



5<sup>th</sup> December, 15h-16h  
Sala 5.2, FLUL

## Maria del Mar Vanrell

Universitat de les Illes Balears

(<https://mariadelmarvanrell.cat>)

### Experimental evidence for the role of intonation in evidential marking

This talk focuses on the role of intonation in the marking of directly-perceived information in Majorcan Catalan yes-no questions. We conducted a perception experiment in which a total of 72 participants were introduced to a set of twins who were exposed to different types of evidence for a given  $p$  (proposition). One twin inferred  $p$  based on direct sensory information (via one of the five senses), while the other had been told that  $p$  by a third party, i.e., reported information. Participants listened to a set of discourse contexts that ended in critical stimuli with three attested combinations of particles/intonation in this variety of Catalan: (1) polar questions produced with a falling nuclear contour  $\downarrow H+L^* L\%$ ; (2) polar questions headed with the particle *que* 'that' produced with  $\downarrow H+L^* L\%$  and (3) polar questions headed with the particle *que* and produced with a rise-fall  $L+H^* L\%$ . After hearing the stimulus, participants had to decide which of the twins had uttered the question – the one who inferred a proposition ( $p$ ) based on direct sensory information or the one who had been told  $p$  by a third party. Results show that listeners very consistently associate *que* +  $L+H^* L\%$  combination with inferences drawn from direct sensory evidence as opposed to reported evidence. This shows that particles may work in tandem with intonation to convey information source. Importantly, we show that intonation is a part of the grammar that may be recruited for evidential strategies.