Society for the Neurobiology of Language Newsletter

March 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

University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX

Patient Coordinator Research Position
Cognition & Neuroimaging of Acute to Chronic Stroke

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). We will begin reviewing applications in March.

- 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.

University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX

Postdoctoral Position
Cognition & Neuroimaging of Acute to Chronic Stroke

The Schnur laboratory at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship 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 for behavioral testing and neuroimaging from three comprehensive stroke centers in the Houston Texas Medical Center. 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. 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 in the center of Houston, a 10-minute walk to patient recruitment sites in the Texas Medical Center, 5-minutes from the Baylor College of Medicine’s 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 neurotypical controls on a state-of-the art 3T Siemens Prisma scanner.
Required: The successful candidate should have a PhD in a field related to cognitive neuroscience. Strong expertise in human fMRI and/or quantitative neuroimaging data analysis as evidenced by the Ph.D. thesis and/or publications is required. Desirable additional qualifications include experience in cognitive psychology of language, with evidence of successful manuscript preparation.

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). We will begin reviewing applications March 13.

- a one-page cover letter (include specific examples of qualifications for the position, why the position is of interest, and your career goals)
- CV
- statement of research interests (up to 1-page, including relevant background for this position)
- the name and email addresses of three references
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Ideally, candidates will begin in late summer 2024. University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action / Equal Access Employer.

The Center for the Study of Aphasia Recovery (C-STAR) and the Aphasia Lab at the University of South Carolina are recruiting for multiple positions!

(1) A Postdoctoral Fellow: We are looking for researchers with experience in neuroimaging and behavioral data analysis, and a preferred background in language sciences or aphasiology. The Postdoctoral Fellow will be trained on the available magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner at the McCausland Center for Brain Imaging (MCBI) and contribute to the acquisition, processing and analysis of behavioral and neuroimaging data from healthy speakers as well as people with aphasia. The Postdoctoral Fellow will contribute to the organization and execution of several ongoing externally (NIH) and internally funded research projects in the lab, related to the neurobiology of language and recovery from aphasia.

Required Documents: Cover Letter; Curriculum Vitae; List of References and Contact Information
Optional Documents: Research Portfolio; Research Statement
Job Posting: https://uscjobs.sc.edu/postings/163641
Application deadline: **03/21/2024**; The desired but negotiable start date for this position is August 15th, 2024.

(2) Two Research Assistant Professors: The Research Assistant Professors will lead and actively participate in research projects related to aphasia, language impairment and neuroimaging, which will include designing experiments, collecting and analyzing neuroimaging data, and interpreting results. They will publish research findings in reputable academic journals and present at conferences to disseminate research outcomes to the scientific community. They will assist in preparing research grant proposals to secure funding for ongoing and future projects, and will mentor a variety of students. Collaboration with other researchers, faculty, and staff within the Department, the Center for the Study of Aphasia Recovery (C-STAR), and across disciplines to foster a multidisciplinary research environment is necessary for this position.

Required Education and Experience: Ph.D. in a relevant field (e.g., Neuroscience, Psychology, Speech and Language Pathology); A successful post-doctoral research background in the areas of aphasia, language impairment and/or neuroimaging; Proficiency in neuroimaging tools and software (e.g., fMRI, DTI, EEG/MEG).
Required Documents: Cover Letter; Curriculum Vitae; List of References and Contact Information
Optional Documents: Research Portfolio; Research Statement
Job Posting: https://uscjobs.sc.edu/postings/163654

The application window will be **open until the positions are filled**. The desired but negotiable start date for these positions is June 1st, 2024.

Come join our highly collaborative team of researchers around the NIH-funded Center for the Study of Aphasia Recovery (C-STAR; PI Julius Fridriksson, PhD). For details, please refer to the full job posting links provided above.

For more information, please contact Dirk den Ouden, PhD (denouden@sc.edu; +1 803 777 9241), or Leonardo Bonilha, MD, PhD (bonilha@sc.edu).

Postdoctoral Researcher- Purdue University

The ABC Lab at Purdue University is seeking a post-doctoral researcher to join our collaborative team that investigates cognition and language in adults with and without aphasia. The post-doctoral researcher will play a key role in

designing and conducting fMRI studies aimed at elucidating the cognitive processes involved in language comprehension. To accomplish this, they will be trained on the MRI scanner at the Life Science MRI Facility and contribute to the acquisition, processing, and analysis of behavioral and neuroimaging data. Example projects include (1) exploring differences in the neural resources that support auditory and visual attention and (2) obtaining structural and functional MRI scans from people with aphasia.

The post-doctoral researcher will be housed in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA, which is one of the largest and highest ranked Speech-Language Pathology programs in the country. The Department is diverse and collegial and includes a thriving interdisciplinary community of top-notch researchers and clinicians dedicated to translational research across lifespan. The post-doctoral researcher will have ample opportunities to capitalize on an extraordinary network of collaborations, resources, and mentorship for professional development.

Responsibilities:

- Design and implement fMRI experiments to investigate language and cognition
- Recruit and screen participants for fMRI studies, ensuring adherence to ethical guidelines and study protocols
- Analyze fMRI data using advanced neuroimaging techniques and software
- Collaborate with other team members to integrate findings from fMRI studies with behavioral and clinical data
- Write research publications, conference presentations, and grant proposals
- Mentor and supervise graduate students and research assistants involved in fMRI data collection and analysis

Expected start date: Preferred start date is between June 2024 and September 2024.

Duration/type: 2 years, full time

Application deadline: Applications will be reviewed continuously starting March 28, 2024

Qualifications:

- Research interests related to language, cognition, and aphasia
- Ph.D. in Neuroscience, Psychology, Cognitive Science, Speech and Hearing Science, or related field
- Proficiency/experience with neuroimaging software packages such as AFNI or SPM is preferred
- Expertise with statistical analyses and data visualization in R and/or SPSS
- Experience contributing to the preparation of peer-reviewed publications

Salary and Benefits:

- Salary will reflect NIH NRSA stipend level based on candidate's years of experience
- Health and retirement benefits
- Access to state-of-the-art research facilities and resources
- Opportunity for professional development and mentorship
- Collaborative and inclusive work environment

To apply:

- Complete the online application (https://careers.purdue.edu/job-invite/30513/), which includes uploading a cover letter detailing research interests and relevant experience, a current CV, and contact information for three references. References should send their letters directly to Dr. LaCroix. Inquiries about the position can be sent to Dr. Arianna LaCroix, anlacroi@purdue.edu.

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.

Other

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 Kielar & Elena Barbieri (Co-Vice Chairs), Rajani Sebastian, Silvia Martínez Ferreiro, Eva Kehayia and Gabriele Miceli.

Local Arrangements Committee: Masaru Mimura (Local Chair), Yutaka Tanaka, Mika Otsuki, Anthony Pak-Hin Kong.

Centre of Research Excellence - Translational Centre for Speech Disorders

We are delighted to announce that the Centre of Research Excellence - Translational Centre for Speech Disorders will co-host their Symposium '***What's new since FOXP2: New developments in speech and language neurobiology'***, with University College London (UCL) Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, **on Friday 07 June 2024** at the **UCL ICH Leolin Price Theater.**

Please join this event as we celebrate over 20 years of research since the groundbreaking identification of FOXP2 as a gene critically involved in speech and language development. You will learn about the most recent genetic and neuroimaging discoveries in the field of speech and language disorders from international experts, including Prof Vargha-Khadem (UCL) and Prof Fisher (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics). The event will end with a panel discussion on implications for clinical practice and future research directions.

Due to the limited availability of seats, early registration is strongly recommended to ensure your participation.

Info & Registrations:
CRE Symposium 2024: 'What's new since FOXP2: New developments in speech and language neurobiology' | UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health - UCL – University College London

Thalamocortical Networks (ThalNet) Conference
May 16-17, Donostia-San Sebastian

We are pleased to announce "Thalamocortical networks (ThalNet): Bringing together cellular and cognitive neuroscience", which will take place in person this May 16-17 at the Miramar Jauregia in Donostia–San Sebastián: https://www.bcbl.eu/events/Thalnet/en/
To understand thalamic function and structure represents a formidable neuroscientific challenge, wherein the collaboration between cellular and cognitive neuroscientific approaches holds much promise. Recognizing the potential synergy between these two disciplines, ThalNet is aimed at convening world experts from both realms and at setting the bases to initiate, foster, and develop interactions among researchers from these fields to further advance and strength our understanding of thalamocortical and corticothalamic networks.

We look forward to welcoming you to Donostia-San Sebastián and to this exciting scientific event, which includes world renowned speakers on the topic.
ThalNet organizing, scientific and administration committees
https://www.bcbl.eu/events/Thalnet/en/

Registration for the IMPRS conference 2024 is open until April 15, 2024. On-site attendee slots are limited. Register for free here!

Registration for the IMPRS conference 2024 is open until **April 15, 2024.**
On-site attendee slots are limited. Register for free here!

The IMPRS conference will take place between **June 5-7 2024** in a hybrid format. The aim of the biennial IMPRS conference series on **Interdisciplinary Approaches in the Language Sciences** is to inspire the next generation of language scientists to take on new challenges that will further our understanding of the human language ability.

Special call for papers at Cortex journal! "Neurocognitive perspectives on discourse and connected language" edited by Drs. Brielle Stark, Jamie Reilly, and Andrea Martin. Papers due in by 31st December 2024.

One of the most significant challenges for the neuroscience of language has involved moving beyond single words to model connected speech and, more specifically, discourse. Discourse is defined as language beyond a single simple clause used for a specific purpose. The past decade has seen remarkable progress in elucidating the production and comprehension of discourse. This special issue will highlight advances from cognitive and clinical neuroscience in modeling discourse that spans from multi-word utterances to naturalistic stories. We welcome submissions focused on either discourse comprehension (heard, signed, read) or production (spoken, signed, written) with the common denominator of a link to brain structure and/or function. Links can be established through a variety of experimental modalities (e.g., neuropsychological case studies, neuroimaging).

https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/cortex/about/call-for-papers

AMLaP 2024: Abstract submissions open

The 30th Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing conference will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland UK, 5-7 September 2024. AMLaP is an annual event that brings together researchers with empirical, theoretical, computational, neural, and psychological perspectives on all aspects of language processing.

Keynote speakers

Neil Cohn, Department of Communication and Cognition, Tilburg University
Nivedita Mani, Department of Psychology, University of Goettingen
N. Bonnie Nozari, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University
Liina Pylkkänen, Departments of Linguistics and Psychology, New York University

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: 15 April 2024 by 11:59:59pm (anywhere on earth)
Abstract acceptance: 31 May 2024
Conference dates: 5-7 September 2024

Abstract guidelines and topics

Abstracts should be submitted as a PDF file via https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/33432/submitter, adhering to the guidelines listed on the Call for Abstracts.

AMLaP 2024 is organised by the University of Edinburgh's School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences and School of Informatics. For any questions, please contact us at amlap2024@ed.ac.uk.

Connect with us to get the latest membership updates and announcements.