

# 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**, 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 (*PsyArXiv*).

Attraction effects in Nungon reveal independent mechanisms for agreement and switch-reference marking.

Preprint: [https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/qvybp\\_v1](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.

Preprint: <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](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	<b>Human Sentence Processing (HSP)</b> , University of Maryland. <a href="#">From single words to sentence production: Shared cortical representations but distinct temporal dynamics.</a> 🎧	College Park, MD
	<b>Human Sentence Processing (HSP)</b> , University of Maryland. <a href="#">Processing switch reference marking in Nungon (Papua New Guinea): Comprehension and production measures.</a> 🎧	College Park, MD
2024	<b>Society for Neuroscience (SfN)</b> , Neural Mechanisms of Language Production and Comprehension (Nanosymposium). Low-activity coding of syntax during language production.	Chicago, IL
	<b>Intracranial EEG Seminar Series, NYU School of Medicine.</b> The neural dynamics of sentence production: ECoG reveals sentence-specific networks and temporal patterns.	New York, NY
2023	<b>Society for Neuroscience (SfN)</b> , 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	<b>Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)</b> . 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 Intercultural 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.
	<b>Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)</b> . Decoding words during sentence production: ECoG reveals syntactic role encoding and structure-dependent temporal dynamics.	Washington, D.C.
	<b>Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)</b> . Isolating Syntax with Frequency-Tagged Verbs: An Intracranial Study.	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) Summer Institute,</b> University of Chicago. Individual Differences in the Production and Judgment of Islands and Domain General Cognitive Abilities.	Chicago, IL
2014	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> English Resumptive Pronouns are Predicted by Bare-Bones Syntax.	Edinburgh, Scotland
2013	<b>Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP).</b> 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*

## 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, Brazil*  
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.
- Ch'ol (Mayan), 2011    *Chiapas, Mexico*  
Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VSO language. Work with the Harvard University Polinsky Language Sciences Lab.
- Q'anjob'al (Mayan), 2011    *Santa Eulalia, Guatemala*  
Ran a language processing experiment with speakers of an ergative, VOS 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](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