



## SOCIETY FOR THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

### Countdown to SNL 2020

With only a month left before the meeting, SNL is a flurry of activity! Since the August Newsletter, we have announced the keynotes, awards recipients, scientific sessions, and posted the [Schedule of Events](#). Below is a little bit of what attendees can look forward to at SNL 2020 (Virtual Edition).

This year, we are fortunate to welcome three eminent Keynote Speakers: [Jennifer Crinion](#), [Elissa Newport](#), and [Hugues Duffau](#). The Keynote Lectures will be presented live over Zoom. For more information about the speakers, including their bios and abstracts, click on their names above.

In addition to the Keynotes, SNL is pleased to feature talks by the following three awardees: [Karen Emmorey](#), (Distinguished Career Award), [Gesa Hartwigsen](#), (Early Career Award), and [Laura Gwilliams](#), (Dissertation Award). To read about the awardees and their talks, click on their name.

Attendees now have access to [Symposium](#), [Slide](#), and [Poster](#) abstracts. In order to access presentation abstracts, you must be [Registered](#) for the meeting. Stay tuned for more emails about the amazing scientific program, as well as other events that will be happening at SNL 2020 (Virtual Edition).

SNL is committed to providing a virtual experience designed to deliver the high-quality research that attendees have come to expect at the SNL Annual Meetings. To ensure that presentations are accessible to our attendees, all videos will be captioned. No worries if you miss a session, all talks and poster presentations will be archived and available to attendees for 90 days following the meeting. To join us at SNL 2020 [Register Now](#).

**SNL 2020**  
**October 21-24, 2020**  
(Virtual Edition)

#### In This Issue

Countdown to SNL 2020

Job Postings and  
Announcements

#### Important Dates

**September 18**  
Upload Period for  
Presentations Open

**October 1**  
Board of Directors Election  
Closes

**October 9**  
Upload Period for Poster  
PDFs Closes

**October 16**  
Upload Period for Video  
Presentations Closes



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)



### Job Postings and Announcements

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
Research Assistant Professor

Research Assistant Professor (non-tenure-track) positions are available at the Brain and Mind Institute at The Chinese University of Hong Kong for conducting fMRI, EEG, and/or fNIRS studies concerning language processing, first and second language acquisition, and language disorders. We are conducting several large-scale studies to study language, cognitive, and communication development and disorders in children and adults with and without developmental conditions such as ASD and dyslexia. Two longitudinal studies focus on infants who are born preterm and full-term. Candidates must have a strong background in functional neuroimaging and have substantive knowledge in the developmental, language, and cognitive sciences. We are particularly interested in broad thinkers with good quantitative skills to join our team.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong ranks among top 50 in the world according to QS World University Rankings. As three quarters of Hong Kong is countryside, it is a metropolis that offers a multitude of living possibilities. For inquiries, candidates should email CV to Patrick Wong ([p.wong@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:p.wong@cuhk.edu.hk)). Multiple positions are available. Applications are reviewed immediately.

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## The Chinese University of Hong Kong Postdoctoral Fellow

A postdoctoral fellowship position is available at the Brain and Mind Institute at The Chinese University of Hong Kong for conducting fMRI, EEG, and/or fNIRS studies concerning language processing, first and second language acquisition, and language disorders. We are conducting several large-scale studies to study language, cognitive, and communication development and disorders in children and adults with and without developmental conditions such as ASD and dyslexia. Two longitudinal studies focus on infants who are born preterm and full-term. Candidates must have a strong background in functional neuroimaging and have substantive knowledge in the developmental, language, and cognitive sciences. We are particularly interested in broad thinkers with good quantitative skills to join our team.

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## The Pennsylvania State University Postdoctoral Scholar

The Language and Aging Lab at The Pennsylvania State University (<https://sites.psu.edu/mdiazlab/>) 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 (<http://cls.psu.edu/>), 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 (<http://imaging.psu.edu/>).

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. For additional information about the position, please contact the lab director, Michele Diaz, Ph.D., at [mtd143@psu.edu](mailto:mtd143@psu.edu). The appointment will be for one year, with a good possibility of additional years. The anticipated start date is fall 2020. Applicants should upload a CV, 2 peer-reviewed publications, and a statement of research interests. Additionally, applicants should arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent directly to Michele Diaz at [mtd143@psu.edu](mailto:mtd143@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. Apply online at <https://psu.jobs/job/93170>. 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. 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.

To review the Annual Security Report which contains information about crime statistics and other safety and security matters and policies, please go to <https://police.psu.edu/annual-security-reports>, which will also explain how to request a paper copy of the Annual Security Report.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

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## The Pennsylvania State University

### PhD Program

Faculty in the Cognitive Area of the Psychology Department at Penn State University are looking for highly motivated candidates for admission to the PhD program. Professors Roger Beaty, Michele Diaz, Elisabeth Karuza, Suzy Scherf, Janet van Hell, Daniel Weiss, and Brad Wyble are now accepting graduate student applications for admission in Fall 2021. We employ a variety of behavioral and neuroimaging (EEG & fMRI) techniques to explore the psychology and neuroscience of creativity, including metaphor production and contributions of semantic memory to verbal creativity (Beaty); the neurobiology of language production and aging (Diaz); the cognitive neuroscience of learning (Karuza); typical and atypical development of social information processing (Scherf); bilingualism and language development (Van Hell); the statistical learning mechanisms underlying language acquisition (Weiss); and computational mechanisms of visual attention and memory (Wyble). Many of us are members of the Center for Language Science: a vibrant, interdisciplinary, and collaborative language community of language researchers with expertise in bilingualism, speech language pathology, psycholinguistics, and cognitive neuroscience. Penn State offers state of the art, proximally located, equipment and facilities, including a Siemens Prisma Fit 3.0T MRI system, EEG recording suites, fNIRS, tDCS, and eye-tracking equipment. The Penn State psychology department has an outstanding track record of research, with a strong commitment to graduate student mentoring and development. Students can also pursue Dual-Title Doctoral Degrees in Psychology and Language Science or Psychology and Social Behavioral Neuroscience, as well as a Specialization in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience. Interested students are encouraged to contact us to discuss their research ideas and training goals.

**Roger Beaty:** [rbeaty@psu.edu](mailto:rbeaty@psu.edu) <https://sites.google.com/view/beaty-cncl/>

**Michele Diaz:** [mtd143@psu.edu](mailto:mtd143@psu.edu) <https://sites.psu.edu/mdiazlab/>

**Elisabeth Karuza:** [ekaruza@psu.edu](mailto:ekaruza@psu.edu) <https://karuzalab.la.psu.edu/>

**Suzy Scherf:** [suzyscherf@psu.edu](mailto:suzyscherf@psu.edu) <https://www.suzyscherf.com/>

**Janet van Hell:** [jgv3@psu.edu](mailto:jgv3@psu.edu) <http://bild.la.psu.edu/>

**Daniel Weiss:** [djw21@psu.edu](mailto:djw21@psu.edu) <http://www.pennstatebabylab.com>

**Brad Wyble:** [bpw10@psu.edu](mailto:bpw10@psu.edu) <http://wyblelab.com>

#### Applications are due December 1, 2020

For more information about how to apply, please visit our website:

<https://psych.la.psu.edu/graduate/prospective-students>

Review of applications will begin immediately after the December 1st deadline. For more information about the cognitive area:

<https://psych.la.psu.edu/graduate/program-areas/cognitive>

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## University of Connecticut

### PhD Program

PhD positions in UConn's Language & Cognition Program

The [Language & Cognition](#) faculty at the University of Connecticut's [Department of Psychological Sciences](#) are soliciting applications for PhD students to begin in the fall of 2020.

The Language & Cognition group is part of the Perception-Action-Cognition division, one of 6 highly interactive divisions within the department. We have a strong track record in interdisciplinary research with work spanning from theory and computational modeling to empirical cognitive and neuroscience research. Our work is animated by a focus on the interplay between new cognitive science insights and the classical foundation in the computational theory of mind in a broad range of domains (e.g., brain plasticity, embodied cognition, event dynamics, reading, music cognition, dynamical systems methods). Our group is a core member of three interdisciplinary graduate training programs: Neurobiology of Language (launched with NSF IGERT funding), Science of Learning & Art of Communication (funded by an NSF NRT training grant), and the Cognitive Neuroscience of Communication (funded by an NIH pre- and postdoctoral training grant). Facilities include state-of-the-art MRI, high-density EEG, tDCS, TMS, eyetracking and other behavioral techniques, as well as access to computing clusters, lab space, and a dynamic program of colloquia, internal talk series and interest groups. We have strong collaborative links to researchers outside of UConn as well as our colleagues in Linguistics, Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences, Philosophy, Biomedical Engineering, Educational Psychology, and UConn Health and the Medical School. Typically, students are funded through a mix of fellowships and Teaching and Research Assistantships, and our students have an excellent recent track record competing for external and internal fellowships. UConn is home to a vibrant community of faculty and students and expects to see major growth in research activity over the next decade.

The Language & Cognition faculty, and their interests, include:

[Gerry Altmann](#) (Director, CT Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences). Sentence processing and prediction; the mapping between language and vision; event cognition.

[Christian Brodbeck](#) Cognitive neuroscience of language, speech perception, EEG/MEG.

[Roeland Hancock](#) (Associate Director, Brain Imaging Research Center). Neurochemistry and neuromodulation; Neurobiology of sentence processing; Auditory Processing.

[Fumiko Hoefft](#) (Director, Brain Imaging Research Center). Brain development; various neuroimaging methods; machine learning; individual differences; literacy acquisition; dyslexia.

[Ed Large](#) Auditory neuroscience; music psychology; dynamical systems.

[Jim Magnuson](#) (Director, NSF NRT training program in Science of Learning & Art of Communication). Neurobiology and psychology of language; spoken language understanding; computational modeling; language and learning over the lifespan; science communication.

[Emily Myers](#) (Co-Director, NIH training program in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Communication). Speech perception; cognitive neuroscience of speech and language; aphasia; second language acquisition.

[Ken Pugh](#) (President, Haskins Laboratories). Reading; reading disorders; neurobiology of language.

[Jay Rueckl](#) Neurobiology and psychology of reading; implicit and explicit memory; statistical learning; computational modeling and dynamical systems.

[Whit Tabor](#) Sentence processing; theory of grammar; dynamical systems; neural networks; language change; group coordination.

[Eiling Yee](#) Semantic memory and the neural representation of concepts; spoken word recognition and situated/embodied language processing.

Next steps: Contact a potential faculty advisor from the list above, explore [UConn](#) and the [application procedure](#). Application deadline: December 1, 2020.

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## Conferences & Programs

### Academy of Aphasia Meeting

October 18-20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Please note: the **Member Registration Rates Deadline** for the Fall, 2020 Academy of Aphasia Meeting being held October 18-20 this year has been **extended** to October 11, 2020 at 11:59pm EST.

Also, we have applied for Speech-Language-Pathologist attendees to get **ASHA CEUs** at no cost to you and are waiting to hear on likely approval.

The **program** for the Academy of Aphasia meeting to be held online is posted at <http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AoAProgram2020.pdf>.

For Registration **information**: <http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/conference2020/>

**Actual registration**: Registration for **members** will come up on the log-in page, once a member has logged in.

Registration for **non-members**: <http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/2020-meeting-registration/>

Want to **become a member**?  
<http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/membership/>

Want to **pay your dues**?  
<http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/membership/pay-membership-dues/>

Want to check that your dues are paid up? Write Mary Cosic at [academyofaphasia12@gmail.com](mailto:academyofaphasia12@gmail.com)

We've been able to cut the conference costs substantially and expand accessibility. People from the UN lists of Developing Countries (see link below) can **attend free**, and registration costs for others are markedly less than previously. All posters will be available for the entire conference and, along with all or most presentations will be available for those who register for the full 3-day conference for one month after the conference. For a list of the UN Developing Countries: [2020 UN-listed Developing Economies](#)

We look forward to seeing you 'there'!

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## Publications

### Frontiers Research Call for Submissions

We call for submissions for a Frontiers Research Topic "**Fuzzy Lexical Representations in the Nonnative Mental Lexicon**".

Behavioral and neurolinguistic evidence supports the notion of fuzzy lexical representations in L2 lexical processing and learning. A fuzzy lexical representation is characterized by a large degree of uncertainty and ambiguity and has less distinct, vague boundaries that differentiate it from the neighboring representations. The fuzziness of lexical representations can manifest itself at the level of phonological or orthographic encoding, at the level of word meaning, or as loose, fuzzy form-meaning associations.

We invite contributions reporting behavioral and neurolinguistic studies that explore different aspects of fuzzy lexical representations, as they are engaged in lexical processing and vocabulary learning. With this Frontiers topic, we are hoping to gain a better understanding of when and under what circumstances fuzzy L2 lexical representations emerge, which forces constrain the efficient encoding of L2 lexical representations and contribute to their fuzziness, how they function in L2 processing, and how fuzziness decreases for more familiar L2 words.

Find more about the Research Topic here:  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/15827/fuzzy-lexical-representations-in-the-nonnative-mental-lexicon>

The **abstract submission** deadline is **November 30, 2020**. Please submit your abstract directly

through the Topic website above.

Manuscripts for this open-access article collection can be submitted via both [Frontiers in Communication](#) and [Frontiers in Psychology](#).

Organized by: Kira Gor (University of Maryland), Denisa Bordag (University of Leipzig), Anna Chrabaszcz (University of Pittsburgh), Svetlana Cook (University of Maryland), Andreas Opitz (University of Leipzig)

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## Special Issue *Brain and Language* Open Call for Submissions

Experience-Based Individual Differences Associated with Multilingualism in the Mind and Brain  
<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/brain-and-language/call-for-papers/experience-based-individual-differences> (see this link for full call for papers). Any questions? Email the guest editors.

In this special issue, we shift the question from whether multilingualism confers effects to the mind/brain to what the conditions and experiences of multilingualism are that advance our understanding of diverse language experience, cognition and the brain. Narrowing the search space in this regard accomplishes several objectives. Firstly, framing the question in this way forces us to engage with the reality that bilingualism is not a categorical variable, but rather a continuous one along multi-dimensional spectra. Secondly, identifying variation in diverse language experience that correlates with brain functions, structures and language processing will enrich the current understanding of how language is represented in the mind and brain. Thus, as a collection contributing to the study of language science, we will move to better understand multilingualism as an experience-dependent mechanism that potentially underlies neuroplasticity in different developmental stages.

In line with the above, this special issue of *Brain and Language* commits to compiling a set of papers where multilingualism is presented as a set of dynamic experiences. The special issue will be comprised of studies that collect detailed information regarding the complexities and temporality of individuals' multilingual experiences as part of its empirical operational definition. The studies will model this complexity to tease out dimensions of multilingual experience (e.g. age of acquisition, type of bilingualism, patterns of exposure and use over the lifespan, current patterns of use across an array of daily contexts (at home, at work, in social settings, etc.) that correlate with (degrees of) language processing, domain-general cognition, and variation in brain functions and structures. In addition to addressing the role that bi-/multilingual experiences could have on shaping language processing, cognition, and brain outcomes, we emphasize and encourage submissions with the following key aspects to studies:

- Bilinguals or multilingual speakers as participants, including bimodal-bilingualism, bi-dialectalism, clinical populations/clinical studies
- fMRI, DTI, EEG, fNIRS and/or eye-tracking methods
- Different developmental stages across the lifespan
- Focus on interactional contexts of multilingualism from different social and/or cultural contexts as well as longitudinal studies examining second language acquisition

Proposed schedule for the special issue, which we hope will allow for publication of the special issue in the latter part of 2021:

**Submission Portal Opens:** Nov. 15th, 2020

**Submission Portal Closes:** Jan. 20th 2021

**Reviews Returned to Authors by:** March 20th 2021

**Revisions Due Back by:** May 15th 2021

**Final Acceptances (or Rejections) by:** July 15th 2021

Please select the article type name "**VSI: Multilingualism & brain**" while submitting your article for this special issue.