



Neurobiology  
of Language

### Job Postings & Announcements

If you have a job posting, general announcement, or conference/workshop notice that you would like to include in the SNL Newsletter, please send it to [newsletter@neurolang.org](mailto:newsletter@neurolang.org)

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## Breaking News: SNL Moves to Virtual in 2021

While we were all looking forward to meeting in Brisbane this October, the SNL 2021 meeting will be held virtually instead. Thankfully, we are rounding the corner on the global pandemic, but there are still too many restrictions and uncertainties to commit to an in-person meeting. On a positive note, the virtual meeting last year was a success and allowed many members to attend that are normally precluded from participating.

The SNL Program Committee, led by Carolyn McGettigan, is moving full steam ahead to put together a robust conference, featuring cutting-edge scientific programming and innovative social opportunities. Look for upcoming emails with exciting meeting details.

Not to worry--SNL will meet in beautiful Brisbane, Australia in 2024!

To learn more about the move from Brisbane to virtual in 2021, please refer to the [Letter to the SNL Membership](#) from Matt Lambon Ralph, SNL Chair.

## Job Postings

### Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Postdoctoral Researcher Fellow

The Language, Cognition and Brain Sciences ([LCBS](#)) laboratory at Queensland University of Technology ([QUT](#)), Brisbane, Australia is seeking to recruit a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work on an Australian Research Council funded project investigating how the brain produces speech using intracranial EEG recordings, invasive (direct electrical stimulation; DES) and non-invasive (transcranial magnetic stimulation; TMS) neuromodulation technology and functional neuroimaging.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will conduct research in the School of Psychology and Counselling, Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) and at the Mater Hospital, Brisbane, in collaboration with national and international researchers (USA and Netherlands).

This appointment will be offered on a fixed-term, full-time basis for three (3) years.

Interested applicants may apply via [QUT Jobs online](#) before April 5<sup>th</sup> AEST.

For further information about the position, please contact Professor Greig de Zubicaray. QUT welcomes applications from international candidates. QUT may meet some travel and relocation expenses involved in the interview and employment commencing process.

## University of Cambridge, UK

### Two Programme Leader (Track) Positions

The MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (CBU) at the University of Cambridge is a world-leading institute. Our research investigates the cognitive, computational and neural bases of fundamental human cognitive and affective processes, and their disorders throughout the lifespan.

These exciting and important research topics are tackled through the development and application of cutting-edge methods and technologies including behavioural experiments, multimodal neuroimaging (including on site MRI, EEG and MEG), neurostimulation, computational and mathematical modelling. The CBU has maintained and strengthened its unique tradition of embracing the symbiotic relationship between fundamental and applied research, particularly in the realms of mental health, clinical neuroscience and education.

We seek to appoint two researchers at either Programme Leader or Programme Leader Track level. Dependent on experience you will be appointed at Grade 9 or Grade 11. At least one of the appointments will be in the field of clinical psychology/psychiatry/mental health. We particularly encourage women and/or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for these vacancies as they are currently under-represented at this level within the Unit and the University.

If you are a clinician, you will be appointed on a clinical salary in accordance with your training level and experience. Clinical appointments require an Honorary Clinical Contract. This is an integrated appointment between the University and relevant NHS Trust / Body. You will therefore also be issued with an Honorary Clinical Contract by the NHS Trust. You should be aware that if your contract with the NHS Trust is terminated your employment with the University will be terminated, and vice versa. You will require GMC registration, Licence to Practice and Medical Defence Cover for the duration of your appointment.

The MRC and the University of Cambridge value the diverse skills and experience of their employees and are committed to achieving equality of treatment for all. Our objectives are that all individuals shall have equal opportunities for employment and advancement on the basis of their skills, aptitudes and abilities. We are committed to the engagement and retention of the best possible talent and to creating an environment that encourages excellence in scientific research through good equality and diversity leadership and management.

For inquiries, contact Matt Lambon Ralph (Director), by email: [director@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:director@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk). Information on the Unit and programmes can be found at <http://www.mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk/>. The closing date for applications is Sunday 11 April 2021.

These positions offer a unique opportunity for a senior researcher (equivalent to assistant/associate/full professor) to take up a research-dedicated position in a unique research environment and with significant research and technical support. Further details, and instructions on how to apply can be found here:

<https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/28625/>

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## Neuroscience of Language Lab at NYU

### Pre-doctoral Research Scientist

**NeLLab at NYU New York is hiring!**

The Neuroscience of Language Lab (<https://wp.nyu.edu/nellab/>) has an opening for a pre-doctoral research scientist in New York. A BA/BS or MA/MS in a cognitive science-related discipline (psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, etc.) or computer science is required.

The hired person would ideally have experience with psycho- and neurolinguistic experiments and a background in statistics and programming. A strong computation background is a big plus. Most important, though, is a can-do attitude, a creative mind, superb organizational and teamwork skills and a passion for research.

The hired person's role will depend somewhat on the specific qualifications of the person hired but will in all cases involve 1) administrative duties related to overseeing day-to-day operations across our two lab sites (NYC and Abu Dhabi) and 2) MEG research on structural and/or semantic aspects of language.

Our lab aims to be a place where a diverse mix of talented people want to come and do their best work. We have a deep commitment to diversity and encourage applications from underrepresented groups, especially Black,

Indigenous, and People of Color.

We are looking to start this position in Summer 2021. Evaluation of applications will begin immediately.

To apply, please submit an application using the following link:<https://uscareers-nyu.icims.com/jobs/7766/laboratory-coordinator/job>

**Application deadline: open until filled**

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity Statement**

**For people in the EU, click here for information on your privacy rights under GDPR:**[www.nyu.edu/it/gdpr](http://www.nyu.edu/it/gdpr)

NYU is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, alienage, caregiver status, childbirth, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, domestic violence victim status, ethnicity, familial status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, marital status, military status, national origin, parental status, partnership status, predisposing genetic characteristics, pregnancy, race, religion, reproductive health decision making, sex, sexual orientation, unemployment status, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply for vacant positions at all levels.

#### **Sustainability Statement**

NYU aims to be among the greenest urban campuses in the country and carbon neutral by 2040. Learn more at [nyu.edu/sustainability](http://nyu.edu/sustainability)

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## **University of Toronto Tenure-Track Position**

**Job Title:** Assistant Professor - Pediatric Language Disorders

**Date Posted:** 02/24/2021

**Closing Date:** 05/01/2021, 11:59PM ET

**Req ID:** 1349

**Job Category:** Faculty - Tenure Stream (continuing)

**Faculty/Division:** Temerty Faculty of Medicine

**Department:** Dept of Speech-Language Pathology

**Campus:** St. George (Downtown Toronto)

#### **Description:**

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology, in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, invites applications for a full-time tenure stream position in the field of pediatric language disorders. The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor and will commence on September 1, 2021 or shortly thereafter.

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology, Communication Sciences and Disorders or a related field of research by the time of appointment and expertise in child language and child language disorders with a demonstrated record of excellence in research and teaching. Completion of a Post-Doctoral fellowship in a related area will be considered an asset, as will experience supervising student research and/or Post-Doctoral fellows. Candidates are required to have at least 1 year of clinically relevant expertise in speech language pathology/communication disorders (for e.g. working in a clinical setting seeing patients). We seek candidates whose research and teaching interests complement and strengthen our existing departmental foci. The successful candidate will be expected to pursue innovative and independent research at the highest international level and to establish an outstanding, competitive and externally funded research program.

Research excellence will be demonstrated by high-quality peer-reviewed publications, peer reviewed funding, the submitted research statement, presentations at significant conferences, awards and accolades, and strong endorsements from referees of high standing.

Evidence of excellence in teaching will be provided through teaching accomplishments and awards, the teaching dossier, including a detailed teaching statement, sample course syllabi, and teaching evaluations submitted as part of the application, as well as strong letters of reference.

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to integrate clinical and scientific knowledge in their teaching design and delivery.

Candidates must also demonstrate how their research and teaching align with the University of Toronto's commitment

to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through their application materials.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The latest Times Higher Education ranks the University of Toronto among the top 10 universities in the world for health sciences. Spanning the basic, clinical, and rehabilitation sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals and research institutes form one of the largest research enterprises in North America. The Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) is one of the top five clusters of academic medicine in North America.

This is an exceptional opportunity to join the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto, one of the most highly ranked research universities in North America. The department is housed in the Rehabilitation Sciences Building, which provides excellent teaching and research facilities. The University of Toronto offers unique opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary research, encourages innovative scholarship, and welcomes in its instructors a deep appreciation for the diversity in the student population. Furthermore, the department has affiliations with academic research hospitals specialized in paediatric health care and rehabilitation.

All qualified candidates are invited to apply by clicking the link below. Applicants must submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, research statement (up to 3 pages), copies of up to three representative publications and a teaching dossier to include a detailed teaching statement (up to 3 pages), sample syllabi, and teaching evaluations.

Applicants must arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly by the referee via email (on letterhead and signed) to [search.slp@utoronto.ca](mailto:search.slp@utoronto.ca) by the closing date. PLEASE NOTE: This search is not using the University's automatic solicitation and collection functionality for reference letters.

If you have questions about this position, please contact [search.slp@utoronto.ca](mailto:search.slp@utoronto.ca). All application materials must be submitted online.

Submission guidelines can be found at: <http://uoft.me/how-to-apply>.

All application materials, including reference letters, must be received by May 1, 2021. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

For more information about the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, please visit our home page at <https://slp.utoronto.ca>.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

### **Diversity Statement**

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. As part of your application, you will be asked to complete a brief Diversity Survey. This survey is voluntary. Any information directly related to you is confidential and cannot be accessed by search committees or human resources staff. Results will be aggregated for institutional planning purposes. For more information, please see <http://uoft.me/UP>.

### **Accessibility Statement**

The University strives to be an equitable and inclusive community, and proactively seeks to increase diversity among its community members. Our values regarding equity and diversity are linked with our unwavering commitment to excellence in the pursuit of our academic mission.

The University is committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As such, we strive to make our recruitment, assessment and selection processes as accessible as possible and provide accommodations as required for applicants with disabilities.

If you require any accommodations at any point during the application and hiring process, please contact [uoft.careers@utoronto.ca](mailto:uoft.careers@utoronto.ca).

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## **Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL) Master's program**

### **Master in Cognitive Neuroscience of Language – BCBL**

Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language

The Master's program aims to provide specialized, comprehensive and rigorous training in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language. The [Master's program](#) includes core courses (theoretical and methodological), advanced elective courses, and a research-based project at the end of the program. Students learn from the world-class scientists at the Basque Center on Cognition, Brain, and Language.

The Master's program is aimed at university graduates with various degrees who are interested in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language, including previous training in psychology or linguistics, as well as language-oriented training in cognitive science, computer science, or mathematics. The duration of the program is one academic year with 60 ECTS credits. Students will develop research skills through the mentorship of experts and by completing a Master's Research Project at the end of the program. The language of instruction is English. Selecting the appropriate Masters program is the best way to start a successful research career, and in fact, several of our current PhD students began their research careers in our Master's program.

In the 8 years that we have been running our Master's program, graduates have gone on to PhD programs in places such as New York University, the Donders Center at Radboud University, UC San Diego, the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Michigan State University, the University of Bielefeld, and our own PhD program at BCBL.

For more information about the master's program, visit <https://www.bcbl.eu/en/study-with-us/master-cognitive-neuroscience-language>

For more information about the BCBL, visit [www.bcbl.eu](http://www.bcbl.eu)

### Application Process

Details of application requirements can be found at: <https://www.bcbl.eu/en/study-with-us/master-cognitive-neuroscience-language>

### Application Period

#### ROUND 2:

- Application sent by mail to [mastercnl@bcbl.eu](mailto:mastercnl@bcbl.eu) by APRIL 30. Rolling admissions until JUNE 30 the latest. If slots are filled before, no more admissions will be accepted.
- Notification of the Master's admissions board's decision: Applications received by APRIL 30 will receive notification by MAY 31.
- Admitted students should confirm their intention to participate within two weeks of being accepted into the program.
- Pre-enrollment must be submitted [ONLINE](#) along with the confirmation of participation.

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## The Pennsylvania State University Postdoctoral Scholar

[The Language and Aging Lab](#) at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for a Postdoctoral Scholar. Our lab investigates age-related differences in the neural and behavioral bases of semantic and phonological processes, with a focus on language production. Our primary goals are to further our understanding of the neural factors that contribute to age-related retention and decline seen in language; and to investigate the relationships between structural factors, functional activations, and behavior.

Our lab is affiliated with the [Center for Language Science](#), a vibrant, interdisciplinary community of language researchers with expertise in bilingualism, speech language pathology, psycholinguistics, and cognitive neuroscience. State-of-the-art scanning and data analysis facilities are available and proximally located at the [Social, Life, and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center](#).

The ideal candidate would have a background in the cognitive neuroscience of language and/or aging. Experience with fMRI data analysis and/or programming is desirable, but not mandatory. In addition, successful candidates must either have demonstrated a commitment to building an inclusive, equitable, and diverse campus community, or describe one or more ways they would envision doing so, given the opportunity. For additional information about the position, please contact the lab director, Michele Diaz, Ph.D., at [mttd143@psu.edu](mailto:mttd143@psu.edu).

The appointment will be for one year, with a good possibility of additional years. The anticipated start date is summer or fall 2021.

Applicants should upload a CV, 2 of their peer-reviewed journal articles, and a statement of research interests [here](#).

Additionally, applicants should arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent separately to Michele Diaz at [mttd143@psu.edu](mailto:mttd143@psu.edu).

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Candidates must have completed their Ph.D. by the time of appointment.

Penn State is committed to and accountable for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its forms. We embrace individual uniqueness, foster a culture of inclusion that supports both broad and specific diversity initiatives, leverage the educational and institutional benefits of diversity, and engage all individuals to help them thrive. We value inclusion as a core strength and an essential element of our public service mission.

#### **CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS:**

Pursuant to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Pennsylvania Act of 1988, Penn State publishes a combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report (ASR). The ASR includes crime statistics and institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. The ASR is available for review [here](#).

Employment with the University will require successful completion of background check(s) in accordance with University policies.

#### **EEO is the Law**

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applications without regards to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. If you are unable to use our online application process due to an impairment or disability, please contact 814-865-1473.

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## Conferences, Workshops, & Publications

### Neurobiology of Language: Key Issues and Ways Forward Online Conference

The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics celebrates its 40th anniversary with a series of scientific events. Due to the corona crisis, this conference will be held online.

One of these events is a two-day meeting on the topic of [The Neurobiology of Language: Key Issues and Ways Forward](#). Rather than looking back, we would like to see from the contributions of the speakers what the challenges and the promises are for the neurobiology of language, a field that in its current form has a much shorter history than our institute. The research of the invited speakers has opened promising avenues, which we would like to hear more about from a forward-looking perspective.

#### **Registration**

**Webinars are free to attend but registration with a professional email address is required**(e.g. business, university, school, research institute email address; please email [Carolin.Lorenz@mpi.nl](mailto:Carolin.Lorenz@mpi.nl) if you wish to register but do not have a business address).

Please register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vD8wUo4IQXSpQzPR332BPg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vD8wUo4IQXSpQzPR332BPg)

*Registration closes 18.00 CET Wednesday April 7, 2021.*

**Chair:** [Peter Hagoort](#)

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### Frontiers Call for Research Topic

#### **About this Research Topic:**

Researchers are still intrigued by the relationship between music and language. Previous Research Topics have focused on understanding questions ranging from the effects of musical training on speech perception to the neural overlap for processing speech and music to how overlapping neural structures for music and language are affected by

developmental trajectories. While much of this research has focused on the extent of neural overlap between music and speech, neural homologs and analogs for music and language, and shared processes during developmental stages, much less research exists on the neurobiological architecture (i.e. biomarkers and genetic contributions) leading to the development of neural systems for music and language. Moreover, despite recognition that heritability of music and language skills exists, little is known about how these neural systems may influence an individual's experience within, and the effects of, complex acoustic environments such as multilingualism and musical training. Nonetheless, the field is well poised to address key empirical questions, in part because of the recent development of new genetic and interdisciplinary approaches and technological advancements able to map neural networks varying in resolution and elucidate how these networks represent our cognition and perception along multiple developmental timepoints. To better understand the genetic contributions and effects of complex acoustic environments on multiple aspects of language development, research is needed to identify those specific functions of each that influence the other, with areas for rhythmicity and pitch having already been targeted. Research is also needed to identify the extent to which genetic contributions affect early development of language networks and the specific processes that occur when these systems are altered throughout development as a result of learning and/or training.

For this Research Topic, we would like to further explore the relationship between language and music from two perspectives: 1) understanding the role of genetic contributions towards the representation and processing of shared components of music and language and 2) understanding the developmental trajectory of these contributions and how they interact with, or affect the outcome(s) of, an individual's exposure to complex acoustic environments (e.g. multilingualism and musical training). We seek to gather the following types of articles: technically diverse original research, systematic review, methods, review, hypothesis and theory, and perspective articles that present new empirical findings and theories relevant to understanding:

- Shared versus separate neural and genetic architecture of language and music in children and adults using gene expression methods.
- How genetic contributions limit or constrain experiences within complex acoustic environments, such as musical training, thus affecting the learning and trainability of the individual.
- How neural networks for language change over time due to exposure to, and experiences within, complex acoustic environments at various developmental stages.

**Keywords:** Language acquisition, Musical training, Rhythm, Language development, Music cognition

#### [Additional information on this Research](#)

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## **Online Workshop: Bilingual Language Development in Canada March 26, 2021**

The Bilingualism & Multilingualism Development (BAM!TO) Lab at the University of Toronto is offering a FREE online workshop on **Friday, March 26th (11-3pm EST)** that will focus on **bilingual language development in Canada**.

The speaker lineup features Dr. Johanne Paradis, Professor at University of Alberta who will be speaking about the bilingual development of Syrian refugee children arriving in Canada; as well as Dr. Stefka Marinova-Todd, Associate Professor at UBC who will discuss bilingualism and autism; and early career researcher Dr. AJ Orena whose work focuses on caregiver speech in French-English homes.

#### **FEATURED TALKS:**

##### **Dr. Johanne Paradis, University of Alberta**

"The role of concurrent mental health and pre-migration adversity in the bilingual development of Syrian refugee children recently arrived in Canada"

##### **Dr. Stefka H. Marinova-Todd, University of British Columbia**

"Bilingualism and Autism: A spectrum of possibilities"

##### **Dr. AJ Orena, University of British Columbia**

"What do bilingual babies actually hear? Examining caregiver speech in French-English homes"

Please register for the event here: [www.tinyurl.com/bamworkshop](http://www.tinyurl.com/bamworkshop)

All are welcome to attend online. Link details will be provided following registration.

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## **The Language Neuroscience Podcast**

The Language Neuroscience Podcast is a new podcast about the scientific study of language and the brain. Host Stephen Wilson will be talking with leading and up-and-coming researchers about their work and ideas. The podcast is geared to an audience of scientists and future scientists who are interested in the neural substrates of language, from students, to postdocs, to faculty. The first three episodes, available already, feature three outstanding researchers: Ev Fedorenko, Sophie Scott, and Eddie Chang. Many more great conversations to come, and we hope that you will enjoy listening to the show!

Please visit:

<https://langneurosci.org/podcast> or search "language neuroscience" on your favorite podcast app.

Society for the Neurobiology of Language | [www.neurolang.org](http://www.neurolang.org)

