

August 2021 Newsletter



SOCIETY FOR THE
NEUROBIOLOGY OF
LANGUAGE



SNL 2021 October 5-8

Important Deadlines

September 1

Presentation Uploads Open

September 14

Deadline to Upload Slide and Slide
Slam presentations

October 5 - 8

SNL 2021 (Virtual Edition)



Neurobiology
of Language

Job Postings & 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

Join Our Mailing List

Countdown to SNL 2021

With a little over 6 weeks before the SNL meeting, SNL organizers are busy putting the final touches on this year's virtual meeting.

SNL 2021 will feature **four full days of scientific programming**: three cutting-edge **Keynote** lectures, **Award** talks from this year's esteemed winners, and three dynamic member-initiated **Symposia**. SNL will also include four traditional **Slide** sessions and an exciting new component: **Slide slams** – thematically-grouped 5-minute mini-talks. All sessions will include LIVE discussion.

The program is rich and packed with scientific content – to view the entire program, see [Schedule-of-Events](#).

To make SNL as accessible as possible, we have kept **registration** rates low and offer county discounts. All registered attendees will have full access to all conference recordings and presentations through January 31, 2022.

We look forward to seeing you at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (Virtual Edition)!

Job Postings

The Program for Translational Brain Mapping, in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Neurology at the University of Rochester Medical School, is hiring 2 full-time Human Subject Research Coordinators.

The Human Subject Research Coordinator Trainee in the Program for Translational Brain Mapping coordinates all aspects of Human Subjects Research within the program. This includes conducting pre-operative and post-operative MRI and neuropsychological testing in neurosurgery patients, as well as similar studies in stroke patients as part of an ongoing NIH-funded project. In addition, the technician may assist with cognitive testing during awake craniotomies in coordination with research faculty and clinical staff in the Department of Neurosurgery. This role will be based at the University of Rochester Center for Advanced Brain Imaging and Neurophysiology (CABIN), and work closely with attending and resident neurosurgeons, neurologists, technicians, basic scientists, and staff across UR Neuromedicine. Information about the Brain Mapping Program at U. of Rochester: www.tbm.urmc.edu

The human subject coordinator will also work closely with a collaborating cognitive neuroscience lab at Carnegie Mellon University) and there will be opportunities to contribute to ongoing multi-site longitudinal studies of recovery from brain injury. For more information, see www.openbrainproject.org

Qualifications: Associate's degree required; Demonstrated experience and interest in human subject research, or an equivalent combination of education and experience; Interest or experience with neurologic patients preferred; Excellent communication, interpersonal and organizational skills required; Facility with word processing and data spreadsheet software Matlab, Python, BASH, and/or R programming languages preferred

Apply at: <https://universityofrochester.jobs/rochester-ny/human-subject-res-coord-trainee-229509/DC0F6036F49048A1BF73AAA53790C4E3/job/>

The Flinker lab at NYU School of Medicine is recruiting post-doctoral and PhD candidates in Human Electrocorticography (ECoG) research.

Positions will be in the lab of Adeen Flinker, investigating speech processing and cortical network dynamics. Research paradigms will employ human surgical neurophysiology and electrical stimulation conducted in close collaboration with the clinical neurology team. Candidates will conduct neurophysiological research in patients implanted with intracranial electrodes (surface, depth, high density) and in intraoperative patients undergoing acute recording and stimulation.

Interested post-doctoral applicants should send an email to adeen.flinker@nyulangone.org including a cover letter describing research experience and qualifications, academic CV, and contact information of referees. The lab's open PhD positions are through the NYU Tandon Biomedical Engineering graduate program. Interested candidates can apply directly or email Adeen.

University of Freiburg - Research Assistant Position

We are seeking a full-time or part-time research assistant to support and manage research projects at the Department of Neurology. We study how the brain works and how it recovers from damage. Clinical and neuropsychological behavioral tests (eg: language, spatial processing, praxis, spatial, perception, memory) are correlated with brain anatomy and function (eg: fMRI, rsfMRI, DTI, sMRT, PET, TMS) in group studies of patients (mainly stroke, Parkinson's, disease and migraine). In a large-scale project carefully selected stroke patients (first-ever stroke, single ischemic lesion) are prospectively tested during acute stage and follow-up (currently > 800 enrolled). The group is part of Freiburg Brain Imaging (FBI), an interfaculty assembly of departments interested in scientific brain imaging, strong links exist with the Bernstein Centre of computational neuroscience, the Herman Paul Centre of linguistics and the faculties of biology, psychology, sport and sport sciences and informatics.

Responsibilities: Within our large scale project: screening, recruitment and caring for study patients during the visit; conducting and evaluating language tests/ or general behavioral tests; maintenance and further development of databases, static analysis, co-supervision of doctoral students, research assistants and interns; support in managing the project. Contributions to the experimental design of new studies and opportunity to work on your own scientific projects if you are qualified to do so.

Required qualification:

-BA or Master in Psychology, Biology, Linguistics, cognitive Science, Neuroscience or speech therapist with adequate abilities

-Preferred qualifications;

Experience or interest in the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic neurological patients

-Knowledge of imaging and neuroanatomy

-Excellent computer and statistical and skills (e.g. MS Office, SPSS)

-Must be able and willing to acquire a command of German to enable interaction with our patients

We offer you:

- Working in a committed, interdisciplinary team with many years of internationally renowned expertise in neuroscience, neuroanatomy as well as clinical care of patients
- A varied and responsible field of work with a high degree of independence
- Opportunity for further scientific qualification
- Training in advanced imaging techniques or neuropsychological testing

The position is available on a full/part-time basis for an initial period of 3 years. After a positive evaluation tenure is available.

Please apply with your complete documents (cover letter, curriculum vitae, list of publications, references) by 1.9.2021 via our online portal (<https://www.uniklinik-freiburg.de/karriere/stellenangebote.html>) or email to: hannelore.griesbaum@uniklinik-freiburg.de

If you have any questions, please contact us by e-mail at: cornelius.weiller@uniklinik-freiburg.de

Funded PhD Candidate Positions at the BCBL- Basque Center on Cognition Brain and Language (San Sebastian, Basque Country, Spain), www.bcbl.eu

The Basque Center on Cognition Brain and Language (San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain) offers funded 4 PhD candidate positions:

- 1.FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION – Brain Rhythms and Cognition Group
- 2.FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION - Neurolinguistics and Aphasia Group
- 3.FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION – Speech and Bilingualism Group
- 4.FUNDED PHD CANDIDATE POSITION – Spoken Language Group

INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITIONS IN <https://www.bcbl.eu/en/join-us/job-offers>

Postdoctoral position in semantics/pragmatics (neuroimaging, modeling)

Research program title: The neurocognitive bases of semantic and pragmatic composition

Reference number: 10002

Supervisor: Roberto G. de Almeida, Department of Psychology, Concordia University

Program description:

We are seeking a postdoctoral fellow to work on projects investigating the comprehension of sentences that are either 'indeterminate' or are deemed 'figurative', and thus may require contextual enrichment. The projects employ diverse behavioral and neuro-imaging techniques as well as computational modeling. Ideally, the candidate will have theoretical background in cognitive science with emphasis on semantics/pragmatics and with experimental work in brain-imaging/recording (fMRI, ERP) techniques.

Experience with computational modeling involving Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) is an asset. Other resources (e.g., clinical populations, MEG) are also available at Concordia or other institutions in the Montreal area.

Academic qualifications required:

PhD in Psychology, Neuroscience, or other Cognitive Science related field.

Eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must not currently hold a postdoctoral appointment at Concordia
- Priority will be given to postdoctoral fellows who have obtained their PhD from another university although in exceptional cases Concordia graduates may be considered
- Applicants must adhere to the postdoctoral fellow eligibility criteria outlined in Concordia University's Postdoctoral Policy

Timeline:

Applications will be reviewed starting September 1, 2021, and will continue until the position is filled; starting date is flexible, preferably in the Fall of 2021; however, following the fellowship rules, the Postdoctoral Fellow must start their appointment by August 31, 2022.

Submission process:

- All documents must be submitted to Roberto G. de Almeida (roberto.dealmeida@concordia.ca); subject line: postdoctoral application (10002)
- Please include the reference number with your application

Application checklist

- One to three (1-3) page research statement demonstrating fit with the program described above
- Current curriculum vitae demonstrating research excellence and a capacity for leadership in the domain (maximum 5 pages)
- Two letters of reference from academic supervisors or current employers to be sent via e-mail directly to: Roberto G. de Almeida (roberto.dealmeida@concordia.ca); subject line: postdoctoral application (10002) reference

Value:

The prestigious two-year Horizon Postdoctoral Fellowships are valued at \$50,000 per year plus benefits and full access to Concordia's services, including GradProSkills.

Concordia University is a vibrant research and teaching environment, with state-of-the-art research facilities and many research centers. Concordia is located in Montreal, Canada, a diverse and creative city, often ranked as offering one of the best quality of living experiences in North America. Concordia University is committed to Employment Equity and encourages applications from women, Aboriginal Peoples, visible minorities, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities.

<https://www.concordia.ca/sqs/postdoctoral-fellows/funding/horizon/descriptions/10002.html>

The Collaborative Research Centre CRC 1287 “Limits of Variability in Language: Cognitive, Computational, and Grammatical Aspects” in Potsdam, Germany, invites applications for short-term fellowships available in 2022

The linguistic system exhibits a high degree of variability at all levels of linguistic description. This variability in language can be characterized as a range of different possible linguistic behaviors that are available to an individual language user, a group of language users, or in specific languages. The variability is limited by the constraints of the underlying linguistic system and shaped by cognitive and social or communicative factors. This variability is not just reducible to random noise but provides an important source of information to explain and predict linguistic behavior. By modeling the factors influencing linguistic behaviors, the CRC (21 PIs in 13 scientific projects, one transfer project, and three service projects) contributes to a better understanding of the underlying mental representations and processing architectures in individual language users, as well as of the grammatical options available in individual languages and specific linguistic varieties, and options shared by particular subgroups of languages users.

The CRC provides a fantastic research infrastructure including a large interdisciplinary network of researchers and its own graduate school (**the MGK** - Integrated Research Training Group).

We are offering several three- to four-month fellowships to external PhD candidates who would like to carry out a collaborative research project within one of the projects of the CRC. Please see the available projects here: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/sfb1287/projects>

The monthly fellowship is tax-exempt and covers a basic amount (1365 EUR) plus direct costs (103 EUR) plus 400 EUR per child, if applicable. Holders of the grant need to cover health insurance on their own.

The University of Potsdam has a vibrant and interdisciplinary scientific community spanning many disciplines, including leading groups in the field of cognitive sciences (<http://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/index.html>). The University is located in the city of Potsdam, which is connected to Berlin city centre via a quick 30-minute train ride. Potsdam is an attractive historical city and its palaces are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Both cities are culturally vibrant and offer an unparalleled quality of life, as well as affordable cost of living.

The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its members and pursues the goals of equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. In the case of equal suitability, women in accordance with Section 7 (4) BbgHG and people with a severe disability will be given preferential consideration.

The fellowships require completed academic studies at an institute of higher learning (Master's degree or equivalent) and enrolment in a PhD program. Applicants are also required to establish contact with the principal investigators of the project of interest well before submitting the application in order to discuss the possibility of collaboration and the details of the proposed research project. Please send your application as a single PDF file including (1) a statement of research interests and motivation, (2) a full CV, (3) a short research proposal for the duration of the fellowship, (4) the names and e-mail addresses of at least two referees, (5) academic transcripts, (6) list of publications/talks/presentations, and (7) a web-link to a copy of the Master's thesis to Dr. Anastasiya Dockhorn-Romanova MGK-SFB1287@uni-potsdam.de. The research proposal should have a title and state which project within the CRC the short-term researcher wants to be affiliated with (e.g., "B01").

The deadline for the application for a fellowship in 2022 is September 30, 2021. Late applications may be considered if positions are unfilled.

For more information: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/sfb1287/vacancies>

For further details please contact Dr. Anastasiya Dockhorn-Romanova MGK-SFB1287@uni-potsdam.de.

Cognitive Neuroscience, Lecturer

The Department of Psychology at the University of New Hampshire invites applications for a one-year, non-tenure-track lecturer position to begin fall, 2021, with a specialty in Cognitive Neuroscience. Area of specialization within Cognitive Neuroscience is open; however, the Department is particularly interested in individuals who are willing and able to teach Cognitive Neuroscience and the Neuroscience of Memory at the senior level, and Introduction to Statistics.

The University of New Hampshire is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action institution. The University seeks excellence through diversity among its administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The university prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran status, or marital status. Application by members of all underrepresented groups is encouraged.

Requirements: Ph.D. in psychology and strong record of teaching. The successful applicant will teach assigned courses and participate in Departmental service as required. There is no research expectation for this position. Our standard teaching load is three courses per semester for lecturers. Applicants should show a commitment to sustain and advance the goals of the institution's diversity of students, faculty, and staff.

Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Upload cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement describing teaching interests, statement describing experiences and interests in promoting diversity, reprints, teaching evaluations, and have three referees submit letters to <https://jobs.usnh.edu/postings/42341>. Questions may be sent via email to Search Chair Jill McGaughy (j.mcgaughy@unh.edu).

The University of New Hampshire, an R1 Carnegie Classification research university, provides comprehensive, high-quality undergraduate programs and graduate programs of distinction. UNH is located in Durham, NH (population 16,500), on a 188-acre campus, 65 miles north of Boston/Cambridge, 70 miles south of the White Mountain National Forest, and 15 miles from the Atlantic coast. The university has an enrollment of 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries, a full-time faculty of over 900, and offers more than 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The Department offers B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology and hosts an inter-college B.S. major in neuroscience and behavior.

Other

**Registration is now open for the Academy of Aphasia 59th Annual Meeting
(October 24-26, 2021)!**

Registration information

Please note that registration will consist of **two steps**:

1) Registration through the **EasyChair** portal: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aoa2021>

- If you do not yet have an EasyChair account, this step will require you to create an account.

2) Payment through the website of the **Academy of**

Aphasia: <http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/conference2021/>

- Your membership status for the Academy of Aphasia can be checked and/or renewed via this site as well.

Your registration is not complete until you have finished **both of these steps**. Please make sure to select the appropriate payment level, depending on your situation (membership, faculty/student status, etc.), both on this website and on the Academy site for payment.

Please note that special registration rates apply to residents of **Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC)**. For the list of countries that qualify for this, please refer to the publication by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Countries listed as 'Upper Middle Income' are not included in the LMIC designation: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>

In case you have remaining questions about registration, please contact the Chair of the Program Committee, Dirk den Ouden (aoa2021@easychair.org).

Academy of Aphasia 2021

This year, the meeting is **fully online** and will be hosted through EasyChair Virtual Conference Solutions (VCS). We will start on Sunday morning, October 24th, and end Tuesday evening, October 26th. The schedule includes one symposium, ten platform sessions, and four-poster sessions. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Salikoko Mufwene of the University of Chicago, will speak on Sunday afternoon. There will be a virtual social event on Sunday evening, and a social platform where conference attendees can 'meet' will be open throughout the conference.

NIH Mentoring sessions: Now in its fourth year, the NIDCD-funded Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375-01) will sponsor student fellows to attend and present their work at the conference. They 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) with inquiries. There will be a general one-hour session for all mentees and mentors, plus two half-hour sessions during which mentors and mentees can meet in smaller groups. The grant also sponsors a state-of-the-art New Frontiers in Aphasia Research seminar, on Monday morning, October 25th. This year's topic will focus on Electroencephalography (EEG), and the speaker will be Dr. Edward Chang of the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Chang is Chief of Epilepsy Surgery and Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at UCSF. His scientific research focuses upon the brain mechanisms for human speech, movement, and cognition. He co-directs the Center for Neural Engineering & Prostheses at UC Berkeley and UCSF, which brings together engineering, neuroscience, neurology and neurosurgery to develop state-of-the-art biomedical devices to restore function for patients with neurological disabilities. If you applied for a student fellowship, you will receive notice regarding your application separately.

A full schedule of the program is now available here: [*PROGRAM-LINK*]

A few notes about presentations:

- Prior to the conference, presenters will have the opportunity to test the presentation platform, so that any hardware or software issues can be detected on time. EasyChair VCS recommends the use of Chrome as an internet browser.
- Platform Presentations: Please note that the standard time allotment for platform papers is 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.
- Poster Presentations: Poster sessions are 1.5 hrs long, but posters will be available for viewing throughout the conference. Posters should be uploaded as a single pdf page, but further specifics about poster formats will follow.

We are looking forward to your registration, and to seeing you online in October!

**The SMILES workshop is about Sensorimotor Interaction,
Language and Embodiment of Symbols (SMILES). It is a satellite event from the ICDL 2020
(International Conference on Developmental Learning).**

* WHEN

Tuesday 31st of August 2021. Planned schedule (it might change): 9 am - 8:30 pm CEST (UTC+2).

* WHERE

Online event on Zoom. (Link sent to registered people the day before, see LINKS section)

* WHO

8 Invited speakers from multiple fields: neurolinguistics, speech communication, language evolution, developmental science, social robotics, computational neuroscience, language acquisition.

- Morten Christiansen, Cornell University, NY, USA & Aarhus University, Denmark
- Kaya de Barbaro, University of California San Diego, USA
- Cynthia Matuszek, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA
- Yair Lakretz, NeuroSpin Center, Gif sur Yvette, France
- Harm Brouwer, Saarland University, Germany
- Jean-Luc Schwartz, Gipsa lab, Grenoble-Alpes University, France
- Daniel Dor, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Lauren Emberson, University of British Columbia, Canada

* LINKS

- ** Website **: <https://sites.google.com/view/smiles-workshop/home>
- ** Registration is free but mandatory **: <https://forms.gle/tyvMdbb8UJFyXZky8>
- Contact: smiles.conf@gmail.com
- ICDL conference website: <https://icdl-2021.org/>

* WHAT

On the one hand, models of sensorimotor interaction are embodied in the environment and in the interaction with other agents. On the other hand, recent Deep Learning development of Natural Language Processing (NLP) models allow to capture increasing language complexity (e.g. compositional representations, word embedding, long term dependencies). However, those NLP models are disembodied in the sense that they are learned from static datasets of text or speech. How can we bridge the gap from low-level sensorimotor interaction to high-level compositional symbolic communication? The SMILES workshop will address this issue through an interdisciplinary approach involving researchers from (but not limited to):

- Sensori-motor learning,
- Emergent communication in multi-agent systems,
- Chunking of perceptuo-motor gestures (gestures in a general sense: motor, vocal, ...),
- Sensori-motor learning,
- Symbol grounding and symbol emergence,
- Compositional representations for communication and action sequence,
- Hierarchical representations of temporal information,
- Language processing and acquisition in brains and machines,
- Models of animal communication,
- Language evolution,
- Understanding composition and temporal processing in neural network models, and
- Enaction, active perception, perception-action loop.

SMILES workshop organizers

- Xavier Hinaut, Inria, Bordeaux, France
- Clément Moulin-Frier, Inria and Ensta ParisTech, Bordeaux, France
- Silvia Pagliarini, Inria, Bordeaux, France
- Michael Spranger, Sony AI and Sony CSL, Tokyo, Japan
- Tadahiro Taniguchi, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan
- Anne S. Warlaumont, University of California, Los Angeles, America
- Junpei Zhong, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, United Kingdom

