Adam M. Morgan

https://adam-milton-morgan.github.io

adam.morgan@nyulangone.org | +1 404 849 8922 | he/him

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Postdoctoral Fellow in Neurology   2020 — Present
NYU Grossman School of Medicine   *New York, NY*
- *P.I.:* Adeen Flinker

Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology   2013 — 2019
UC San Diego   *San Diego, CA*
- *P.I.:* Victor S. Ferreira
- *Dissertation:* The Mental Representation of Syntax: Interfaces with Production, Comprehension, and Learning

M.A. in Linguistics   2011 — 2013
UC Santa Cruz   *Santa Cruz, CA*
- *P.I.:* Matthew Wagers
- *Thesis:* Bridging the Gap between Acceptability and Production of English Resumptive Pronouns

Lab Manager, Language Sciences Lab   2010 — 2011
Harvard University   *Cambridge, MA*
- *P.I.:* Maria Polinsky

Research Assistant, Speech and Language Perception Lab   2009 — 2010
Emory University   *Atlanta, GA*
- *P.I.:* Lynne Nygaard

B.A. in Physics and Music, *Magna Cum Laude*   2004 — 2008
Middlebury College   *Middlebury, VT*
- *Advisor:* Jeff Dunham
- *Thesis:* Geometric Algebra in Relativistic and Non-Relativistic Physics

FUNDING

NIH NRSA F32: *Syntactic Control of Lexical Activation during Speech* 2022 — 2025
NIDCD Award No. F32DC019533

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)   2012 — 2017

UC San Diego Collaboratories Fellowship ($10,000)   2015 — 2016

UC San Diego David Swinney Fellowship ($2,500)   2013 — 2014

Museu Parense Emílio Goeldi - Indigenous Brazilian Languages Grant   2012

PUBLICATIONS *(*co-first author)*

Morgan AM, Devinsky O, Doyle W, Dugan P, Friedman D, & Flinker A (*In Preparation*).
The cortical dynamics of higher-order language: An intracranial comparison of sentence production and comprehension.

Morgan AM, Dono I, Ögate L, Girip S, & Sarvasy H (*In Preparation*).
Attraction effects in Nungon reveal independent mechanisms for agreement and switch-reference marking.
Preprint: https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/qvybp_v1

Morgan AM, Devinsky O, Doyle W, Dugan P, Friedman D, & Flinker A (*Under revision at Science Advances*).
Hybrid spatial organization and magnitude-independent coding of linguistic information during sentence production.
https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.06.20.599931

Morgan AM & Flinker A (*2025*). *Proceedings of the 14th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing & Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (IJCNLP-AACL 2025).*
A Scalable Pipeline for Estimating Verb Frame Frequencies Using Large Language Models (LLMs).
https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2507.22187

Morgan AM, Devinsky O, Doyle W, Dugan P, Friedman D, & Flinker A (2025). *Comms. Psychology.*
Decoding words during sentence production with ECoG reveals syntactic role encoding and structure-dependent temporal dynamics.
https://doi.org/10.1038/s44271-025-00270-1

Morgan AM & Ferreira VS (2022). *Journal of Memory and Language.*
Still no evidence for audience design in syntax: Resumptive pronouns are not the exception.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2022.104368

*Kleinman D, **Morgan AM**, Ostrand R, & Wittenberg E (2022). *PLOS One.*
Lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on language processing.
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0269242

Sarvasy HS, **Morgan AM**, Yu J, Ferreira VS, & Momma S (2022). *Memory and Cognition.*
Cross-clause planning in Nungon (Papua New Guinea): Eye-tracking evidence.
https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-021-01253-3

Morgan AM (2022). *Glossa Psycholinguistics.*
The That-Trace Effect and Island Boundary-Gap Effect are the same: Null Hypothesis Significance Testing demonstrates equivalence in a psychometric paradigm.
https://doi.org/10.5070/G601140

Morgan AM & Ferreira VS (2021). *Journal of Cognitive Psychology.*
Beyond input: Language learners produce novel relative clause types without exposure.
https://doi.org/10.1080/20445911.2021.1928678

Morgan AM, von der Malsburg T, Ferreira VS, & Wittenberg E (2020). *Cognition.*
Shared syntax between comprehension and production: Multi-paradigm evidence that resumptive pronouns hinder comprehension.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104417

Fadlon J, **Morgan AM**, Meltzer-Asscher A, & Ferreira V (2019). *Journal of Memory and Language.*
It depends: Optionality in the production of filler-gap dependencies.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2019.02.005

Kaestner E, **Morgan AM**, Snider J, Zhan M, Jiang X, Levy R, Ferreira VS, Thesen T, & Halgren E (2018). *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience.*
Toward a database of intracranial electrophysiology during natural language presentation.
https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2018.1500262

Morgan AM & Wagers M (2018). *Linguistic Inquiry.*
English resumptive pronouns are more common where gaps are least acceptable.
https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00293

Ferreira VS, **Morgan AM**, & Slevc LR (2018). In Gaskell (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Psycholinguistics 2nd Edition.*
Grammatical Encoding.

Clemens LE, Coon J, Mateo Pedro P, **Morgan AM**, Polinsky M, Tandet G, & Wagers M (2014). *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory.*
Ergativity and the complexity of extraction: A view from Mayan.
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-014-9260-x

Polinsky M, Clemens LE, **Morgan AM**, Xiang M, & Heestand D (2013). In Sprouse (Ed.), *Experimental Syntax and Island Effects.*
Resumption in English.

Polinsky M, Gallo CG, Graff P, Kravtchenko E, **Morgan AM**, & Sturgeon A (2013). In Sprouse (Ed.), *Experimental Syntax and Island Effects.*
Subject islands are different.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Clear Direction Mentoring (CDM)

2025—	*Board Member (2025—present)*
2024—2025	*Senior Advisor (2024—25)*
2023—2024	*Vice President (2023—24)*
2022—2025	*Mentor (2022—25)*

- CDM is a non-profit that aims to diversify STEMM by addressing leaky pipeline issues. We pair high schoolers from underrepresented backgrounds with mentors who are career scientist. As mentors, we help our fellows apply for college, financial aid, and internships, and support them as they navigate family, financial, institutional, and societal obstacles to a STEMM career. I have mentored two fellows in my time with CDM, both of whom are now the first in their families to attend college and whom I am immensely proud of. I have additionally served in various leadership roles with CDM since 2023.

2014—2019	**UC San Diego Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Council**
	Psychology Department Representative

- On this subcommittee of the UCSD Graduate Student Association, I organized workshops on diversity and implicit bias, led a diversity flyering campaign, and worked on policy to advocate for undocumented students, student workers, and to address bias, underrepresentation, and inequity on the UCSD campus.

TEACHING

As Instructor

2018	UCSD PSYC 164: Cognitive Development

As Teaching Assistant

2019	UCSD PSYC 134: Eating Disorders
2018	UCSD PSYC 169: Criminology
	UCSD PSYC 153: Psychology of Emotion
2017	UCSD PSYC 4: Behavioral Psychology
2016	UCSD PSYC 134: Eating Disorders
2015	UCSD PSYC 101: Developmental Psychology
	UCSD PSYC 105: Cognitive Psychology
2013	UCSD PSYC 103: Mechanisms of Animal Behavior
	UCSC LING 101: Syntactic Structures

TALKS

2025   **Human Sentence Processing (HSP)**, University of Maryland. From single words to sentence production: Shared cortical representations but distinct temporal dynamics. 🎞️   *College Park, MD*

Human Sentence Processing (HSP), University of Maryland. Processing switch reference marking in Nungon (Papua New Guinea): Comprehension and production measures. 🎞️   *College Park, MD*

2024   **Society for Neuroscience (SfN)**, Neural Mechanisms of Language Production and Comprehension (Nanosymposium). Low-activity coding of syntax during language production.   *Chicago, IL*

Intracranial EEG Seminar Series, NYU School of Medicine. The neural dynamics of sentence production: ECoG reveals sentence-specific networks and temporal patterns.   *New York, NY*

2023   **Society for Neuroscience (SfN),** Neural Circuits and Mechanisms of Language and Cognition (Nanosymposium). The neural dynamics of sentence production – ECoG reveals sentence-specific networks and temporal patterns.   *Washington DC*

2021   **Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)**. Visualizing lexical activation during speech production.   *Virtual*

2019   **Chang Lab**, Department of Neurosurgery, UC San Francisco. Learning and Representing Syntactic Structure.   *San Francisco, CA*

2018   **California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)**, UCLA. Subcategorization Preferences of Verbs Reveal Syntactic Processing in Evoked Intracranial Potentials.   *Los Angeles, CA*

Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), University of Hyderabad, India. This is the Structure that We Wonder Why Anyone Produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English Hinder Sentence Comprehension.   *Hyderabad, India*

Pronouns in Competition Workshop, UC Santa Cruz. English resumptive pronouns hinder sentence comprehension.   *Santa Cruz, CA*

California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP), UCLA. This is the Structure that We Wonder Why Anyone Produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English Hinder Sentence Comprehension.   *Los Angeles, CA*

2017   **CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Knowledge of a Syntactic Universal Guides Generalization to New Structures.   *Cambridge, MA*

2016	**Center for Research in Language**, UC San Diego. Resumptive Pronouns: What can we learn from an "ungrammatical" construction about grammar, sentence planning, and language acquisition?	*San Diego, CA*
2012	**David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies**, Harvard University. New approaches to linguistic work in Mesoamerican communities.	*Cambridge, MA*
	Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting. Experimental design for field linguistics.	*Portland, OR*
2011	**Universidad Intercultural de Tabasco, México.** Ergatividad y ambigüedad: procesamiento de cláusulas relativas en chol. (Ergativity and ambiguity: Processing relative clauses in Ch'ol.)	*Tabasco, Mexico*

POSTERS

2025	**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.** Examining the effects of Deep Brain Stimulation on phonation and articulation in Parkinson's Disease. (Work with Heather Kabakoff and colleagues.)	*Washington, D.C.*
	Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL). Decoding words during sentence production: ECoG reveals syntactic role encoding and structure-dependent temporal dynamics.	*Washington, D.C.*
	Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL). Isolating Syntax with Frequency-Tagged Verbs: An Intracranial Study.	*Washington, D.C.*
2024	**International Workshop on Language Production (IWoLP).** Low-activity distributed brain networks encode syntax during sentence production.	*Marseille, France*
2023	**Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS).** Tracking word planning during sentence production with ECoG.	*San Francisco, CA*
	Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL). The neural dynamics of sentence production: ECoG reveals sentence-specific networks and temporal patterns.	*Marseille, France*
2022	**Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL).** Tracking lexical access during sentence production.	*Philadelphia, PA*
	Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS). Visualizing lexical activation during speech production.	*San Francisco, CA*
	Human Sentence Processing (HSP). Visualizing lexical retrieval during speech production with ECoG.	*Virtual*
2021	**Society for Neuroscience (SfN).** Visualizing lexical activation during speech production.	*Chicago, IL*

2020	**Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP)**. Non-linguistic context affects processing of ambiguous speech.	*Potsdam, Germany*
	CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Subject gaps are not inherently worse than object gaps in islands: Experimental evidence unifying *that*-trace effects and subject-object gap asymmetries in islands.	*Amherst, MA*
2018	**Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP)**. Learners generate unencountered novel structures by drawing on knowledge of a universal.	*Berlin, Germany*
	CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, UC Davis. This is the structure that we wonder why anyone produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English hinder sentence comprehension.	*Davis, CA*
	CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, UC Davis. This is the structure that we wonder why anyone produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English hinder sentence comprehension.	*Davis, CA*
2017	**CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This is the structure that we wonder why anyone produces it: Resumptive pronouns in English help production but hinder sentence comprehension.	*Cambridge, MA*
	CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). English and Hebrew Speakers use Language-Specific Strategies to Produce Communicatively Efficient Relative Clauses.	*Cambridge, MA*
2016	**Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)**. Resumptive Pronouns Hinder Sentence Comprehension in English.	*Bilbao, Spain*
2015	**Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)**. Acceptability Monitoring's Role in Resumptive Pronoun Production.	*Valletta, Malta*
	Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Summer Institute, University of Chicago. Individual Differences in the Production and Judgment of Islands and Domain General Cognitive Abilities.	*Chicago, IL*
2014	**Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)**. English Resumptive Pronouns are Predicted by Bare-Bones Syntax.	*Edinburgh, Scotland*
2013	**Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)**. Gap Acceptability Predicts Resumption Rates in English.	*Marseille, France*

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Co-organizer & Chair

2019   Organized Session at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society   *New York, NY*
        of America (LSA). With Savi Namboodiripad and Dave Kush

EDITORIAL WORK

Ad Hoc Reviewer

2024   Nature Scientific Reports
        Frontiers in Language Sciences

2022   Nature
        Glossa Psycholinguistics
        Human Sentence Processing (HSP)

2021   PLOS One

2020   Cognition
        Journal of Neuroscience

2020   National Science Foundation

2019   Linguistic Inquiry
        Frontiers in Psychology
        Memory and Cognition

2018   Canadian Journal of Linguistics

LINGUISTIC FIELD WORK

Tupari (Tupi), 2012   *Rondônia,*
        Preliminary documentation of Tupari in an indigenous reserve. Work with Dr.   *Brazil*
        Denny Moore of Museu Parense Emílio Goeldi, with grant funding from the
        Museu Goeldi.

Ch'ol (Mayan), 2011   *Chiapas,*
        Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VSO   *Mexico*
        language. Work with the Harvard University Polinsky Language Sciences Lab.

Q'anjob'al (Mayan), 2011   *Santa Eulalia,*
        Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VOS   *Guatemala*
        language. Work with the Harvard University Polinsky Language Sciences Lab.

OUTREACH & POPULAR MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Wittenberg, E & **Morgan, AM** (2021). The mistakes that we deny that we make them. *Babel: The Language Magazine.* https://babelzine.co.uk/babel-number-36-august-2021/

Morgan, AM (2016). Op-Ed: Open letter to UCSD Faculty, Administrators, Graduate Students, and TAs. *The UCSD Guardian.* *https://ucsdguardian.org/2016/11/21/op-ed-open-letter-to-ucsd-faculty-administrators-graduate-students-and-tas/*

PRESS

NYU Tandon School of Engineering (2025). *Syntax on the brain: Researchers map how we build sentences, word by word.* https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/syntax-brain-researchers-map-how-we-build-sentences-word-word

Nature Reviews Psychology, by Teresa Schubert (2022). *Extended speech planning in Nungon.* https://doi.org/10.1038/s44159-022-00055-x

Austria Presse Agentur (2022). *Psychologists found traces of the Covid pandemic in language processing (Psychologne fanden Spuren der Covid-Pandemie in Sprachverarbeitung).* https://science.apa.at/power-search/14164150806562577733

Science.ORF.at (2022). *The pandemic is also changing language (Pandemie verändert auch die Sprache).* https://science.orf.at/stories/3214252/

HVG (2022). *Even language has been reshaped by the coronavirus epidemic: we understand speech differently (Még a nyelvet is átformálta a koronavírus-járvány, máshogy értjük a beszédet).* https://hvg.hu/tudomany/20220617_emberi_nyelv_valtozasa_kommunikacio_koronavirus_jarvany

OTHER SKILLS

Human languages

Native: English
Fluent: Brazilian Portuguese
Conversational (at one point, anyway): Yiddish, Spanish, Italian

Computer languages

- R
- Python
- Matlab
- Praat
- JavaScript
- PHP/HTML