

Curriculum Vitae | Suhail Matar

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Affiliation Neuroscience of Language Lab,
Psychology Department—New York University

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Education

2016—
(exp. 2022) Ph.D. student in Cognition & Perception,
Psychology Department – New York University, New York
Advisor: Alec Marantz (Neuroscience of Language Lab)

2008—2011 Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering, *summa cum laude*
Technion – I.I.T, Haifa
Thesis: *Diffraction Multiphoton Neural Interfaces*; Advisor: Shy Shoham

2004—2008 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Biomedical Engineering, *summa cum laude*
Technion – I.I.T, Haifa
Major: Medical imaging and biological signal processing

Honors and Awards

- Honorable Mention in Society for the Neurobiology of Language’s 2020 Abstract Merit Awards
 - NYU’s GSAS Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship (2020-2021; ~\$29,500/year)
 - Partial funding for 2018 Genetics and Neurobiology of Language Course—Cold Spring Harbor Labs
 - Twice the recipient of NYU’s GSAS Dean’s Student Travel Grant (\$500)
 - Award to attend the 2018 meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL) (\$550)
 - MacCracken Fellowship (2016-2020) for Ph.D. candidates, by NYU’s GSAS (~\$28,500/year)
 - M.Sc. excellence scholarship by Israeli Council for Higher Education (2009-2011; ~\$20,000/year)
 - Graduated *summa cum laude* from both M.Sc. and B.Sc. programs
 - Included in Technion President’s list of honors for scholastic achievement in every B.Sc. semester
 - Winner of the 2012 Young Palestinian Writer Award (Qattan Foundation, Ramallah; see below)
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Publications & Manuscripts

- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Marantz. A., & Pylkkänen L. (2021). Left posterior temporal cortex is sensitive to syntax within conceptually matched Arabic expressions, *Scientific Reports* 11, 7181. [Link](#)
- **Matar S.**, Pylkkänen L., & Marantz A. (2019). Left occipital and right frontal involvement in syntactic category prediction: MEG evidence from Standard Arabic, *Neuropsychologia* 135, 107230. Special issue: *The Neural basis of Linguistic Prediction* (ed: Mante Nieuwland, Nina Kazanina). [Link](#)
- Farah N.†, Zoubi A.†, **Matar S.**†, Golan L., Marom A., Butson C.R., Brosh I. & Shoham S. (2013). Holographically patterned activation using photo-absorber induced neural–thermal stimulation, *Journal of Neural Engineering* 10(5) 056004 [†equal contribution]. [Link](#)
- **Matar S.**, Golan L. & Shoham S. (2011). Reduction of two-photon holographic speckle using shift-averaging, *Optics Express* 19(27), 25891-25899. [Link](#)
- **Matar S.**, Golan L., Farah N., Reutsky I. & Shoham S., Holographic photo-stimulation for dynamic control of neuronal population activity, *Proceedings of the IEEE EMBS 4th International Conference on Neural Engineering*, April-May, 2009, Antalya, Turkey. [Link](#)

Invited Talks

- **Matar S.** (2021, April). Left posterior temporal cortex is sensitive to syntax within conceptually matched Arabic expressions. *Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (BCBL; virtual)*.

Conferences and Meetings

- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Marantz A. & Pylkkänen L., Dissociating syntactic processing and semantic composition in the left temporal lobe: MEG evidence from Standard Arabic. Talk presented at: *12th annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL); 2020 Oct 21-24 (virtual)*.
- Tulling M.†, **Matar S.**†, Abrams E., Gueguera R., Hauptman M., Parrish A., Phillips S., & Pylkkänen L., Naturalistic Expository Discourse Processing in School-Aged Children and Adults. Poster to be presented at: *12th annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL); 2020 Oct 21-24 (virtual)*. [tequal contribution].
- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Marantz A. & Pylkkänen L., Lower LIFG activation for higher syntactic complexity: MEG evidence from conceptually-matched Arabic stimuli. Poster presented at: *11th annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL); 2019 Aug 20-22; Helsinki, Finland*.
- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Marantz A. & Pylkkänen L., Left inferior frontal gyrus less active for greater syntactic complexity: MEG evidence from minimal Arabic phrases and sentences. Poster presented at: *Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS); 2019 Mar 23-26; San Francisco, California*.
- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Pylkkänen L. & Marantz A., Syntactic category prediction during reading: MEG evidence from adjectival modification in Standard Arabic. Talk presented at: *Experimental Arabic Linguistics Conference 2018 (EXAL18); 2019 Oct 28-29; Al Ain, United Arab Emirates*.
- **Matar S.**, King R., Leong W., & Pylkkänen L., Interaction of morphological and long-distance dependency processing: MEG evidence. Poster & “Slam” presented at: *10th annual meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language; 2018 Aug 16-18; Québec, Canada*.
- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Pylkkänen L. & Marantz A., Syntactic category prediction during reading: MEG evidence from adjectival modification in Standard Arabic. Talk presented at: *1st Workshop on Predictive Processing; 2018 Jun 20-22; San Sebastián, Spain*.
- **Matar S.**, Dirani J., Pylkkänen L. & Marantz A., Syntactic category prediction during reading: MEG evidence from adjectival modification in Standard Arabic. Poster presented at: *31st Annual CUNY Sentence Processing Conference; 2018 Mar 15-17; Davis, California*.
- **Matar S.** & Shoham S., Two-photon holographic photo-stimulation for dynamic control of neuronal population activity. Talk presented at: *18th Annual Meeting of Israeli Society for Neuroscience; 2009 Nov 22-24; Eilat, Israel*.
- **Matar S.**, Golan L., Farah N., Reutsky I. & Shoham S., Holographic photo-stimulation for dynamic control of neuronal population activity. Poster presented at: *IEEE EMBS 4th International Conference on Neural Engineering; 2009 Apr 29-May 2; Antalya, Turkey*.

Academic Teaching

Fall 2019	<i>Cognitive Neuroscience</i> TA I Instructor: Pascal Wallisch Psychology Department, College of Arts and Sciences, New York University
Fall 2018	<i>Cognition</i> TA and Guest Lecture on Language I Instructor: Pascal Wallisch Psychology Department, College of Arts and Sciences, New York University
Fall 2017	<i>Language and Mind</i>

TA and Guest Lecture on Neurolinguistics | Instructors: Brian McElree and Ailís Cournane
Linguistics/Psychology Departments, College of Arts and Sciences, New York University

Winter 2010 *Analysis of Biological Signals*
TA | Instructor: Shy Shoham
Technion's Division of Continuing Education, Tel Aviv

Fall 2009 *Medical Instrumentation, Standards and Safety*
TA | Instructor: Alex Vilensky
Biomedical Engineering department, Technion - I.I.T, Haifa

Supervision

2020—2021 *Abdelrahim Qaddoumi*, Research Assistant, New York University

2020—2021 *Michael Marinaccio*, Research Assistant, New York University

2017 *Wesley Leong*, Intern, New York University

Service

ad hoc *Scientific Reports*

Language Skills

Arabic	Mother tongue	English	Mastery*	Hebrew	Mastery
Spanish	Mastery (C2**)	French	Upper Intermediate (B2**)	Catalan	Upper Intermediate

* TOEFL iBT score: 118/120. Taken: September 2015.

** Official diploma obtained in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Technical and Research Skills

- Programming: Python (incl. mne, eelbrain), MATLAB (incl. signal processing, data acquisition, GUI building), R, C, SQL, Fortran
 - Data acquisition: MEG and EEG acquisition, acquisition boards (e.g. NI), CCD cameras
 - Experimental setups: Optical and electrical set-ups for *in vitro* stimulation and imaging of neurons
 - Graphics: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, ImageReady, InDesign, InkScape
 - Other software: Simulink, Solidworks
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Literary Publications

- **North of Andalusia, West of the Homeland** (شمال الأندلس، غرب الوطن) - a collection of short stories. Al-Ahilyya Publishing - Amman, Jordan (2014).
Winner of the 2012 Young Palestinian Writer Award (Qattan Foundation, Ramallah).