



SOCIETY FOR THE
NEUROBIOLOGY OF
LANGUAGE

Newsletter

February 2024



Join us in Brisbane for SNL 2024!

Brisbane (traditional name, Meanjin) is a modern, sub-tropical capital city with the river at its heart. With almost year-round sunshine, the city and surrounds offer a range of appealing visitor experiences including easy access to the nearby Gold and Sunshine Coasts and to the Great Barrier Reef.



The State Host Destination

The SNL meeting will convene at the [Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre](#), situated across from the 1.5 hectare [South Bank Parklands](#) precinct with its lagoon beach, the [Queensland Cultural Centre](#) and [Gallery of Modern Art](#) (GOMA).

Brisbane was named by Frommer's guide as one of the best places to go in 2024:
<https://www.frommers.com/slideshows/848587-frommer-s-best-places-to-go-in-2024>

And by the New York Times as a 'must see' for 2024:
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/travel/places-to-travel-destinations-2024.html>

For more information, visit <https://www.queensland.com/au/en/places-to-see/destinations/brisbane> and <https://visit.brisbane.qld.au>



Neurobiology
of Language

[Neurobiology of Language](#) is the open-access journal sponsored by the Society for the Neurobiology of Language and MIT Press. Launched in March 2019, the journal provides a new venue for articles across a range of disciplines addressing the neurobiological basis of speech and language. To learn more about Neurobiology of Language and how to submit articles, go to <https://www.mitpressjournals.org/nol>.



Job Postings and Announcements

If you have a job posting, general announcement, or conference that you would like to include in the SNL Newsletter, please send it to newsletter@neurolang.org.



Job Postings

Joint Positions at the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science and at

We invite applications for joint positions at the **Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science** and at the **Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva** to work on two projects in the framework of the NCCR Evolving Language (www.evolvinglanguage.ch).

The two projects are on:

- (1) how **sleep** modulates the neural **mechanisms implicated in our access to words** (e.g., tip of the tongue phenomenon) in **neurotypical young and old adults**, and in patients suffering from **aphasia following stroke**;
- (2) the **organization of the lexico-semantic system in speakers with variable demographics** (e.g., age, languages spoken) **and neurological conditions** (i.e., stroke and primary progressive aphasia patients).

Both projects involve a combination of behavioral and neuroimaging methods (fMRI and MEG respectively).

Qualifications requested:

For a PhD position (FNS Candoc position):

- Master in the field(s) of cognitive psychology, and/or speech and language pathology, and/or neuroscience
- Experience in language and speech assessment in adult neurological patients OR with neuroimaging data (fMRI/MEG) acquisition and analyses
- Very good command of English (written and oral) and a basic level of French are needed, as well the willingness to reach the desired level in a few months after starting the position (to interact with students and participants).
- Solid programming skills (particularly python) will be considered an advantage.

For a Post-doc position:

- PhD in the field(s) of cognitive psychology, and/or speech and language pathology, and/or neuroscience
- Solid experience with advanced neuroimaging (fMRI/MEG) experimentation and statistics
- Experience in the neuroscience of language
- Interest in speech processing and language pathology
- Excellent programming skills (Python, Matlab, R)

The NCCR Evolving Language places great emphasis on teamwork and multidisciplinary perspectives. Excellent communication and collaboration skills are essential.

Starting date: July 2024 or later

Please submit your application **by the 29th of February 2024**. To apply, please send us the following documents as a single PDF (in English):

- a cover letter (up to one page, describing your research interests, previous experiences, career goals, and motivation to apply for this position)
- a detailed CV
- the transcripts from your previous studies and/or copy of highest academic diploma
- the contact information (name, position, and e-mail address) of two references
- (if available) a maximum two samples of your own work (e.g., masters thesis, scientific essays / student research papers / publications; one can send the full pdf or provide a link to the resources if available online)

We take gender balance and diversity seriously in our hiring decisions: applications from underrepresented groups are highly encouraged.

To apply and for further information, please contact :

Valentina Borghesani, [Valentina\(dot\)Borghesani\(at\)unige.ch](mailto:Valentina(dot)Borghesani(at)unige.ch)

Marina Laganaro, [marina\(dot\)laganaro\(at\)unige.ch](mailto:marina(dot)laganaro(at)unige.ch)

Sophie Schwartz, [sophie\(dot\)schwartz\(at\)unige.ch](mailto:sophie(dot)schwartz(at)unige.ch)



FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION - VISUAL METACOGNITION IN CHILDHOOD - CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP

FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION - VISUAL METACOGNITION IN CHILDHOOD - CONSCIOUSNESS GROUP at the BCBL- Basque Center on Cognition Brain and Language (San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain) www.bcbl.eu

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITION

- Position: PhD student
- Researcher Profile: First Stage Researcher (R1- up to the point of PhD)
- Number of vacancies:
- Project: Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON) Doctoral Networks, Confident Decisions CODE
- Location: Spain > San Sebastian
- Research Field: Neuroscience > Cognition and Language
- Type of contract/Duration of Contract : 3 years
- Job Status: Full-time
- Hours per week: 35
- Starting date: 01/09/2024
- Application deadline: 07/04/2024

Information about the project:

A PhD position is available in the Consciousness group at the Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language. The successful candidate will perform research on visual confidence and metacognition in childhood. Research methods include psychophysics, computational modeling, and the possibility of brain imaging (i.e. fMRI, MEG) studies. The position will be affiliated with an international network of 9 research labs located throughout Europe.

Please see <https://sites.google.com/view/confidentdecisions/> and <https://www.bcbl.eu/en/conocenos/equipo/david-soto> for more information.

Job description:

The successful candidate will receive interdisciplinary training in theories and methods for the study of confidence and metacognition. This includes many network-wide events and other (international) training opportunities. The BCBL promotes a rich research environment and provides access to the most advanced behavioural and neuroimaging techniques, including 3 Tesla Siemens PrismaFit MRI scanner, a whole-head MEG system, four EEG labs, a fNIRS lab, a BabyLab, two eye-tracking labs, and several behavioural labs. The BCBL also has strong links with local schools to carry out studies in children populations. The BCBL hosts excellent support staff and research personnel. More information about the BCBL can be found at: <https://www.bcbl.eu/>.

PI and research group:

The successful candidate will join the BCBL Consciousness group (<https://www.bcbl.eu/en/research/research-groups/consciousness>) led by Dr. David Soto (d.soto@bcbl.eu), who will also be their main supervisor.

2. CANDIDATES' PROFILE AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Required skills:

- Candidates should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in neuroscience, computer science, psychology, math, or related fields.
- You must comply with the Marie Curie Actions mobility rule: the researcher must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (in this case: Spain) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their appointment.

Desirable skills:

- Previous experience with computer programming, or other quantitative experience
- Experience with visual psychophysics, fMRI, computational modeling, and/or data analysis

3. WORKING CONDITIONS

Salary: 31.000€ (without family allowance); 35.000€ (with family allowance)

Entitlements and other benefits: <https://www.bcbl.eu/en/join-us/what-is-like-to-work-bcbl>

Training opportunities and Career development plan: Researchers at any stage of their career, regardless of their contractual situation, are given an opportunity for professional development and for improving their employability through access to a Personal Career Development Plan which includes

- (1) Training through individually personalized research projects under senior supervision
- (2) Exchanging knowledge with the scientific community and the general public
- (3) Network-wide training in theory and methods
- (4) Complementary training courses
- (5) Involvement in proposal writing, task coordination
- (6) Development of skills for the organization of training and scientific events

BCBL seeks to foster an environment where all talents can flourish, regardless of gender, age, cultural background, nationality or impairments. If you have any questions relating to accessibility or support contact us.

4. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Language policy

- The corporate language at the Center is English but the national language will be an asset for this particular position
- The center provides initial level Spanish and Basque lessons to all the international staff members
- The interview will be conducted entirely in English

Other information:

- Women and other underrepresented groups are explicitly encouraged to apply.
- Additional financial support for researchers with families is available.
- Candidates must comply with the Marie Curie Actions rule for mobility, which holds that they have spent no more than 12 months of the past 3 years in Spain. Moving expenses for relocating to Spain will be covered.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS:

Submission of the application and documentation:

To submit your application, please follow this link: <http://www.bcbl.eu/calls>, apply for "PhD Consciousness group 2024" and upload your application before **April 7th, 2024**:

- A curriculum vitae
- A statement outlining research interests and motivation to apply for the position (1 page maximum)
- Two letters of recommendation

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview.

Application process timetable:

- Deadline for application: 07/04/2024
- Evaluation by committee: 08/04/2024-19/04/2024
- Interviews : 22/04/2024 – 03/05/2024
- Final decision: 06/05/2024
- Feedback to all applicants: 06/05/2024
- Work contract earliest start date: 01/09/2024

Contact details for enquiries: Prof. David Soto (d.soto@bcbl.eu)



2 PhD positions, Universities of Marburg / Lahn and Münster (DE)

Remuneration: TV-L E13 (65%)

Starting date: March-May 2024

Project duration: 3 years

We are looking for you to join our DFG-funded project on Language in Schizophrenia as a PhD student.

We expect:

- An above-average academic degree in the field of cognitive science, speech therapy, neuroscience, psychology, or linguistics
- A keen interest in research in the field of clinical psychology / clinical linguistics, in particular the study of language in Schizophrenia
- Strong communication and interaction skills, especially in the recruitment of patients and the collection and analysis of electrophysiological data
- Relevant previous experience in computer-assisted analysis of behavioral data and electroencephalography (EEG) data (using e.g., MatLab, Python and R)
- Enthusiasm for scientific work in an interdisciplinary team at the interface of medicine, psychology and linguistics
- Fluent written and spoken German

We offer:

- A responsible and challenging scientific position in the DFG-funded project "Predictive Coding as an Approach to Schizophrenia"
- An outstanding, methodologically advanced scientific education within cognitive / clinical neuroscience
- Integration into the project group (Universities of Münster and Marburg a.d. Lahn, MPI for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig) and its international network

Your application should include a cover letter, a CV, contact information of two academic referees, relevant certificates, and a half-page letter of motivation with a clear reference to the project and its managers. For inquiries and for submitting your application, contact Yifei He (yifei.he@staff.uni-marburg.de) or Lars Meyer (lmeyer@cbs.mpg.de).



ASL Research Assistant Position at Johns Hopkins

The Language Creation and Learning Lab ([Annemarie Kocab](#) PI) and Neuroplasticity and Development Lab ([Marina Bedny](#) PI) are jointly seeking a Research Program Coordinator to facilitate cognitive and neuroscience research on American Sign Language. ASL fluency is preferred for this position. The Research Program Coordinator recruits participants (including ASL signing participants); schedules and runs participants in behavioral, EEG, and fMRI experiments; implements experimental designs; maintains records of research participants (consent forms, HIPAA agreements, screening agreements); and assists with the general administration of the labs. Additional responsibilities of the Research Program Coordinator may include managing EEG and neuroimaging data analysis infrastructure, writing and maintaining the data analysis scripts, and performing analyses of EEG and neuroimaging data. This is a full-time position contingent on the availability of funds. The RA position is open to people from various discipline backgrounds, including those who do not have extensive expertise in cognitive/neuroscience.

Interested candidates should email us a CV and cover letter to mbedny@jh.edu and kocab@jhu.edu. The cover letter should describe the individual's career goals and how working in Kocab and Bedny labs would facilitate those goals. Please also upload your application at:

<https://jobs.jhu.edu/job/Baltimore-Research-Program-Coordinator-MD-21218/1093266600/>



Postdoctoral Fellowships Available in the Georgetown University Neuroscience of Language Training Program neurolang.georgetown.edu

The Neuroscience of Language program provides postdoctoral fellowship training in the brain basis of language, as well as sensory, motor, and cognitive systems as they pertain to language, speech, concept representation and communication. Fellows will conduct research with one or more of our many faculty members focused on Neuroscience of Language research, ranging from basic work on auditory or language processing (spoken, signed, and written language), plasticity and development of language systems, to clinical trials in adults and children with brain injuries affecting language. Interactions with Georgetown's highly regarded Linguistics Department, as well as Children's National Hospital and MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, provide us with access to additional faculty and research populations and further enrich the training environment.

Fellows will have an individualized development plan designed to advance their career goals. In addition to conducting research in the broad field of the Neuroscience of Language, fellows will have opportunities to take coursework and participate in a regular journal club and seminar series, clinical experiences, community engagement activities, and professional development activities. The overall goal of the program is to develop well-rounded scientists who have a broad perspective on basic and clinical Neuroscience of Language research.

Appointments are funded at **standard NIH NRSA stipend rates**, with an initial one-year term, which will be renewed for a second year assuming fellows are in good standing.

Individuals with doctoral degrees from any field related to Neuroscience of Language (Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Linguistics, Psychology, Communication Science and Disorders, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who currently hold a doctoral degree or will have met all doctoral program requirements before enrolling are eligible to apply. Admissions are rolling and applicants are encouraged to inquire about available slots early. Individuals from groups **recognized to be underrepresented in the sciences** are encouraged to apply.

Please submit the following application materials via the **application form**.

- CV
- Personal statement describing career goals, prior research, goals for postdoctoral training, and lab(s) of interest (3 pages)
- Names and contact information for three references
- Writing sample (manuscript or dissertation)

Contact Dr. Peter Turkeltaub (peter.turkeltaub@georgetown.edu) with any questions.



Patient Coordinator Research Position

Cognition & Neuroimaging of Acute to Chronic Stroke
University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX

The Schnur laboratory at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston is seeking a motivated, highly organized, and resourceful individual to recruit and assess acute stroke patients in a hospital setting and to collect neuroimaging as part of the NIH project "Recovery of Language and Theory of Mind after Stroke". The position is a full-time paid position starting Summer 2024.

Our laboratory enrolls participants in the acute phase of stroke recovery from three comprehensive stroke centers in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. The goal of the project is to understand the neural, cognitive, and social communication systems which contribute to recovery of language in the year following stroke. As a patient coordinator, you will learn to administer and assess detailed behavioral examinations of language and cognitive abilities to participants after brain-damage in coordination with a speech-language pathologist. Beyond recruiting and testing participants, the position will also involve organizing and analyzing behavioral and neuroimaging data and contributing to manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals. We enjoy collaborations with research groups in Houston as well as nationally and internationally. Our laboratory is located within the TIRR Memorial Hermann Research Center, a 10-minute walk to patient recruitment sites in the Texas Medical Center, 5-minutes from the Center for Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (CAMRI), and a 10-minute walk to the Houston METRO Rail. At CAMRI, we collect quantitative and functional neuroimaging from patients and control participants on a state-of-the-art 3T Siemens Prisma scanner.

Required: Previous *academic* experience in psychology, communication sciences and disorders, linguistics and/or neuroscience, a completed B.A./B.S. (or higher) degree, a strong academic background, and a two-year commitment.

Informal inquiries can be made to Dr. Tatiana Schnur (scanlab@uth.tmc.edu). In addition, please prepare the below materials combined into one document (.doc or .pdf).

- a one page cover letter (include why the position is of interest and your career goals)
- resume
- unofficial transcript
- the name and email addresses of two references

University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Equal Access Employer.



2 Postdoc positions at UConn brainLENS Lab (<https://www.brainlens.org>)

The Hoeft Lab (<http://brainLENS.org>; PI: Fumiko Hoeft MD PhD, Campus Dean & CAO; Professor of the Department of Psychological Sciences) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) is looking for two exceptional postdocs in the field of cognitive neuroscience/neurolinguistics with advanced neuroimaging, computational, programming, and writing skills.

The postdocs are expected to analyze functional and structural MRI (and EEG) data and publish primarily from three NIH-funded projects: (1) the INTERGENERATIONAL NEUROIMAGING project that examines transmission of neurocognitive features of language/reading and executive function across generations (e.g., Ho et al. *TiNS* 2016); (2) the MULTILINGUAL project that investigates reading development and the underlying neural mechanisms in early multilingual children who were followed up since pre-literate grades 3/5 (e.g., Kepinska et al. *Sci Rep* 2023); and (3) the NEURAL NOISE HYPOTHESIS project that tests the hypothesis using multimodal MRI and EEG (e.g., Hancock et al. *TICS* 2017). There are also opportunities to write grants and publish using other existing (e.g., TMS+MRI+MRS) and publicly available datasets in the lab on the neuroscience of language and literacy.

The candidate must have strong research experience in (1) reading / dyslexia or related fields of cognitive neuroscience and (2) MRI- (and/or EEG) based neuroimaging. Strong management, collaboration, communication, and writing skills are required. A strong publication record and expertise in programming, open-science approaches, and network / machine learning approaches are a plus.

The positions can begin immediately. Please email brainlens@uconn.edu with a cover letter describing qualifications and a current CV. Please add "[Postdoc job] First & Last Name" to the email's subject. Qualified candidates will be asked to have three letters of reference forwarded.



Boston University T32 postdoctoral training program

Boston University hosts an NIDCD T32 program for eligible U.S. citizens or green card holders, which provides multidisciplinary postdoctoral training to prepare a cadre of academic researchers who are highly literate in the methods, objectives, and theoretical structure of health research in communication sciences and disorders (CSD). <https://www.bu.edu/sargent/academics/departments-programs/speech-language-hearing-sciences/phd-in-slhs/research-opportunities/>

The training program will provide trainees with:

- Deep knowledge base for research in their chosen research area
- Working knowledge in the breadth of basic, translational, clinical, and implementation research
- Broad understanding of the interdisciplinary efforts in CSD
- Intrinsic comprehension of the values, activities, and culture in health research
- Understanding and a skill set, appropriate to the trainee's career-stage, in the full range of professional roles of an academic researcher in CSD (e.g., manuscript preparation, lab management, grant writing, compliance with governmental regulations)

How to Participate

Interested postdoctoral applicants should apply directly by sending application materials to program director Cara Stepp (cstepp@bu.edu). Applications will be considered on April 15 and November 15 annually. Postdoctoral Trainees will be guided by both their Primary Training Mentor and a required Secondary Training Mentor. Current mentors include: David Boas, Naomi Caselli, Kimberly Crespo, Jordan Green, Frank Guenther, Xue Han, Robert Hillman, Jana Iverson, Gerald Kidd, Swathi Kiran, Amy Lieberman, Tyler Perrachione, Kamal Sen, Emily Stephen, Cara Stepp, Helen Tager-Flusberg, Jennifer Zuk.

Application materials should include:

- Cover letter (addressed to Professor Cara Stepp)
- Curriculum vitae
- Personal Statement that addresses: research interests, appropriate research mentors, and long-term academic

- and career goals
- Publications/Papers (up to 3; can include 'submitted' or 'in press' as necessary)
- References (2-3): Please ask individuals submitting references to send their letters in pdf format directly to Professor Cara Stepp at cstepp@bu.edu



Other

Deadline Extended: Highlights in the Language Sciences Conference 2024 **Submit your Abstract**

Deadline extended until 31st March 2024

The **deadline to submit abstracts** for poster presentations at the *Highlights in the Language Sciences Conference 2024* has been **extended until 31th of March 2024**. The *Highlights in the Language Sciences Conference 2024* is organized by **The Language in Interaction Consortium** www.languageininteraction.nl (Lil) celebrating the conclusion of our 10-year Gravitation Programme and the advances made in language-related disciplines including genetics, neuroscience, psychology, linguistics and computational modeling.

Registration and attendance of the conference as well as the poster sessions will be free of charge. We invite abstract submissions for poster presentations in all topic areas related to the conference. Submissions should not exceed 350 words of text (excluding references) and should fit on one A4 page. In addition, abstracts can include one page of figures and/or tables. You can submit abstracts for poster presentations here: <https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=hils2024>

The conference will take place **8-11 July 2024** at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. We are putting together an exciting programme with top-level key experts in the relevant fields of research. Confirmed speakers include David Poeppel (NYU, Strungmann Institute, Frankfurt), Ghislaine Dehaene-Lambertz (CNRS Paris), Vera Demberg (Universität des Saarlandes), Uri Hasson (University of Princeton), Barbara Kaup (University Tübingen), Tal Linzen (NYU). For more details see <https://hils2024.nl/>



Academy of Aphasia 62nd Annual Meeting **Nara, Japan and Virtual (Hybrid)**

Friday, October 18 – Sunday, October 20, 2024

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2024

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Aphasia will be hosted at [Nara Kasugano International Forum IRAKA](#) in Nara (Japan). We encourage onsite attendance – **required for platform presenters** – although we also offer the option to participate online via an interactive hybrid platform. On Saturday, October 19, we will hold a reception highlighting traditional Japanese culture ([Noh performance](#)) at the conference venue, followed by a welcome party. The Academy welcomes submissions of experimental, clinical, theoretical, and historical research from any field that contributes to the study of aphasia, including Speech-Language Pathology, Psychology, Neurology, Neuroscience, Linguistics, History, and Computational Modeling.

This year's keynote speaker will be [Dr. Atsushi Iriki](#), Senior Researcher of Innovation Design at [Riken Research Institute](#) and [Research Supervisor of CREST "Multi-Sensing" projects](#) at Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Dr Iriki investigates evolutionary precursors to higher cognitive functions based on neurophysiological analyses of non-human primates, as well as studying cognition through functional and structural brain imaging. Dr Iriki is the principal investigator of the project [Neurobiological mechanisms of cognitive niche construction](#).

Now in its seventh year, the NIDCD-funded Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375) will sponsor selected student fellows to attend and present their work at the conference. Fellows will also receive focused mentoring and training from seasoned faculty mentors at the meeting. Both U.S. and international students are eligible to apply; please contact Swathi Kiran (kirans@bu.edu) or Heather Dial (hrdial@central.uh.edu) with inquiries. The grant also sponsors a state-of-the-art *New Frontiers in Aphasia Research* seminar. This year's topic will focus on cortical tracking of speech and language processing, and the speaker will be [Dr. Andrea E. Martin](#) of Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (the Netherlands).

Abstract guidelines

Submission procedures. Abstracts (max. 500 words) must be submitted through the *vFairs* platform (submission link to follow). An individual can submit and participate in more than one abstract, but be listed as first author on only one submission.

Presentation types. This includes *papers* (i.e., platform and poster sessions) consisting of original research that has not yet been published and *symposia* (i.e., 3-4 platform sessions focusing on a common theme) consisting of original or previously published research. *Platform session* presenters will be required to attend and present onsite (in Nara). *Poster session* presenters have the option to present onsite (in Nara) or present in the online poster hall.

Templates. All abstracts should conform to a specified template format (either for [platform/poster presentations](#) or [symposia](#)). Please use the correct template to be considered for acceptance to the conference program.

Notification of acceptance. The Program Committee will e-mail a decision **by July 31, 2024**.

Visa information for Japan is available on [our website](#). Citizens of many countries are exempt.

Onsite childcare can be arranged with early registration. Email kirans@bu.edu with interest.

Program Committee: Adrià Rofes & Shari Baum (Co-Chairs), Aneta Kiełar & Elena Barbieri (Co-Vice Chairs), Rajani Sebastian, Silvia Martínez Ferreiro, Eva Kehayia and Gabriele Miceli.Y



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