2006–2007)

## INDUSTRY

### **Natural Language Processing** Freelance Consultation

Tel Aviv Start Up City (“the library”): Tipranks, Routeperfect, GrazeIt, and more.  
2012–2013

### **Intel Development Center, Haifa** Software Solutions Group

Software engineer and algorithm developer.  
2000–2003

### **Intel Development Center, Haifa** Information Systems Group

Software engineer and algorithm developer.  
1998–1999

## PROGRAMMING

Java. C, C++, Python, Perl, HTML/XML/CSS, SQL/PL-SQL/Embedded-SQL, Go.  
UML modeling, LSC/BPJ, Unix/Linux with various shell scripting languages.

## LANGUAGES

Hebrew. *Native.* English. *Fluent.* Dutch. *Good.*  
Swedish, Spanish, French, Arabic. *Introductory.*

## REFERENCES

### **Prof. David Harel.** Weizmann Institute of Science (Postdoc host).

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### **Prof. Joakim Nivre.** Uppsala University (Postdoc host).

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Computational Linguistics	@ <a href="http://goo.gl/z3kR2A">http://goo.gl/z3kR2A</a>
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### **Prof. Mark Steedman.** University of Edinburgh (Postdoc invitation).

University of Edinburgh	✉ steedman@inf.ed.ac.uk
School of Informatics	@ <a href="http://goo.gl/mx8EcY">http://goo.gl/mx8EcY</a>
Visiting Address: Informatics Forum 415 10 Crichton Str	☎ +44 131 650 4631
Postal Address: Edinburgh, EH8 9AB Scotland, UK	☎ +44 131 650 6626

### **Dr. Khalil Sima’an.** University of Amsterdam (PhD. Supervisor).

University of Amsterdam	✉ k.simaan@uva.nl
Institute for Logic, Language and Computation	@ <a href="http://goo.gl/OSqnST">http://goo.gl/OSqnST</a>
Visiting Address: Room F2.06 Science Park 107	☎ +31 20 525 6573
Postal Address: P.O. Box 94242, 1090 GE, Amsterdam	☎ +31 20 525 5206

## Reut Tsarfaty, PhD | List of Publications

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Note: Conferences are the main publication venue in the Natural Language Processing. The top conferences in the field (ACL, NAACL, COLING, EMNLP) are highly competitive, with acceptance rates under 25% – more competitive than journals in this area.

### BOOKS

#### **1. Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages.**

Reut Tsarfaty

*Morgan and Claypool Publishers, 2013.* (Contracted, Under Development.)

#### **2. Relational-Realizational Parsing.**

Reut Tsarfaty

*ILLC Dissertation Series, publication DS-2010-01, 2010.* (ISBN: 978-90-5776-205-5)

### EDITED BOOKS

#### **3. Special Issue on Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages.**

Eds: Reut Tsarfaty, Djame Seddah, Sandra Kuebler and Joakim Nivre.

*Computational Linguistics Journal, The MIT Press, 2013.*

#### **4. Proceedings of the Shared Task on Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages.**

Eds: Djame Seddah, Reut Tsarfaty and Sandra Kuebler.

*Association for Computational Linguistics 2013.*

#### **5. Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on Statistical Parsing and Semantic Processing of Morphologically Rich Languages (SP-Sem-MRL'12)**

Eds: Marianna Apidianky, Ido Dagan, Jennifer Foster, Yuval Marton, Djame Seddah, Reut Tsarfaty.

*Association for Computational Linguistics 2012.*

#### **6. Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages (SPMRL'11)**

Eds: Djame Seddah, Reut Tsarfaty and Sandra Kuebler.

*Association for Computational Linguistics 2011.*

#### **7. Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages (SPMRL'10)**

Eds: Djame Seddah, Reut Tsarfaty and Jennifer Foster.

*Association for Computational Linguistics 2010.*

### BOOK CHAPTERS

#### **8. Syntax and Parsing**

Reut Tsarfaty

In Imed Zitouni (ed.), *Natural Language Processing Approaches for Semitic Languages*, part I, chapter 4, *Springer, Forthcoming.*

RESEARCH PAPERS  
(JOURNALS)

**9. Distance-Based Evaluation for Structured Prediction**

Reut Tsarfaty and Joakim Nivre

*To be submitted to Computational Linguistics journal, The MIT Press.*

**10. Design Patterns in Fluid Construction Grammar: Book Review**

Nathan Schneider and Reut Tsarfaty

*Computational Linguistics Journal, volume 39:(2), The MIT Press, 2013.*

**11. Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages**

Reut Tsarfaty, Djame Seddah, Sandra Kuebler, Joakim Nivre.

*Journal of Computational Linguistics (CL), volume 39:(1), The MIT Press, 2013.*

RESEARCH PAPERS  
(CONFERENCES)

**12. Overview of the SPMRL 2013 Shared Task:**

**Cross-Framework Evaluation of Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages**

Djame Seddah, Reut Tsarfaty, Sandra Kuebler, Marie Candito, Jinho D. Choi, Richard Farkas, Jennifer Foster, Iakes Goenaga, Koldo Gojenola, Yoav Goldberg, Spence Green, Nizar Habash, Marco Kuhlmann, Wolfgang Maier, Joakim Nivre, Adam Przepirkowski, Ryan Roth, Wolfgang Seeker, Yannick Versley, Veronika Vincze, Marcin Wolinski, Alina Wrblewska, Eric Villemonte de la Clergerie.

*In Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages at EMNLP, 2013*

**13. A Unified Morpho-Syntactic Scheme for Stanford Dependencies**

Reut Tsarfaty.

*Proceedings of ACL 2013.*

**14. Joint Evaluation for Morphological Segmentation and Syntactic Parsing**

Reut Tsarfaty, Joakim Nivre and Evelina Anderson.

*Proceedings of ACL 2012.*

**15. Cross-Framework Evaluation for Statistical Parsing**

Reut Tsarfaty, Joakim Nivre and Evelina Anderson. *Proceedings of EACL 2012.*

**16. Evaluating Dependency Parsing:**

**Robust and Heuristics-Free Cross-Annotation Evaluation**

Reut Tsarfaty, Joakim Nivre and Evelina Anderson.

*Proceedings of EMNLP 2011.*

**17. Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages (SPMRL):**

**What, How and Whither**

Reut Tsarfaty, Djame Seddah, Yoav Goldberg, Sandra Kuebler, Marie Candito, Jennifer Foster, Yannick Versley, Ines Rehbein and Lamia Tounsi.

*In Proceedings of the Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages at NAACL 2010.*

**18. Modeling Agreement for Constituency Parsing of Modern Hebrew**

Reut Tsarfaty and Khalil Simaan.

*In Proceedings of the Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages at NAACL 2010.*

**19. Relational-Realizational Syntax**

Reut Tsarfaty

In Miriam Butt and Tracy Holloway King (eds.) Proceedings of the Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) Conference. Extended and Revised Papers.

*Center for the Study of Language and Information, CSLI Publications, 2010.*

**20. An Alternative to Head-Driven Approaches for Parsing a (Relatively) Free Word-Order Language.**

Reut Tsarfaty, Khalil Simaan and Remko Scha.

*In Proceedings of EMNLP, 2009*

**21. Enhancing Unlexicalized Parsing Performance using a Wide-Coverage Lexicon, Fuzzy Tag-set Mapping, and EM-HMM- based Lexical Probabilities**

Yoav Goldberg, Reut Tsarfaty, Meni Adler and Michael Elhadad.

*In Proceedings of EACL, 2009*

**22. Relational-Realizational Parsing**

Reut Tsarfaty and Khalil Simaan.

*In Proceedings of COLING, 2008*

**23. Word-Based or Morpheme-Based?**

**Annotation Strategies for Modern Hebrew Clitics**

Reut Tsarfaty and Yoav Goldberg.

Proceedings of LREC, 2008

**24. A Single Generative Model for Joint Morphological Segmentation and Syntactic Parsing**

Yoav Goldberg and Reut Tsarfaty.

*In Proceedings of ACL, 2008*

**25. Accurate Unlexicalized Parsing for Modern Hebrew**

Reut Tsarfaty and Khalil Simaan.

*In Text, Speech and Dialog (TSD). Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Springer, 2007.*

**26. Three-Dimensional Parametrization for Parsing Morphologically Rich Languages**

Reut Tsarfaty and Khalil Simaan.

*In Proceedings of IWPT, 2007*

**27. Participants in Action: Aspectual Meanings and Thematic Relations Interplay in the Semantics of Semitic Morphology**

Reut Tsarfaty.

In Henk Zeevat and Balder ten Cate (eds.) Proceedings of the 6th Tbilisi Symposium on Language, Logic and Computation 2005, Revised Selected Papers. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science, volume 4363, Springer, 2007.*

**28. Integrated Morphological and Syntactic Disambiguation for Hebrew**

Reut Tsarfaty.

*In Proceedings of ACL-COLING Student Research Workshop, 2006.*



**29. The Interplay of Syntax and Morphology in Building Parsing Models for Modern Hebrew**

Reut Tsarfaty

In Janneke Huitink and Sophia Katrenko (eds.) *Proceedings of the 11th European Summer School for Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI) 2008*. **Best Paper Award.**

**30. Connecting Causative Constructions and Aspectual Meanings: A Case Study from Semitic Derivational Morphology**

Reut Tsarfaty

In Paul Dekker and Michael Franke (eds.) *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Amsterdam Colloquium. Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, 2005*.

INVITED TALKS  
(CONFERENCES  
AND WORKSHOPS)

**Morphology, Syntax and Whats in Between**

*Workshop on Machine Translation of Morphologically Rich Languages (MTML)*.  
Haifa, Israel. January 2011.

**Parsing with Paradigms**

*Workshop on Quantitative Measures in Morphology and Morphological Development*.  
University of California, San Diego, CA., USA. January 16, 2011.

**Relational and Realizational Modeling for Complex Morphology in Parsing**

*Workshop on Morphological Complexity: Implications for the Theory of Grammar*.  
Harvard University, Boston, MA., USA. January 2010.

**Statistical Parsing for Morphologically Rich Languages:  
A Gentle Introduction**

*The First Workshop on Statistical Parsing of Morphologically Rich Languages*.  
A meeting Held at NA-ACL, Los Angeles, CA., USA. June 5, 2010.

**How to (and not to) Parse Nonconfigurational Phenomena**

*Panel on Parsing Morphologically-Rich Languages  
at the International Conference on Parsing Technology*.  
Paris, France. October 8, 2009.

INVITED TALKS  
(SEMINARS AND  
COLLOQUIA)

**Multilingual Structure Prediction for Natural Language Processing**

- *Language Logic and Cognition Center (LLCC)*

Hebrew University, Jerusalem, March, 18, 2013

- *The ISE Department Colloquium*

Ben Gurion University, Dec 26, 2012

- *The IEM Department Colloquium*

Technion, Haifa. Dec, 18, 2012.

- *CS Colloquium, Efi Arazi School of Computer Science*

Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Dec 6, 2012

**Protocols and Algorithms for Unbiased Evaluation of Structure Prediction.**

*Computer Science Department Colloquium*

Technion, Haifa. Dec, 12, 2012.

**The Philosophy of Grammar in the 21st Century** (an invited seminar series).  
*The hevruta graduate seminar for analytical philosophy*  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. May 15, 22 and June 26, 2012.

**Relational-Realizational Syntax: An Architecture for Specifying and Parsing Rich Morphosyntactic Descriptions**

- *Computer Science Department Seminar*  
Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel. May 5, 2011.  
- *Linguistics Department Seminar*  
The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. May 3, 2011.  
- *NLP Seminar, Computer Science Department*  
Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. April 28, 2011.  
- *NLIP Seminar, Computer Science Department*  
University of Cambridge, UK. March 11, 2011,

**Relations and Realization in Syntax and Parsing**

*Center for Computational Learning Systems*  
Columbia University, New York, NY., USA. June 16, 2010.

**Morphology in Parsing: A Taxonomy-Based Approach**

*NL Seminar series, Information Science Institute*  
University of Southern California (ISI/USC), Los Angeles, CA., USA. June 8, 2010.

**Linguistic Typology and Language Technology:  
A Match Made in Statistical Parsing**

- *Language and Computation Group*  
Amherst UMass, MA., USA. January 26, 2010.  
- *Alpagé Séminaire de lécole doctorale de Paris 7*  
Paris, France. October 5, 2009.

**Morphological Templates and Aspectual Meanings in Modern Hebrew**

- *Department of English, Linguistics Seminar*  
The Hebrew University, Israel. January 3, 2006.  
- *'Logic Tea' Seminar Series*  
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. May 10, 2005.

INVITED TALKS  
(OUTREACH)

**Typology and Technology:  
Introduction to Cross-Linguistic Statistical Parsing**

*The International Linguistics Olympiad*  
Stockholm, Sweden. July 22, 2010.

**Linguists, Spies and Dangerous Things**

*ILLC Alumni Event and Open House*  
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. December 19, 2008.