




CV

PERSONAL INFORMATION AND TRAJECTORY

First name	Ana Rita
Surname	Sa Leite Dias
Current position	Postdoc researcher
Current Institution	Universität Göttingen, Germany
Identifiers/orcid	 Website: anaritasaleite.com  ORCID: 0000-0003-4225-5696  Google Scholar: user=fGYbDqoAAAAJ&hl=en
Membership	Associate fellow, Johanna Quandt Young Academy Full member, Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology Full member, European Society for Cognitive Psychology

Education:

17/12/2021	Doctor in Psychology (Ph. D.)	<i>Doctoral Program in Psychological Processes and Social Behaviour</i> <i>Thesis defense: December 2021, Cum Laude, Awarded</i> <i>University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</i>
02/08/2017	M. Sc. in Advanced Language, Communication, and Associated Pathologies Studies	<i>2016-2017, Interuniversity master's degree</i> <i>University of Santiago de Compostela, University of A Coruña, University of Salamanca, University of Zaragoza, Spain</i>
30/07/2015	Degree in Psychology	<i>2011-2015, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</i> With honours

Funded academic and professional positions:

01/10/2024 – 30/09/2026	Postdoc researcher	Department of English Philology University of Göttingen (Germany)
01/09/2022 – 30/10/2025	Postdoc researcher	Department of Social Psychology, Basic Psychology, and Methodology University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
01/03/2022 – 31/08/2022	Postdoc researcher	Mind, Brain, and Behaviour Research Centre University of Granada (Spain)
16/10/2017 – 17/12/2021	PhD Student - University Professor in Training	Department of Social Psychology, Basic Psychology, and Methodology University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
02/11/2015 – 15/10/2017	Research Grantee for Graduates	Department of Basic Psychology (Human Cognition Lab) University of Minho (Portugal)
30/10/2014 – 01/07/2015	Research Grantee for Undergraduates	Department of Social Psychology, Basic Psychology, and Methodology University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Funding: Grants and fellowships

Concession date	Fellowship	Funding institution	Amount	Country
19/11/2024	Emmy Noether Programme for the project GenPath	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	1,549.000€	Germany
01/08/2024	Dorothea Schlözer Postdoctoral Programme for Women	University of Göttingen	Salary	Germany
01/05/2023	Postdoc Förderprogramm Fokus A B	Goethe University	4,415€	Germany
06/04/2023	R3 Career Support "Research infrastructure	Johanna Quandt Young Academy	2,500€	Germany

	and Open Access publications”			
29/03/2023	DAAD Kongressreisenprogramm	Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)	510€ + 80% travel	Germany
12/07/2022	Fellowship for the postdoctoral training stage	Regional Government of Galicia	Salary	Spain
06/07/2022	*Juan de la Cierva (Postdoc)	Ministry of Science, Innovation and University	Salary	Spain
05/05/2022	SEPEX Grants for the Dissemination of Research Works	SEPEX – Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology	300€	Spain
24/10/2020	Mobility Grants for Beneficiaries of the Training Program for Academic Staff	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training	4,500€ + travel	Spain
21/07/2017	Training Program for University Academic Staff	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training	Salary	Spain
01/10/2015	Research Grant for Graduates	Foundation for Science and Technology	Salary	Portugal
28/10/2014	Research Collaborator Grant for undergraduates	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training	2,000€	Spain

*Refused this postdoc fellowship to pursue “Fellowship for the postdoctoral training stage by the Regional Government of Galicia”

Prizes, Awards, and Distinctions:

Date	Award	Awarding institution
21/12/2024	Early Career Award for Postdoctoral Researchers	European Society of Cognitive Psychology (ESCOP)
20/05/2024	Extraordinary Doctorate Award for PhD theses defended in 2021	University of Santiago de Compostela
01/12/2023	“Psicológica Award” to the Best Scientific Article of 2022	Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology
01/12/2023	Finalist for the Best Scientific Article in Experimental Psychology by Young Researchers in 2022	Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology
01/06/2018	National Award for Excellence in Academic Performance (graduation year: 2015)	Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (Government of Spain)
24/02/2017	Special award to the most outstanding University Graduates in the Autonomous Community of Galicia (Spain) that ended their degree in 2015	Regional Government of Galicia
24/02/2016	Special award to the most outstanding graduate in Psychology (2014/2015)	University of Santiago de Compostela

Mobility:

01/10/2022 – 30/09/2024	Visiting postdoc researcher	Institut für Romanische Sprachen und Literaturen Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany)
06/04/2021 – 15/07/2021	Visiting PhD student	Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour Radboud University (The Netherlands)
20/10/2019 – 05/02/2020	Visiting PhD student	Department of Basic Psychology (Human Cognition Lab) University of Minho (Portugal)

Major collaboration in third-party funded projects:

Dates	Project	Funding institution	Amount	Role
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01/09/2024 – 30/08/2027	Morphosyntax and emotion: Individual differences in multilingual speakers (PID2023-151568NB-I00)	Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities – Government of Spain	212,500€	Member Working team - (researcher)
01/06/2020 – 30/05/2023	Representation and processing of grammatical gender: Phonological and lexical-semantic effects in gender congruency and agreement (PID2019-110583GB-I00)	Ministry of Science and Innovation – Government of Spain	60,500€	Member Working team - (researcher)
01/03/2022 – 31/08/2022	The impact of grammatical gender in processing: A psycholinguistic and social perspective (A-SEJ-416-UGR20)	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF [FEDER]), Regional Government of Andalucía (Spain)	40,000€	Hired postdoc researcher
01/11/2015 – 15/10/2017	The cognate word representation and processing: Towards a more integrative implementation of the Bilingual Interactive Activation (BIA+) model (IF/00784/2013)	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) – Government of Portugal	50,000€	Research grantee

TRACK RECORD

I hold a Ph.D. from the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), where I specialized in gender processing during language production, achieving the highest honors (cum laude, with distinction) and the Extraordinary Doctorate Award by the USC. My thesis research gained further recognition, with three studies either winning or being finalists for awards from the Spanish Society of Experimental Psychology. My work has advanced the understanding of gender processing, putting European Portuguese on the map, and identifying critical distinctions in abstract gender processing, particularly between animate and inanimate nouns. I have advocated for adapting gender selection models, traditionally focused on Dutch and German, to accommodate a broader linguistic reality. In this sense, I have brought attention to the fact that one fundamental aspect of gender acquisition and processing is the relationship between gender and orthography/phonology, i.e., gender transparency. Languages differ in how these are related; hence, the speaker's cognitive representation of gender and the neural structures on which gender processing is based probably differ. Based on this, I have published the first standardization attempt of the concept of "language transparency" and the first quantitative method to obtain a value of transparency for each language, allowing experimental predictions to be made on its basis (Sá-Leite et al., 2024).

My expertise is widely recognized, as demonstrated by numerous invitations to review articles, and book chapters, and several invitations to give talks. I also served as an international expert in reviewing projects for governmental and academic institutions. I created the "SL2024" model together with Prof. Sol Lago, providing the latest cross-linguistic framework for gender selection in language comprehension. This model allowed me to **win the European Society of Cognitive Psychology Award for Early Career Researchers (Postdoc phase, 2024)**. I am currently engaged in collaborative research with institutions across Europe, the USA, and Asia, further contributing to the field and adapting my model and methods to other linguistic realities.

Less than 3 years after defending my PhD, I acquired **more than 1.5 million euros** for a project (**GenPath: The Cognitive Pathways of Gender**) aimed at defining the **electroencephalographic markers of gender retrieval** (Funding institution: the German Research Foundation, DFG). GenPath is planned to start in the second semester of 2025.

As a result of my research work, I have published **10 papers**, **7 in Q1 journals**, of which **3** are positioned in the **first decile** (JCR). I have three forthcoming publications scheduled for release in the next six months, including the chapter "Psycholinguistics of Gender," which I co-authored with Prof. Niels Schiller for the Cambridge

Handbook of Grammatical Gender. My work has been cited 139 times on Google Scholar, 79 times on Web of Science (WoS), and 82 times on Scopus. My H-index stands at 6 across Google Scholar, 5 at WoS, and 4 at Scopus.

- Álvarez-de-la-Granja, M., Parafita-Couto, M. C., Sá-Leite, A. R., Fraga, I., Duñabeitia, J. A., Pliatsikas, C., & Comesaña, M. (2025 – in press). The Galician Multipic: a picture database that captures lexical variation. *Frontiers in Psychology*. (Q1, JCR Psychology Multidisciplinary)
- Comesaña, M., & Sá-Leite, A. R. (2024). Psycholinguistics in Galician: A review of the current state of the art. *Cumieira das Letras*. doi:10.35869/cumieiradasletras.v03.2024.11
- Sá-Leite, A. R., Simpson, I., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. (2024). A standardized approach to measuring gender transparency in languages. *Acta Psychologica*. doi:10.1016/j.actpsy.2024.104236 (Q3, JCR, Psychology Experimental)
- Sá-Leite, A. R., & Lago, S. (2024). The role of word form in gender processing during lexical access: A theoretical review and novel proposal in language comprehension. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. doi:10.3758/s13423-023-02426-8 (Q2, JCR Psychology Experimental)
- Sá-Leite, A. R., Flores, C., Eira, C., Haro, J. & Comesaña, M. (2023). The balance between languages rather than the age of acquisition: A study on the cross-linguistic gender congruency effect. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 26(5), 1079-1092. doi:10.1017/S1366728923000378 (Q1, JCR Psychology Experimental, first decile JCR Linguistics)
- Casado, A., Sá-Leite, A. R., Pesciarelli, F. & Paolieri, D. (2023). Exploring the nature of the gender-congruency effect: implicit gender activation and social bias [Spanish Psycholinguistics]. *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1160836 (Q1, JCR Psychology Multidisciplinary)
- Sá-Leite, A. R., Comesaña, M., Acuña-Fariña, C., & Fraga, I. (2023). A cautionary note on the studies using the picture-word interference paradigm: The unwelcome consequences of the random use of “in/animates” [Animacy in Cognition: Effects, Mechanisms, and Theories]. *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1145884 (Q1, JCR Psychology Multidisciplinary)
- *Sá-Leite, A. R., Tomaz, Â., Hernández-Cabrera, J., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. (2022). What a transparent Romance language with a Germanic gender-determiner mapping tells us about gender retrieval: Insights from European Portuguese. *Psicológica*, 43(2): e14777. doi:10.20350/digitalCSIC/14777 (Q4, Diamond Open Access)
- *Sá-Leite, A. R., Luna, K., Tomaz, Â., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. (2022). The mechanisms underlying grammatical gender selection in language production: A meta-analysis of the gender congruency effect. *Cognition*, 224. doi:10.1016/j.cognition.2022.105060 (Q1, JCR Psychology Experimental)
- *Sá-Leite, A. R., Haro, J., Comesaña, M., & Fraga, I. (2021). Of beavers and tables: The role of animacy in the processing of grammatical gender within a picture-word interference task. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2021.661175 (Q1, JCR Psychology Multidisciplinary)
- Sá-Leite, A. R., Luna, K., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. (2020). The gender congruency effect across languages in bilinguals: A meta-analysis. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 27, 677-693. doi:10.3758/s13423-019-01702-w (Q1, first decile JCR Psychology Experimental)
- Sá-Leite, A. R., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. (2019). Grammatical gender processing in bilinguals: An analytic review. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 26, 1148-1173. doi:10.3758/s13423-019-01596-8 (Q1, first decile JCR Psychology Experimental)

*Received awards; finalists (see awards section above)

Science dissemination:

Outreach articles:

Sá-Leite, A. R., Haro, J., Comesaña, M., & Fraga, I. (2022). Of bats and tables: How animacy impacts the brain in a variety of tasks. *Ciencia Cognitiva*. Published online.

Invited talks:

- 26/06/2023 Sá-Leite, A. R. How to study interference between languages during gender selection: An experiment with Portuguese-German bilinguals. Invited speaker at the Experimental Panel of the 14th Heritage Language Research Institute. University of Southern California-Los Angeles (UCLA). California, United States. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.23607.09126>
- 28/09/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R. Cando “a cólera” non é “o cólera”, pero “a árbore” é “el árbol”: estudos sobre o procesamento de xénero en falantes monolingües e bilingües [“When “a cólera” is not “o cólera”, but “a árbore” is “el árbol”: Studies on the processing of gender in monolingual and bilingual speakers]. Conference at the Lingüísticamente II: Diálogos entre a Lingüística, a Psicoloxía e a Psicolingüística. Instituto da Lingua Galega, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

- 29/04/2021 Sá-Leite, A. R. The retrieval of grammatical gender during language production in native speakers of European Portuguese: A proposal based on gender transparency. Talk to the Language and Cognition Group (LACG). Leiden University. Online.
- 21/04/2021 Sá-Leite, A. R. Is it a matter of basal activation level? A cross-linguistic approach to grammatical gender processing. Invited speaker at the symposium “Grammatical Gender Representation and Processing”. Jornadas Virtuales SEPEX 2021. Online.
- 11/11/2020 Sá-Leite, A. R. On the syntactic vs. lexical nature of grammatical gender: The Gender Acquisition and Processing (GAP) hypothesis. Conference at the 23rd English Linguistics Circle Seminar. Online.

Selected oral communications:

- 07/09/2023 Sá-Leite, A. R. When another language means another gender: How are the masculine and feminine values encoded during bilingual lexical access? Oral communication at the ESCOP 2023, Porto, Portugal. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24690.68803>
- 06/05/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R., Flores, C., Eira, C., Haro, J., & Comesaña, M. Examining cross-linguistic gender effects in European Portuguese-German bilinguals: The role of language balance and age of acquisition. Oral communication presented at the First Joint APPE - SEPEX Meeting, Algarve, Portugal.
- 08/04/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R., Flores, C., Eira, C., Haro, J., & Comesaña, M. The balance between languages rather than the age of acquisition: A study on the cross-linguistic gender congruency effect. Oral communication presented at the IV Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Lingüística (IV Conference of the Spanish Society of Linguistics), Madrid, Spain.
- 15/04/2021 Sá-Leite, A. R., Tomaz, Â., Hernández-Cabrera, J. A., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. A comprehensive study on the gender congruency effect: Understanding the processing of grammatical gender during nouns' lexical access. Oral communication presented at the 8th International Conference of the Spanish Society for Applied Linguistics (AESLA). A Coruña, Spain (online).
- 10/04/2019 Sá-Leite, A. R., Tomaz, Â., Hernández-Cabrera, J., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. Grammatical gender processing in European Portuguese bare nouns: Is animacy responsible for the so-called gender-congruency effect? Oral communication presented at the XIV International Symposium of Psycholinguistics. Tarragona, Spain.
- 06/04/2017 Sá-Leite, A. R., Oliveira, H., Soares, A. P., Carreiras, M., & Comesaña, M. Is the (in)congruency-gender effect modulated by the animacy of bare nouns? A study with native speakers of European Portuguese. Oral communication presented at the XIII International Symposium of Psycholinguistics. Braga, Portugal.

Selected posters:

- 18/11/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R., Lago, S., & Fraga, I. Gender asymmetries in language processing. Poster presented at the Workshop on L2 Sentence and Discourse Processing. Cologne, Germany.
- 30/08/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R., Andras, F., Di Minico, F., & Paolieri, D. The encoding of grammatical gender during language comprehension: An eye-tracking study with Italian-Spanish bilinguals. Poster presented at the ESCOP 2022. Paris, France.
- 07/05/2022 Sá-Leite, A. R., Luna, K., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. The peculiarities of grammatical gender representation and processing in bilinguals: A meta-analysis on the cross-linguistic gender congruency effect. Poster presented at the First Joint APPE - SEPEX Meeting, Algarve, Portugal.
- 23/06/2021 Sá-Leite, A. R., Flores, C., Eira, C., Haro, J., & Comesaña, M. On the representational nature of grammatical gender in early and late bilinguals: A test for the Gender Acquisition and Processing (GAP) hypothesis. Poster presented at the XV International Symposium of Psycholinguistics. Online.
- 04/06/2020 Sá-Leite, A. R., Pinal, D., Pinto, C., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. An ERP study on the gender congruency effect with European Portuguese speakers: Is transparency modulating gender processing? Poster presented at the IMPRS Conference 2020 Interdisciplinary Approaches in the Language Sciences. Nijmegen, The Netherlands (online due to COVID-19).
- 15/11/2019 Sá-Leite, A. R., Tomaz, Â., Hernández-Cabrera, J. A., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. The GAP hypothesis: An integrative view of gender acquisition and processing. Poster presented at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Montreal, Canada.
- 04/07/2018 Sá-Leite, A. R., Tomaz, Â., Hernández-Cabrera, J., Fraga, I., & Comesaña, M. Gender processing of European Portuguese nominal phrases: Examining an early-determiner selection in a Romance language. Poster presented at the XII Congress of the Sociedad Española de Psicología Experimental (SEPEX). Madrid, Spain.

- 13/09/2017 Sá-Leite, A.R., Oliveira, H., Soares, A. P., Carreiras, M., & Comesaña, M. The processing of gender grammar during bilingual word recognition: Tackling the role of cross-language similarities. Póster presented at the 5th Barcelona Summer School on Bilingualism and Multilingualism, Barcelona, Spain.

Organization of Conferences:

- Organizing committee: 03-04/07/2025: **1st Workshop on Replication in the Languages Sciences (WoReLa1)**. Conference at the Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main (Germany).

Teaching activities:

04/06/2025	Cognitive representation of grammatical gender in bilingualism – BA and MA – Blended Intensive Programme on Multilingualism (1h)
04/06/2025	Introduction to Neurolinguistics of bilingualism – BA and MA – Blended Intensive Programme on Multilingualism (1h)
20/06/2025 – 28/06/2025	Psycholinguistics of Grammatical and Natural Gender – BA and MA – Universität Göttingen (42h)
24/06/2024	Introduction to Neurolinguistics and EEG Recording Workshop – MA and PhD students – Goethe Universität (2h)
02/10/2023	06/11/2023: OpenSesame workshop (online) – MA and PhD students – University of Minho (8h)
05/05/2022	EEG cleaning workshop with EEGLab – MA and PhD students – University of Granada (3h)
01/03/2020 – 01/07/2020	Interactive and theoretical classes in Psycholinguistics (Degree in Psychology) – University of Santiago de Compostela (60h)
01/03/2019 – 01/07/2019	Interactive and theoretical classes in Psycholinguistics (Degree in Psychology) – University of Santiago de Compostela (60h)
01/03/2018 – 01/07/2018	Interactive and theoretical classes in Psycholinguistics (Degree in Psychology) – University of Santiago de Compostela (48h)

Editing and reviewing

Articles:

- Guest Editor in Brain Sciences (IF 3.394) — Special Issue "Lexico-Syntactic Processing in Developing and Skilled Readers of First and Second/Foreign Languages" (2023)
- Independent peer-reviewer of multiple JCR-indexed journals: Bilingualism: Language and Cognition, Cognition, IRAL, Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, Journal of Cognition, Journal of Child Language, Journal of Psycholinguistic Research, Lingua, Frontiers in Psychology, International Journal of Bilingualism, etc.

Thesis:

12/12/2022	International expert reviewer for the doctoral thesis of: Rivera-Zurita, Marta. (2023). <i>Modulatory factors of grammar learning in second and third languages</i> . University of Granada.
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Books:

27/02/2023	Part of the Scientific Committee (reviewer) of the book: 2023. <i>Perspectivas Psicobiológicas Y Pedagógicas Del Aprendizaje Y La Atención: Aportes A La Neurociencia Educativa</i> ("Psychobiological and Pedagogical Perspectives on Learning and Attention: Contributions to Educational Neuroscience"). Thomson Reuters Aranzadi (ISBN 978-84-1125-889-0).
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Awards:

28/05/2025	Member of the commission to assess the Early Career Award (postdoc) by the European Society for Cognitive Psychology (ESCOP).
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Projects:

07/12/2023	Scientific advisor for project submission for the BECHS-Africa fellowship at the Washington University in St. Louis, United States, academic year 2023/2024.
16/10/2023	International Project Peer Reviewer at the National Science Center of Poland (http://www.ncn.gov.pl), academic year 2023/2024.

16/02/2023 International Project Peer Reviewer at the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (www.fondzanauku.gov.rs), academic year 2022/2023.

06/06/2025 International Project Peer Reviewer at the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (www.fondzanauku.gov.rs), academic year 2024/2025.

Supervision of Researchers in Early Career Phases:

10/07/2023 Master thesis: “Gender Congruency effect across the animacy hierarchy and its neural correlates”. University of Granada. Student: Vania Patricia de la Garza.

22/06/2022 Undergraduate thesis: “The impact of grammatical gender on processing: A psycholinguistic and social perspective”. University of Granada. Student: Miriam Romero Sellamitou.

LANGUAGES

Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Spanish	Native language	Native language	Native language
Portuguese	Native language	Native language	Native language
Galician	Native language	Native language	Native language
English	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient
German	Basic user (B1)	Basic user (B1)	Basic user (B1)