

Igor Yanovich

Curriculum vitae

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Address DFG Center for Advanced Study “Words, Bones, Genes and Tools”
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Employment

Jan 2016– postdoctoral researcher, DFG interdisciplinary research center
“Words, Bones, Genes and Tools” at Tübingen University

Aug 2015–Dec 2015 postdoctoral scholar, Dept. of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University

Feb 2014–Jul 2015 postdoctoral fellow, the Humboldt foundation and Tübingen University

Oct 2013–Jan 2014 postdoctoral researcher in the EVOLAEMP project, Tübingen University

Grants

2014-2015 Alexander-von-Humboldt foundation (€56.700, 18 months)

Education

PhD (2013) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thesis: *Four pieces for modality, context and usage*
Thesis committee: Kai von Fintel and Sabine Iatridou (supervisors), Irene Heim

MA (2005) Moscow State University
Thesis: *Semantika neopredelennyx imennyx grupp* [Semantics of Indefinites]
Thesis supervisors: Sergei Tatevosov and Barbara H. Partee

Publications

Journal articles

forth **Analyzing imperfective games**, accepted with revisions at *Semantics and Pragmatics*.

2016 **Old English **motan*, variable-force modality, and the presupposition of inevitable actualization**, *Language*, 92:3, 489-521. doi:10.1353/lan.2016.0045

2015 **Expressive power of “now” and “then” operators**, *Journal of Logic, Language and Information*, 24:1, 65–93. doi:10.1007/s10849-014-9210-3.

2014 **Handling equivalence classes of Optimality-Theoretic comparative tableaux**, *Journal of Language Modelling*, 2:2, 285–306.

- 2013 **Invariantist ‘might’ and modal meaning change**, *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 36:2, pp.175-180. doi:10.1007/s10988-013-9133-5.
- Standard contextualism strikes back**, *Journal of Semantics* 31:1, pp. 67-114. doi:10.1093/jos/ffs022.
- 2012 Barbara H. Partee, Vladimir Borschev, Elena V. Paducheva, Yakov Testeleets, and Igor Yanovich: **The role of verb semantics in Genitive alterations: Genitive of Negation and Genitive of Intensionality**, *Oslo Studies in Language*, 4:1, pp. 1-29.
- 2011 Barbara H. Partee, Vladimir Borschev, Elena V. Paducheva, Yakov Testeleets, and Igor Yanovich: **Russian Genitive of Negation alternations: The role of verb semantics**, *ScandoSlavica*, 57:2, pp. 135-159.

Submitted, in preparation, and under revision

- subm **Evolutionary modeling explains Sapir’s drift and unidirectionality with exceptions in language change.**
- Epistemic modality**, invited handbook article for the *Companion to Semantics*, eds. Lisa Matthewson, Cécile Meier, Hotze Rullmann and Thomas Ede Zimmermann. Wiley. Submitted for peer-review in March 2015.
- prep Alina Ladygina (75%) and Igor Yanovich (25%). **The rise of the 19th century English progressive: variation between individual verbs.** [Tracks the rise of the English progressive on a dataset more than an order of magnitude larger than previous studies; this allowed us to examine the change trajectories for individual verbs, which turn out to differ significantly.]
- Old and Pre-Modern Ukrainian *maty*: a triangular variable-force modal.** [Analyzes ‘have’-based modal in Ukrainian with meanings of possibility, necessity and the future; uses agent-based modeling to show the feasibility of the analysis.]
- No weak necessity.** [Argues, contra recent research, that there is no category of weak vs. strong necessity in deontic modals, and that the observed “weak necessity” effects are epiphenomenal.]
- Igor Yanovich, Armin Buch, Johannes Dellert, Marisa Delz, Fabrício Marcel Ferraz Gerardi, Roland Mühlenbernd, Johannes Wahle and Gerhard Jäger: **Phylogenetic divergence-age estimates support the steppe theory of Indo-European homeland.** [Shows that when non-controversial prehistoric calibration constraints, based on radio-carbon dating, are included into the prior, modern bioinformatic phylogenetic methods start to support the steppe theory of Indo-European, reversing their support for the Anatolian theory as in previous research. Materials available upon request.]
- Dictionary correction: a data-criticism technique for lexical-cognacy phylogenetics.** [Implementation of the algorithm in R is available upon request.]

Articles in edited volumes

- 2017 **May under verbs of hoping: Evolution of the modal system in the complements of hoping verbs in Early Modern English**, in *Modality across Syntactic Categories*, eds. Ana Arregui, María Luisa Rivero, Andrés Pablo Salanova, Oxford University Press.
- 2015 Donca Steriade and Igor Yanovich: **Accentual allomorphs in East Slavic: an argument for inflection dependence**, in *Understanding Allomorphy*, eds. Eulàlia Bonet, Maria-Rosa Lloret and Joan Mascaró, Equinox.
- 2012 **Certain presuppositions and some intermediate readings, and vice versa**, in *Different kinds of specificity across languages*, eds. Cornelia Ebert and Stefan Hinterwimmer, Springer, *Studies in linguistics and philosophy*, vol. 92, pp. 105–122.

Conference proceedings

- 2016 **Genetic drift explains “Sapir’s drift” in semantic change**, in *Proceedings of EVOLANG 11 (2016)*, eds. S. G. Roberts, C. Cuskley, L. McCrohon, L. Barceló-Coblijn, O. Feher, and T. Verhoef.
- Dankmar Enke, Roland Mühlenbernd and Igor Yanovich: **The emergence of the progressive to imperfective diachronic cycle in reinforcement-learning agents**, in *Proceedings of EVOLANG 11 (2016)*, eds. S. G. Roberts, C. Cuskley, L. McCrohon, L. Barceló-Coblijn, O. Feher, and T. Verhoef.
- 2014 **Symbouletic modality**, in *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics 10 (Proceedings of CSSP)*, ed. Christopher Piñón.
- 2011 **The problem of counterfactual *de re* attitudes**, in *Proceedings of SALT 21*, pp. 56–75.
- How much expressive power is needed for natural language temporal indexicality?** in *Proceedings of WoLLIC 2011, LNAI 6642*, Springer, pp. 293-309.
- 2010 **Evaluation tree languages** (published abstract) *The Bulletin of Symbolic Logic*, 17:2, p. 323.
- 2009 **On the nature and formal analysis of indexical presuppositions**, in *Proceedings of LENLS 6, LNAI 6284*, Springer, pp. 272-291.
- 2008 **Incorporated nominals as antecedents for anaphora, or How to save the thematic arguments theory**, in *Proceedings of the 31st Penn Linguistics Colloquium*, pp. 367-379.
- Vladimir Borschev, Elena V. Paducheva, Barbara H. Partee, Yakov G. Testeleets, and Igor Yanovich: **Russian Genitives, Non-Referentiality, and the Property-Type Hypothesis**, in *Proceedings of FASL 16*, Michigan Slavic Publications, Ann Arbor, pp. 48-67.

- 2007 **Ordinary property and identifying property wh-words: two *kakoj*-s in Russian**, in *Proceedings of FDSL 6.5*, pp. 309-324.
- Elena Gruntova and Igor Yanovich: **Distribucija russkix odnositel'nyx mestoimenij *kto* (*čto...*) vs. *kotoryj*** [The distribution of Russian relative pronouns *kto* 'who' (*čto* 'what'...) vs. *kotoryj* 'that/which'], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2007*.
- 2006 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Lexically modifying binding restrictions: Case for a variable-free binding theory**, in *Proceedings of CSSP 2005*, pp. 113-136.
- Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Emergence of Principle B: A variable-free approach**, in *Proceedings of GALA 2005*, pp. 167-172.
- Dva *kakoj* v russkom jazyke** [Two *kakoj*-s in Russian], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2006*.
- 2006 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Early preferences in RC-attachment in Russian: The effect of Working Memory differences** in *Proceedings of FASL 14*, Michigan Slavic Publications, Ann Arbor, pp. 113-128.
- Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Analiz rečevyx ošibok pri predikativnom soglasovanii v russkom jazyke: efekt roda glavnogo imeni** [Subject-verb Agreement Errors in Russian: Head Noun Gender Effect], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2006*.
- 2005 **Choice-functional series of indefinite pronouns and Hamblin semantics**, in *Proceedings of SALT 15*, pp. 309-326.
- Vladimir Borshchev, Elena V. Paducheva, Barbara H. Partee, Yakov G. Testeleets, Igor Yanovich: **Sentential and Constituent Negation in Russian BE-sentences Revisited** in *Proceedings of FASL 14*, Michigan Slavic Publications, Ann Arbor, pp. 50-65.
- Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Razrešenije sintaksičeskoj mnogoznačnosti v russkom jazyke: rolj dliny i structure pridatočnogo** [Syntactic ambiguity resolution in Russian: the role of the embedded clause's length and structure], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2005*.
- 2004 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: **Ob odnom tipe sintaksičeskoj mnogoznačnosti, ili *Kto stojal na balkone*** [On a certain kind of syntactic ambiguity, or Who was on the balcony], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2004*.
- Kto mozet ubežatj iz ostrova, ili Neopredelennyje vyraženiya s širokoj sferoj dejstvija** [Who can escape from an island, or Wide scope indefinites], in *Proceedings of Dialog 2004*.
- Other**
- prep **Evolution and Language**, an annotated bibliography contracted for *Oxford Bibliographies in Linguistics*.
- 2015 **Analyzing imperfective games: the companion paper**, Universität Tübingen and Carnegie Mellon University, technical report, lingbuzz/002652.
- 2012 **On Sets of OT Rankings**, technical report, ROA-1149 at the Rutgers Optimality Archive.

Selected talks

Invited conference talks

- Dec 2016 *Borrowing modals across Slavic*, invited talk at *Formal Descriptions of Slavic Languages 12*, Humboldt-Universität in Berlin.
- Nov 2014 Commentary on the talk by Phillippe Schlenker at workshop *Pronouns in embedded contexts*, Tübingen University.
- Apr 2013 *Distinction between ‘advice’ and ‘factual’ deontics*, talk at by-invitation workshop *Perspectives on Modality* at Stanford University.
- May 2011 Donca Steriade and Igor Yanovich: *Inflection dependence in the nominal accentuation of East Slavic: evidence from Ukrainian and Russian*, invited talk at *Formal Approaches to Slavic Languages*, MIT.

Conference talks with peer-reviewed abstracts

- Apr 2016 *Evolutionary modeling explains unidirectional grammaticalization with exceptions* at *Second International Conference on Grammaticalization: Theory and Data*, Rouen.
- Oct 2015 *Dictionary correction: a data criticism technique for phylogenetic inference from lexical data* at workshop *Capturing Phylogenetic Algorithms for Linguistics*, Lorentz Center, Leiden.
- Oct 2015 Igor Yanovich, Armin Buch, Johannes Dellert, Marisa Koellner, Fabrício Marcel Ferraz Gerardi, Roland Mühlenbernd, Johannes Wahle and Gerhard Jäger: *Archaeological temporal constraints make phylogenetic methods to support the steppe homeland theory of Indo-European* at workshop *Capturing Phylogenetic Algorithms for Linguistics*, Lorentz Center, Leiden.
- Aug 2014 *Assumptions about admissible models and the semantics*, workshop *Models in Formal Semantics and Pragmatics* at ESSLLI 2014.
- Sep 2013 *Symbouletic modality*, talk at CSSP 2013, Paris.
- May 2013 *Variable-force modals on the British Isles: semantic evolution of *motan*, talk at SALT 23, UC Santa Cruz.
- Apr 2013 *Semantic evolution of Old English *motan: possibility-necessity collapse*, talk at the workshop *Systematic semantic change* at UT Austin.
- May 2012 *What can Russian gender tell about the semantics of ϕ -features?*, talk at FASL 21, Indiana University Bloomington.
- Apr 2012 *Modal hopes and fears: a diachronic case study*, talk at the Modality Workshop at Ottawa University.
- Mar 2012 *Expressive complexity in language: A mathematical perspective*, talk at the *Workshop on the measurement of grammatical complexity*, University of Washington, Seattle.
- May 2011 *The problem of counterfactual de re attitudes*, talk at SALT 21, Rutgers University.

- May 2011 *How much expressive power is needed for natural language temporal indexicality?*, talk at WoLLIC 18, UPenn.
- July 2010 *Evaluation Tree languages*, talk at Logic Colloquium 2010, University Paris VII.
- Jan 2010 *Uniformity, Subparadigm Precedence and Contrast derive stress patterns in Ukrainian nominal paradigms*, talk at OCP 7, University of Nice.
- Nov 2009 *On the nature and formal analysis of indexical presuppositions*, talk at LENLS 6, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo.
- Sep 2007 *Existential-looking intermediate readings of wide-scope indefinites*, talk at Sinn und Bedeutung 12, University of Oslo.
- May 2007 Barbara H. Partee, Vladimir Borshchev, Elena Viktorovna Paducheva, Yakov Georgievich Testeleets, and Igor Yanovich: *Russian Genitives, non-referentiality, and the property-type hypothesis*, talk at FASL 16, Stony Brook University.
- Feb 2007 *Incorporated nominals as antecedents for anaphora, or How to save the thematic arguments theory*, talk at the Penn Linguistics Colloquium 31, UPenn, Philadelphia, PA.
- Dec 2006 *Ordinary property and identifying property wh-words: two kakoj-s in Russian*, talk at FDSL 6.5, University of Nova Gorica.
- Sep 2005 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Prosody and informativeness can work together: RC-attachment in Russian*, poster at AMLaP 2005, Ghent (Ghent University and University of Antwerp).
- Sep 2005 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Subject-verb number agreement in Russian: head noun gender effect*, poster at AMLaP 2005, Ghent (Ghent University and University of Antwerp).
- Sep 2005 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Lexically modifying binding restrictions: Case for a variable-free binding theory*, talk at CSSP 2005, University Paris VII.
- May 2005 Vladimir Borshchev, Elena Viktorovna Paducheva, Barbara H. Partee, Yakov Georgievich Testeleets, and Igor Yanovich: *Sentential and constituent negation in Russian BE-sentences revisited*, talk at FASL 14, Princeton University.
- May 2005 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Early preferences in RC-attachment in Russian: The effect of Working Memory differences*, talk at FASL 14, Princeton University.
- Mar 2005 *Choice-functional series of indefinite pronouns and Hamblin semantics*, talk at SALT 15, UCLA.
- Sep 2004 Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Relative clause attachment in Russian: The role of constituent length*, poster at AMLaP 2004, University of Aix en Provence.
- Nov 2003 *Evidence for covert scope movement in Russian*, talk at FDSL 5, Leipzig University.

Invited colloquium and seminar talks

- Sep 2016 *Evolutionary modeling for semantic change*, tutorial at workshop *Formal Diachronic Semantics (FoDS)*, Universität Konstanz.
- Feb 2016 *Population-genetic thinking about language change*, job talk at the Goergen Institute for Data Science at the University of Rochester.
- Dec 2015 *TO HAVE in Old and Pre-Modern Ukrainian*, University of Maryland.
- Mar 2015 *Pred-Aux inversions in modern and historical East Slavic*, talk at Syntax Plus, USC.
- Feb 2015 *New frontiers in modality*, job talk at the Philosophy Department of Carnegie Mellon University.
- Dec 2014 *Old High German $\delta \rightarrow d$ and frequency effects*, UCLA.
- Nov 2014 *The typology of variable-force modality*, ZAS, Berlin.
- Jun 2014 *Is de re without syntax feasible?*, Syntax-Interface Lectures, Utrecht University.
- Feb 2014 *Variable-force modality*, job talk at Rutgers University.
- Feb 2014 *Necessity modals: from two strengths to many colors*, job talk at Rutgers University.
- Feb 2014 *The (non)-category of weak/strong necessity*, **DIP Colloquium** at ILLC, Amsterdam.
- Nov 2013 *The many faces of a modal with different forces*, Cross-linguistics semantic group, ILLC/ACLIC, Amsterdam.
- Nov 2013 *Emergence of restricted deontic scope*, **ACLIC Seminar**, Amsterdam.
- Apr 2013 *On advice modality*, Syntax and Semantics seminar at UCLA.
- Mar 2013 *Weak necessity and negated deontics: a view from Russian*, talk at the Logic Group at UConn.
- Feb 2013 *The secret history of MUST*, talk at the semantics group at New York University.
- Dec 2012 *The portrait of a modal in its youth: English must before it became a necessity modal*, talk at the semantics group at Rutgers University.
- Nov 2012 *Possibility or collapse on the path to necessity?*, talk at the semantics group at Georgetown University.
- Sep 2012 *Between possible and necessary: the 15-century-long life story of MUST*, colloquium at Ottawa University.
- Dec 2010 Igor Yanovich and Donca Steriade: *Base priority effects in inflectional subparadigms: evidence from Ukrainian*, talk at RUMMIT Fall 2010, MIT
- Nov 2010 *On indexical presuppositions*, talk at the Brown University semantics group.
- Oct 2010 *Making smarter contenders*, talk at NECPhon 4, UMass Amherst.
- Aug 2010 *Non-standard theory of vagueness*, talk at the Utrecht University semantics group.
- July 2010 *The sequenced worlds theory of de re and counterfactual attitudes*, talk at the NYU semantics group.

Jan 2010 *Introducing evaluation tree logics*, talk at the NYU semantics group.

Internal seminar talks

Jan 2014 *“Dictionary correction” technique*, EVOLAEMP seminar, Tübingen University.

Mar 2010 *Some things you want to know about modal logic, but don’t know you do*, tutorial at the MIT semantics group.

Feb 2010 *On game-theoretic pragmatics, Parts I and II*, tutorial at the MIT semantics group.

Service

Journal reviewing

- Semantics: *Journal of Semantics, Language, Lingua/Glossa, Linguistic Inquiry, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Natural Language Semantics, Semantics and Pragmatics.*
- Philosophy of language: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Erkenntnis, Journal of Philosophical Research, Mind, Mind and Language, Noûs, Philosophia, Philosophers’ Imprint, Philosophical Studies.*
- Computational historical linguistics: *PLOS ONE, Philosophy of Science.*
- Phonology: *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory.*

Other reviewing

- Papers for edited volumes with Oxford University Press and Springer.
- Papers for proceedings volumes: *FDSL, ESSLLI* student session.
- Conference abstracts: *SALT, NELS, Sinn und Bedeutung, GLOW, FASL, FDSL.*

Conference committees

- *Formal Diachronic Semantics (FoDS) 2016*, Konstanz University.
- Special session on historical semantics at *Sinn und Bedeutung 2014*, University of Göttingen.
- Special session on the semantics of pronouns, *NELS 2009*, MIT, Cambridge, MA.
- *Moscow Syntax and Semantics (MOSS) 1* (2009) and *2* (2011), Moscow, Russia.
- *Formal Semantics in Moscow (FSIM), 1-4* (2005-2008), Moscow, Russia.

Other

- LSA *Committee for the Status of Women in Linguistics*, member since 2014.

Teaching

Courses

- (Summer 2017) *Statistical inference for the linguistic and non-linguistic past*, LSA Institute 2017, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- (Fall 2015) *Puzzles in language change*, directed reading group at the Philosophy Department of Carnegie Mellon University.
- (Fall 2014) *Corpus methods in theoretical linguistics*, University of Tübingen. Reading- and writing-intensive course for advanced undergraduates and graduate students.
- (Fall 2007) *Logika ustrojstva formaljno-semantičeskix teorij* [The logic of the setup of formal semantic theories], Moscow State University, special topic course for undergraduate and graduate students.
- (Spring 2006) Igor Yanovich and Elizaveta Bylina: *Vozmozhnye i nevozmozhnyje miry* [Possible and impossible worlds], Moscow State University, special topic course for undergraduate and graduate students.
- (Spring 2005) Olga Fedorova and Igor Yanovich: *Teorii svjazyvanija: eksperimentalnyje pro i contra* [Binding Theories: Experimental *pro*-s and *contra*-s], Moscow State University, special topic course for undergraduate and graduate students.

Mini-courses

- (September 2016) *Evolutionary modeling for semantic change*, a 3-hour tutorial at *Formal Diachronic Semantics (FoDS) 2016*, Konstanz University.
- (May 2012) *Semantic adventures in Slavic modality*, a 3-lecture mini-course at the Workshop in Slavic Linguistics at FASL 2012, Indiana University Bloomington.

TA-ed courses

- (Fall 2010) TA for Adam Albright and Norvin Richards' 24.900 *Introduction to linguistics*, MIT, undergraduate course.
- (Fall 2009) TA for Donca Steriade's 24.900 *Introduction to linguistics*, MIT, undergraduate course.

Industry employment

2005–2008 *ABBYY Software/ABBYY Production*, computational linguist, then senior computational linguist; responsible for developing formal representations of the grammars of English and Russian.

Specific projects included work on the surface syntax of DPs and AdjPs, floating quantifiers, movement, control, and anaphora resolution.