Ph.D. Program in Speech–Language–Hearing Sciences
Newsletter

Happy Fall!😊😊

Message from the New Executive Officer, Dr. Valerie Shafer:
Welcome all to a Fall semester where we are beginning to return to more normal activity. Some of you have already visited The Graduate Center Campus and Labs and we hope in the Spring it will be safe for all of us to meet together. I wanted to tell you about two goals we have for this year. The first is to create short bio videos of students, faculty, and alumni to share on our website and social media pages. You will be hearing from us to ask you to participate. The second is related to the next message form the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force (see below). I hope you all have a productive semester! Stay safe!

Message from our Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force:
We wish to reinforce our commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. The DEI task force was assembled in Spring 2021 to help ensure that our program maintains a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The mission of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force of the Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences is to promote our continued commitment to foster a responsive environment that engages, respects, and supports individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. We value all genders, sexual identities, races, ethnicities, cultures, languages, (dis)abilities, beliefs, viewpoints, and their intersectionality. We strive to ensure that all members of our community are presented with equitable opportunities to flourish academically and professionally.

Alumni- Join and contribute to the SLHS Alumni social media page: https://slhs-ge-cuny-alum.ning.com/ (job postings, updates, staying in contact, collaboration, etc.)

We are happy to welcome Dr. Suzanne van der Feest to our program as a Research Associate Professor in Speech-Language-Hearings Sciences at the Graduate Center.
STAYING OPTIMISTIC DURING THE PANDEMIC

An outdoor, all vaccinated, EEG training session Dr. Shafer and Dr. van der Feest held.

Developmental Speech Perception lab meeting with SLHS students and others across campus.

The SLHS family celebrating Dr. Kang’s successful defense.
OUR NEW STUDENTS

Please welcome the following students who have begun our program in the Fall.

Ioulia Agrotou. Ioulia is interested in learning about the effect of bilingualism, monolingualism and bidialectalism on executive control (attention, inhibition and working memory), the effect of a mother tongue on the sound perception and sound production of an acquired foreign language, rehabilitation methods for aphasia, apraxia and dyspraxia, interconnectivity of the gut and the brain in relation to mental processes, and methods of integration of autistic children in society. Ioulia will tentatively be working in Dr. Klara Marton's and Dr. Mira Goral’s labs.

Shelby Kayga. Shelby is interested in learning about specific language impairment, cognition and language development, bilingualism, language and aging, and language and working memory. Shelby will tentatively be working in Dr. Klara Marton’s lab.

Evgeniya Maryutina. Evgeniya is interested in learning about bilingualism, neurolinguistics, phonology, developmental neurolinguistics, and children’s speech development. Evgeniya will tentatively be working in Dr. Valerie Shafer’s and Dr. Doug Whalen’s labs.

Lindsey Neri. Lindsay is interested in learning about multiculturalism, aphasia, aging, and psycholinguistics. Lindsey will tentatively be working in Dr. Mira Goral’s lab.

FALL EVENTS

Colloquia (Register Here) Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Town Hall
September 29- Dr. Ben Munson Tentatively December 17, 2021 from 1p-3p
October 20- Dr. Akiko Fuse
October 27- Dr. Kyomi Gregory
November 3- Dr. Laura Spinu
November 10- Dr. Cecelia Cutler
December 8- Dr. Reem Khamis-Dakwar

FUTURE EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

If you have events, job postings, workshops, conferences, etc. that you would like our students, faculty and alumni to know about, you are welcome to send those announcements to the Assistant Program Officer, Andre Perez, aperez3@gc.cuny.edu
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Dissertation Defenses

**Dr. Amy Vogel-Eyny**
“Predictors of lexical accessibility of common and proper nouns in older age: Evidence from the tip-of-the-tongue state.”
April 7, 2021
Chair: Dr. Loraine K. Obler

**Dr. Taryn Malcolm**
“Cross-linguistic morphosyntactic influence in bilingual speakers of Jamaican Creole and Jamaican English.”
June 11, 2021
Chair: Dr. Nancy Eng

**Dr. Polina Shuminsky**
“Acoustic changes following clear speech intervention.”
August 31, 2021
Chair: Dr. Brett Martin

**Dr. JaeKoo Kang**
“The effect of speaking rate on vowel variability based on the uncontrolled manifold approach and flow-based neural network modeling.”
September 3, 2021
Chair: Dr. Douglas Whalen

**Dr. Lisa Goldin**
“Efficiency of the acoustic change complex for various stimulus presentation strategies in infants.”
September 9, 2021
Chair: Dr. Brett Martin

Advancement to Candidacy

**Rion Iwasaki** advanced to candidacy on June 1, 2021.
**Ghada Shejaeya** advanced to candidacy on July 10, 2021.
**Zahra Hejazi** advanced to candidacy on August 26, 2021.

Completed Pre-Dissertation Projects

**Ghada Shejaeya** completed the pre-dissertation project on July 10, 2021.
**Zahra Hejazi** completed the pre-dissertation project on August 26, 2021.
**Rula Faur** completed the pre-dissertation project on September 23, 2021.
Completed Second Exam

Rion Iwasaki passed the Second Exam on May 18, 2021.

Completed First Exam

Danilo Lombardo passed the First Exam of May 5, 2021.
Marcy Gordon passed the First Exam on May 24, 2021.
Rula Faur passed the First Exam on May 27, 2021.
Jeehyun Yoon passed the First Exam on June 10, 2021.
Ingrid Davidovich passed the First Exam on September 13, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS


https://doi.org/10.1075/jslp.20033.gro [doi.org]


**In Press**


**PRESENTATIONS**


Feinstein, S., Ojukwu, B., Pazuelo, L., Gehebe, T., & Marton, K. (July 2021). “Single and conceptual scoring of receptive and expressive vocabulary in simultaneous and sequential bilingual children.” *International Association for the Study of Child Language*


*Senior Scholar Lecture Series, Conference on Multilingual and Multicultural issues in Speech-Language Pathology.*
Virtual Conference. Jerusalem, Israel

*Meeting of the Weinberg Family CP Center, Columbia University Medical Center*  
Virtual Conference. New York, NY

*Late Talker workshop Late talkers: Interdisciplinary approaches to understand early language delay.*  
Warwick, United Kingdom

*Late Talker workshop Late talkers: Interdisciplinary approaches to understand early language delay.*  
Warwick, United Kingdom

“Measuring language dominance in bilinguals based on task sustainability.”
*International Symposium on Bilingualism 13*  
Virtual Conference

“Task sustainability as a measure of bilingual language dominance.”
*California Meeting on Psycholinguistics*  
Virtual Conference

*International Symposium of Bilingualism (ISB 13)*  
Virtual Conference

*International Symposium of Bilingualism (ISB 13)*  
Virtual Conference


Dr. Anne C. Balant was awarded the 2021 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

Dr. Elizabeth Ijalba was awarded Queens College course development grant for interdisciplinary course on Cultural Humility in Education and Clinical settings.

Dr. Elizabeth Ijalba was invited to serve as member on ASHA’s Scientific and Professional Education Board (SPEB) for a term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024.

Dr. Elizabeth Ijalba was selected as Provost's Diversity Fellow at Queens College, for the academic year 2021-2022

Dr. Erika Levy received an honorable mention for the Teaching Award at Teacher’s College, Columbia University in April 2021.

Dr. Erika Levy was interviewed by “SLP Mommy of Apraxia” on YouTube on assessment and treatment of children with dysarthria (March, 2021): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HHsb1e-P08 [youtube.com]

Dr. Eve Higby received the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Just Futures Initiative Grant titled "Latinx Futures: The Civil, Cultural, and Political Stakes for Southern California Latinx Communities" PI: Claudia Holguín-Mendoza, subaward to Co-Investigator Eve Higby ($56,571)

Dr. Eve Higby received the Exceptional Service to Students Award, California State University, East Bay.

Dr. Eve Higby received the Faculty Support Grant (California State University, East Bay) titled "Bilingual language production: Investigating the independent components of cross-language facilitation and interference control." PI: Eve Higby ($3,988)

Dr. Eve Higby received the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Grant titled "Acquisition of Electroencephalography Equipment for the Study of the Neuroplasticity of

**Dr. Jason Bishop** was awarded $3500 by PSC-CUNY for the project “Speech-based correlates of neurotypical autistic trait load.”

**Dr. Jason Bishop** was named a Mercator Fellow in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Cologne, Germany, funded by the German Research Foundation (2021-2024).

**Dr. Kristen Victorino** is co-PI on a project that was recently awarded funding ($10,000) from ASHA’s Office of Multicultural Affairs. The project title is: “Voice Affirming Communication Therapy for Transgender Clients: Interprofessional Collaboration between Speech-Language Pathology and Counseling Graduate Students.”

**Dr. Mellissa Bortz** receive funding from St John’s University Summer Support of Research Program Language for the study: “Mixing in South-eastern Zone Speaking Healthy People and People with Aphasia.” Fiscal Year 2022 $8000.00

**Gerald Imaezue** received the Saffran Student Scholar Award, 2021. Eleanor M. Saffran Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Temple University.

**Gerald Imaezue** receive the Young Investigator Travel Fellowship, 2021. Academy of Aphasia.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS**

**Dr. Kristen Victorino** was named Chair of the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at William Paterson University of New Jersey, as of Fall 2021.

**Dr. Luca Campanelli** started a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders at The University of Alabama in August 2021.

**Dr. Peggy Conner** has been appointed to Chair of the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at Lehman College, CUNY, effective August 2021.

**Dr. Yael Neumann** has been appointed and assumed the role of Associate Chair of the Linguistics and Communication Disorders department at Queens College in the Fall of 2021.

**Dr. Yael Neumann** has been appointed and assumed the role of Program Director of the Communication Sciences and Disorders department at Queens College in the Fall of 2020.

**OTHER NEWS**

**Dr. Klara Marton** organized a symposium entitled "Bilingual language processing and its interaction with cognitive control and the bilingual language experience" at the conference of the International Association for the Study of Child Language (IASCL).

**Dr. Klara Marton** organized a symposium with **Dr. Eve Higby** at the International Symposium of Bilingualism (ISB 13) on the topic of language proficiency measures.
**Dr. Mellissa Bortz** serves as facilitator of the St John’s NSSLHA Chapter which achieved Gold Status in May, 2021.


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**Contribute to the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Doctoral Student Fellowship**

Thank you to all who have contributed and who continually contribute donation to the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Doctoral Student Fellowships. The fellowships and the discretionary funds allow the program to help students every year.

The following *Four* funds have been set up to directly support our students:


- Moe and Hannah Bergman Scholarship for Conference Travel: The Moe and Hannah Bergman Award makes funds available to students who travel to present research papers at conferences.

- Martin Gitterman Excellence in Teaching Award: The Martin Gitterman Teaching Award gives awards for Excellence in Teaching.

- The Florence Award for outstanding women of color completing their doctoral education through the Child Language Laboratory at the CUNY Graduate Center.

- The Glenis Long Award for Excellence in Research and Design.

These awards are given to a number of students each year. To contribute to these funds, please go to the program’s website: [http://www.gc.cuny.edu/SLHSciences](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/SLHSciences) and click on “Support the GC” or send a check payable to The Graduate Center Foundation (see below). All checks should include account number 212731. Please indicate this number as well as the name of the award in which you want your contribution placed (e.g., Bergman, Bronstein, Gitterman, and/or Florence)

All checks should be made out to The Graduate Center Foundation and sent to:

CUNY Graduate Center  
Attention: Development Office  
365 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

*Please be sure to put the account number 212731 in the memo section of your check.*