

Adam M. Morgan

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

Postdoctoral Fellow in Neurology

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

- *P.I.*: Adeen Flinker

2020 — Present

New York, NY

Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology

UC San Diego

- *P.I.*: Victor S. Ferreira
- *Dissertation*: The Mental Representation of Syntax: Interfaces with Production, Comprehension, and Learning

2013 — 2019

San Diego, CA

M.A. in Linguistics

UC Santa Cruz

- *P.I.*: Matthew Wagers
- *Thesis*: Bridging the Gap between Acceptability and Production of English Resumptive Pronouns

2011 — 2013

Santa Cruz, CA

Lab Manager, Language Sciences Lab

Harvard University

- *P.I.*: Maria Polinsky

2010 — 2011

Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant, Speech and Language Perception Lab

Emory University

- *P.I.*: Lynne Nygaard

2009 — 2010

Atlanta, GA

B.A. in Physics and Music, *Magna Cum Laude*

Middlebury College

- *Advisor*: Jeff Dunham
- *Thesis*: Geometric Algebra in Relativistic and Non-Relativistic Physics

2004 — 2008

Middlebury, VT

FUNDING

NIH NRSA F32: *Syntactic Control of Lexical Activation during Speech*

NIDCD Award No. F32DC019533

2022 — 2025

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 Pareense Emílio Goeldi - Indigenous Brazilian Languages Grant

2012

PUBLICATIONS (*co-first author)

Morgan AM, Yu J, Dono I, Ögate L, & Sarvasy H (*In preparation*).

Processing Switch Reference Marking in Nungon (Papua New Guinea): Comprehension & Production Measures.

Morgan AM, Devinsky O, Doyle W, Dugan P, Friedman D, & Flinker A (*Under review*). *BioRxiv*.

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 (*Submitted*).

A Scalable Pipeline for Estimating Verb Frame Frequencies Using Large Language Models.

<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 [flying 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 Indercultural 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.
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 <i>that</i> -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 of America (LSA). With Savi Namboodiripad and Dave Kush	New York, NY
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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

Preliminary documentation of Tupari in an indigenous reserve. Work with Dr. Denny Moore of Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, with grant funding from the Museu Goeldi.

*Rondonia,
Brazil*

Ch'ol (Mayan), 2011

Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VSO language. Work with the Harvard University Polinsky Language Sciences Lab.

*Chiapas,
Mexico*

Q'anjob'al (Mayan), 2011

Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VOS language. Work with the Harvard University Polinsky Language Sciences Lab.

*Santa Eulalia,
Guatemala*

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

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