

# 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*). A low-activity cortical network selectively encodes syntax. *BioRxiv*. <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). From single words to sentence production: Shared cortical representations but distinct temporal dynamics. *Communications Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.10.30.621177>
- Morgan AM** & Ferreira VS (2022). Still no evidence for audience design in syntax: Resumptive pronouns are not the exception. *Journal of Memory and Language*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jml.2022.104368>
- \*Kleinman D, **Morgan AM**, Ostrand R, & Wittenberg E (2022). Lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on language processing. *PLOS One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0269242>
- Sarvasy HS, **Morgan AM**, Yu J, Ferreira VS, & Momma S (2022). Cross-clause planning in Nungon (Papua New Guinea): Eye-tracking evidence. *Memory and Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-021-01253-3>
- Morgan AM** (2022). The That-Trace Effect and Island Boundary-Gap Effect are the same: Null Hypothesis Significance Testing demonstrates equivalence in a psychometric paradigm. *Glossa Psycholinguistics*. <https://doi.org/10.5070/G601140>
- Morgan AM** & Ferreira VS (2021). Beyond input: Language learners produce novel relative clause types without exposure. *Journal of Cognitive Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20445911.2021.1928678>
- Morgan AM**, von der Malsburg T, Ferreira VS, & Wittenberg E (2020). Shared syntax between comprehension and production: Multi-paradigm evidence that resumptive pronouns hinder comprehension. *Cognition*, 205, 104417. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2020.104417>
- Fadlon J, **Morgan AM**, Meltzer-Asscher A, & Ferreira VS (2019). It depends: Optionality in the production of filler-gap dependencies. *Journal of Memory and Language*. <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). Toward a database of intracranial electrophysiology during natural language presentation. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*: 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2018.1500262>
- Morgan AM** & Wagers M (2018). English resumptive pronouns are more common where gaps are least acceptable. *Linguistic Inquiry* 49:4: 861-876. [https://doi.org/10.1162/ling\\_a\\_00293](https://doi.org/10.1162/ling_a_00293)

- Ferreira VS, **Morgan AM**, & Slevc LR (2018). Grammatical Encoding. In Gaskell (Ed.), Oxford Handbook of Psycholinguistics 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Clemens LE, Coon J, Mateo Pedro P, **Morgan AM**, Polinsky M, Tandet G, & Wagers M (2014). Ergativity and the complexity of extraction: A view from Mayan. Natural Language & Linguistic Theory 33.2: 417-467. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11049-014-9260-x>
- Polinsky M, Clemens LE, **Morgan AM**, Xiang M, & Heestand D (2013). Resumption in English. In Sprouse (Ed.), Experimental Syntax and Island Effects.
- Polinsky M, Gallo CG, Graff P, Kravtchenko E, **Morgan AM**, & Sturgeon A (2013). Subject islands are different. In Sprouse (Ed.), Experimental Syntax and Island Effects.

## 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	<b>Chang Lab</b> , Department of Neurosurgery, UC San Francisco. Learning and Representing Syntactic Structure.	San Francisco, CA
2018	<b>California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)</b> , UCLA. Subcategorization Preferences of Verbs Reveal Syntactic Processing in Evoked Intracranial Potentials.	Los Angeles, CA
	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)</b> , University of Hyderabad, India. This is the Structure that We Wonder Why Anyone Produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English Hinder Sentence Comprehension.	Hyderabad, India
	<b>Pronouns in Competition Workshop</b> , UC Santa Cruz. English resumptive pronouns hinder sentence comprehension.	Santa Cruz, CA
	<b>California Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP)</b> , UCLA. This is the Structure that We Wonder Why Anyone Produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English Hinder Sentence Comprehension.	Los Angeles, CA
2017	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing</b> , Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Knowledge of a Syntactic Universal Guides Generalization to New Structures.	Cambridge, MA
2016	<b>Center for Research in Language</b> , UC San Diego. Resumptive Pronouns: What can we learn from an “ungrammatical” construction about grammar, sentence planning, and language acquisition?	San Diego, CA
2012	<b>David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies</b> , Harvard University. New approaches to linguistic work in Mesoamerican communities.	Cambridge, MA
	<b>Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting</b> . Experimental design for field linguistics.	Portland, OR
2011	<b>Universidad Indercultural de Tabasco, México</b> . Ergatividad y ambigüedad: procesamiento de cláusulas relativas en chol. (Ergativity and ambiguity: Processing relative clauses in Ch’ol.)	Tabasco, Mexico

## POSTERS

2025	<b>American Speech-Language-Hearing Association</b> . 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	<b>International Workshop on Language Production (IWOLP)</b> . Low-activity distributed brain networks encode syntax during sentence production.	Marseille, France
2023	<b>Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS)</b> . Tracking word planning during sentence production with ECoG.	San Francisco, CA

	<b>Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL).</b> The neural dynamics of sentence production: ECoG reveals sentence-specific networks and temporal patterns.	Marseille, France
2022	<b>Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL).</b> Tracking lexical access during sentence production.	Philadelphia, PA
	<b>Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS).</b> Visualizing lexical activation during speech production.	San Francisco, CA
	<b>Human Sentence Processing (HSP).</b> Visualizing lexical retrieval during speech production with ECoG.	Virtual
2021	<b>Society for Neuroscience (SfN).</b> Visualizing lexical activation during speech production.	Chicago, IL
2020	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> Non-linguistic context affects processing of ambiguous speech.	Potsdam, Germany
	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing,</b> 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	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms of Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> Learners generate unencountered novel structures by drawing on knowledge of a universal.	Berlin, Germany
	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing,</b> UC Davis. This is the structure that we wonder why anyone produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English hinder sentence comprehension.	Davis, CA
	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing,</b> UC Davis. This is the structure that we wonder why anyone produces it: Resumptive Pronouns in English hinder sentence comprehension.	Davis, CA
2017	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing,</b> 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
	<b>CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing,</b> Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). English and Hebrew Speakers use Language-Specific Strategies to Produce Communicatively Efficient Relative Clauses.	Cambridge, MA
2016	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> Resumptive Pronouns Hinder Sentence Comprehension in English.	Bilbao, Spain
2015	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> Acceptability Monitoring's Role in Resumptive Pronoun Production.	Valletta, Malta

	<b>Linguistic Society of America (LSA)</b> Summer Institute, University of Chicago. Individual Differences in the Production and Judgment of Islands and Domain General Cognitive Abilities.	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
2014	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)</b> . English Resumptive Pronouns are Predicted by Bare-Bones Syntax.	<i>Edinburgh, Scotland</i>
2013	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP)</b> . Gap Acceptability Predicts Resumption Rates in English.	<i>Marseille, France</i>

## 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	<i>New York, NY</i>
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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

## 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](https://hvg.hu/tudomany/20220617_emberi_nyelv_valtozasa_kommunikacio_koronavirus_jarvany)

## LINGUISTIC FIELD WORK

Tupari (Tupi), 2012

Preliminary documentation of Tupari in an indigenous reserve. Work with Dr. Denny Moore of Museu Parense 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



## 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