



SOCIETY FOR THE
NEUROBIOLOGY OF
LANGUAGE

Newsletter

JULY 2023



SNL 2023

Society for the Neurobiology of Language
15th Annual Meeting, October 24–26
Palais du Pharo, Marseille, France

On impact

In the UK and elsewhere a 5-yearly "Research Excellence Framework" ([REF](#)) evaluation is used to assess and rank the impact of academic research at different universities. The UK REF defines [impact](#) as: "an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia." Research on the Neurobiology of Language can deliver substantial impact. By advancing our understanding of language processing we can deliver new ways to support people who struggle to communicate.



Neurobiology
of Language

Scientific publishers measure something different in journal "impact factors": the average number of times published papers are cited in the first two years. While easily calculated, this metric overlooks important forms of impact that don't result in citations: papers that change clinical or educational practice, papers that influence government policy, and papers that change the lives of study participants (neuro-typical or diverse children, healthy and brain-injured adults, etc). Papers that take more than 2 years to be appreciated and cited do not influence journal impact factors. Moreover, due to averaging, impact factors assume that all papers published in a given journal are equivalent. Because of these issues, the San Francisco Declaration On Research Assessment ([DORA](#)) states that journal impact factors should not be used in assessment. Research should be judged on its merits, not based on where it is published. This guidance is enshrined in the UK REF and should be applied in other forms of assessment like recruitment or promotion. We should read papers not count them!

With these caveats, then, I am pleased to announce that our open-access journal, Neurobiology of Language, has an impact factor 3.2 for 2021/2022. This is an excellent outcome and shows the high-quality research that our authors have completed, and that our editors and reviewers have assessed. People are reading and citing the papers we have published; helped by this research not being hidden behind a for-profit paywall but accessible to all (including patients, clinicians, carers, etc).

We are immensely proud of all the papers that contribute to this impact factor. It establishes

Neurobiology of Language as the best and most accessible place to publish new research in our field. However, this impact factor should not distract us from a further form of impact: the delight that we scientists achieve from discovering and sharing new knowledge. On behalf of SNL, I hope you continue to add to our collective understanding of the neurobiology of language by reporting your research in our journal, and by reading and citing published research by others.

Matt Davis

Publications Officer, SNL

Here's the final list of papers published in [Neurobiology of Language, Volume 4, Issue 2](#):

Sources of Heterogeneity in Functional Connectivity During English Word Processing in Bilingual and Monolingual Children

Xin Sun, Rebecca A. Marks, Rachel L. Eggleston, Kehui Zhang, Chi-Lin Yu, Nia Nickerson, Valeria Caruso, Tai-Li Chou, Xiao-Su Hu, Twila Tardif, James R. Booth, Adriene M. Beltz, Ioulia Kovelman
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 198–220.

Understanding the Effects of Constraint and Predictability in ERP

Kate Stone, Bruno Nicenboim, Shravan Vasishth, Frank Rösler
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 221–256.

Independency of Coding for Affective Similarities and for Word Co-occurrences in Temporal Perisylvian Neocortex

Antonietta Gabriella Liuzzi, Karen Meersmans, Gerrit Storms, Simon De Deyne, Patrick Dupont, Rik Vandenberghe
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 257–279.

Brain Areas Critical for Picture Naming: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Lesion-Symptom Mapping Studies

Vitória Piai, Dilys Eikelboom
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 280–296.

Phonological and Semantic Specialization in 9- to 10-Year-Old Children During Auditory Word Processing

Jin Wang, Brianna L. Yamasaki, James R. Booth
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 297–317.

Cortical Tracking of Continuous Speech Under Bimodal Divided Attention

Zilong Xie, Christian Brodbeck, Bharath Chandrasekaran
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 318–343.

Effects of Syllable Rate on Neuro-Behavioral Synchronization Across Modalities: Brain Oscillations and Speech Productions

Deling He, Eugene H. Buder, Gavin M. Bidelman
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 344–360.

Asymmetric Event-Related Potential Priming Effects Between English Letters and American Sign Language Fingerspelling Fonts

Zed Sevcikova Sehyr, Katherine J. Midgley, Karen Emmorey, Phillip J. Holcomb
Neurobiology of Language (2023) 4 (2): 361–381.

Resting State Network Segregation Modulates Age-Related Differences in Language Production



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>.



Neurobiology
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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



Tenure-Track Position – The Department of Cognitive Sciences, School of Psychological Sciences, University of Haifa

The Department of Cognitive Sciences at the School of Psychological Sciences, University of Haifa, Israel, invites applications for an open-rank tenure-track position, beginning in Oct. 2024. The academic rank will be matched to the candidate's qualifications.

The deadline for application is Aug. 15, 2023. The screening of applications will continue until the position is filled.

The Department of Cognitive Sciences is an interdisciplinary department, within <https://psy.hevra.haifa.ac.il/index.php/he/school-of-psychological-science> at the University of Haifa, Israel. The department was established in 2018, with the aim to combine different theoretical and methodological perspectives to the study of cognitive processes. We draw on research from, Psychology, Neuroscience, Computational Sciences Linguistics and Philosophy. We currently have an undergraduate program, and our goal is to establish a graduate program in the near future. This provides a great opportunity for young scientists to influence the development of the curriculum and the department.

We are particularly interested in applicants whose research and training is of an interdisciplinary nature within the fields of computational cognitive sciences, with an expertise in development and application of **computational analysis methods to study brain and behavior**. The candidate should be able to teach and cooperate scientifically with researchers from varied backgrounds on topics related to cognition. The successful candidate should demonstrate the potential to develop a strong research program, supervise student research, and teach undergraduate and graduate courses.

Please send: (1) Curriculum Vitae, (2) 2-3 selected publications, (3) research statement (up to 3 pages) highlighting past work as well as your plans, (4) teaching statement (1 page), and (5) three names and email address for individuals who can send reference letters upon request.

These include the PhD advisor, the postdoctoral advisor (if applicable), and an additional reference. Please send all the information to: Meital Malul, the administrative manager of the



Research Assistant Professor - Cognitive Neurology Division

The Department of Neurology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania seeks candidates for an [Assistant Professor position](#) in the non-tenure research track. Expertise is required in the specific area of noninvasive brain stimulation methodologies such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and transcranial electrical stimulation (tES), the use of cognitive neuroscience to study structure-function and network-function relationships in the language system of the brain and to develop and implement neuromodulation-based interventions for persons with aphasia and other deficits of cognition, statistical analysis, development and implementation of human subject trials that combine behavioral assessments, neuroimaging, and measures of cortical neurophysiology. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree.

Research or scholarship responsibilities may include developing collaborative and independent research programs related to neuromodulation. The candidate may co-supervise postdoctoral fellows, students, and research staff coordinating NIH-funded grant efforts with local, national, and international collaborators. The candidate may participate in writing grants, reports, and manuscripts.

We seek candidates who embrace and reflect diversity in the broadest sense. The University of Pennsylvania is an EOE. Minorities/women/individuals with disabilities/protected veterans are encouraged to apply.



Other

First Neuroscience of the Everyday World Conference

Abstract Submission and Travel Awards

The first Neuroscience of the Everyday World conference brings together leaders in the fields of computer science, biomedical engineering, cognitive science, neurology, and clinical neuroscience to present state-of-the-art research, all focused on the study of continuous brain measurement in real-world activities. The presentations will all focus on innovative methodologies (e.g., fNIRS, EEG, BCI+real time feedback), different real-world contexts (e.g., measurements at home, in the clinic/hospital), and a range of healthy and disease states (e.g., dementia, stroke). More information forthcoming, including abstract submission process and travel awards at openfnirs.org

https://openfnirs.org/trainings-conferences/2023_new/

There are travel awards to assist trainees in attending this conference. Trainees selected to receive a travel award will be asked to organize a conference summary report with the other awardees. The awards will cover economy airfare and two nights of hotel, up to \$1000 for domestic travel and \$1500 for international travel. Trainees should apply for the travel award when submitting an abstract and are encourage to apply by July 1. During submission, the trainee will be asked if they want to be considered for the travel award, their mentor's name and email address, and the amount requested for the award. There is a fixed sum available and so minimizing the amount requested permits more awards to be made. Trainees should then have their mentor send a short email to the organizers at brainrec@bu.edu confirming the applicant is a trainee and briefly explaining the relevance of the workshop for the trainee and the relevance of the trainee's poster for the workshop. Awards will be made on a rolling basis starting July 1.



CARLA in Montreal

After previous iterations of the workshop in Osnabrück, Bolzano, and Berlin, the fifth CARLA — Concepts in Action: Representation, Learning, and Applications — will be hosted by the Psycholinguistics and Cognition Lab at Concordia University, in Montreal, August 23-25, 2023.

CARLA is an international workshop that fosters interdisciplinary exchanges about research on concepts. We invite contributions from all fields within cognitive science, including linguistics, psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, and computer science.

The workshop is open for research on any aspect of concepts and semantics, with three overarching topics, addressing the following (non-exhaustive) list of questions:

- Representation: What is the nature of semantic/conceptual representation? How are concepts processed in the brain? How do concepts compose to form complex thoughts? How can we formally describe and model concepts?
- Learning: What is the ontology of concepts and how do they develop? How do we learn to categorize objects and events? What kind of cognitive architecture supports concept acquisition and development?
- Applications: How are concepts used in cognitive tasks and in applied cognitive systems — such as applied machine learning in computer vision, decision making, category learning, etc.?

Keynote speakers:

- Alex Clarke (Psychology, University of Cambridge)
- John Perry (Philosophy, Stanford University)
- Aishwarya Agrawal (Computer Science, Université de Montréal)
- Brendan Gillon (Linguistics, McGill University)
- Stevan Harnad (Psychology, Université du Québec à Montréal)
- Brendan Johns (Psychology, McGill University)
- Alan Bale (Linguistics, Concordia University)

In addition to the main session, CARLA 2023 will feature a special session, "Context: Linguistic Structure, Knowledge, and Beliefs" on the mapping between linguistic representations and propositions. This special session will be linked to a special issue of a journal (to be announced in the near future). The submission procedure for this session is the same as for the main conference (via EasyChair), but potential participants should select "special session".

Further details on the workshop and abstract submission are available in the CARLA website: https://conceptresearch.github.io/CARLA/carla_workshop/carla_2023

Email contact: cognition.lab@concordia.ca
Subject line: CARLA2023

Local organizers: Roberto G. de Almeida, Caitlyn Antal, Christopher Genovesi, and Tobias Ungerer

This workshop is sponsored by the following Concordia University Departments and Institutes: Department of Psychology, Centre for Cognitive Science and Linguistics, Applied AI Institute, Department of Philosophy, the Department of Classics, Modern Languages, and Linguistics, the School of Graduate Studies, and the Psycholinguistics and Cognition Lab (<https://psycholinguistics.weebly.com/>).



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