

# ALINE-PRISCILLIA MESSI

PHD CANDIDATE  
NYU PSYCHOLOGY

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

**2022 – present**  
**New York University**  
PhD Cognition and Perception, Psychology  
**2018 – 2021**  
**Leiden University**  
B.A. in Linguistics, Cum Laude (GPA 8.5/10)

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

**2022 – present**  
**New York University**  
*PhD Candidate* in Neuroscience of Language Group  
**Supervisor:** Dr. Liina Pyllkanen  
**Dissertation:** "Meaning in context: How narrative structure and subjective experience modulate semantic processing in the brain"  
**2020 – 2021**  
**Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics**  
*Research assistant* in Language and Computation in Neural Systems Group  
**Honors thesis:** "Gain shift in the nested hierarchies of language"  
**Supervisors:** Dr. Yiya Chen (Leiden University) and Dr. Sanne ten Oever (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics)  
**2020 – 2022**  
**Semantic Universals in the Modal Domain (MODuni)**  
*Data analyst* for French data  
**March 2020 – August 2020**  
**eLaw Center for Law and Digital Technologies**  
*Research assistant* for Law and Healthcare Robots Project (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Grant)  
**April 2020 – July 2020**  
**Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics**  
*Research Intern* in Language and Computation in Neural Systems Group

## HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

**Social Sector Leadership Diversity Fellow**, New York University, 2023 – 2024  
**Travel Award**, Society for the Neurobiology of Language, 2023  
**Engberg Award**, Cognition and Perception, New York University, \$1000, 2022  
**ECHO Centre for Diversity Policy**, ECHO Award Nominee Leiden University, 2021  
**Humanities Honors College**, Leiden University, 2020–2021  
**Propaedeutic diploma in Linguistics with Summa Cum Laude**, Leiden University, 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

In prep

**Messi Aline–Priscillia**, Pylkkanen Liina. (2025). The role of Structure and Speed during Narrative Processing.

### Journal articles

**Messi Aline–Priscillia**, Pylkkanen Liina. (2025). *Tracking neural correlates of contextualized meanings with representational similarity analysis*. Journal of Neuroscience. DOI: [10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0409-24.2025](https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0409-24.2025)

## TEACHING

Fall 2025

**Teaching Assistant**

Cognitive Neuroscience

2023 – 2024

**Course Assistant**

Intro to Data Literacy, Lab in Developmental Psychology

July 2023

**Instructor: Neuroscience Outreach Group at NYU x College Career Lab**

Taught: Introduction to Neuroanatomy; Learning and Memory

## TALKS, PRESENTATIONS

January 2026

**Talk: The Influence of Structure and Speed on MEG Responses to Narratives**

Alpine Brain Imaging Meeting, Champéry, Switzerland

November 2025

**Talk: 4<sup>th</sup> Year Talk**

Psychology Department, New York University

September 2025

**Poster: Right Hemisphere Sensitivity to Structure and Speed**

Authors: **Messi Aline–Priscillia**, Pylkkänen Liina

Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Washington D.C., USA

April 2025

**Presentation: Representational Similarity Analysis**

Neuroscience of Language Joint Methods meetings, New York University

November 2024

**Panelist Pathways to a doctoral degree**

GSAS Master's College and Wasserman Center, New York University

November 2023

**Invited Talk: Tracking word representations in MEG using Representational Similarity Analysis.**

NeuLab, New York University

October 2023

**Poster: Tracking word representations in MEG using Representational Similarity Analysis.**

Authors: **Messi Aline–Priscillia**, Pylkkänen Liina

Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Marseille, France

## MENTORSHIP

**June 2024 – September 2025**

**Abir Bhuyain**

Junior – Pre-med and Language and Mind, New York University

Former research assistant for dissertation project, now Lab Manager

**November 2025 – present**

**Nadia Hoffman**

Sophomore – Language and Mind, New York University

Current research assistant for dissertation project

## SERVICE AND OUTREACH

**2024 – present**

**Methods Meetings Co-Organizer**

Neuroscience of Language Lab, New  
York University

**2023 – 2024**

**Cognition and Perception Social Chair**

Psychology, New York University

**May 2023**

**Poster session Judge**

27th Annual NYU Masters Psychology  
Research Conference 2023

**June 2024 – present**

**Grant Coordinator**

Bed-Stuy Clothes Swap

**Summer 2023**

**Science on the Ballot Team Member**

March for Science NYC

**Summer 2022**

**Content Coordinator**

Psychology Summer Research  
Program, New York University

## SKILLS

**Software**

Praat, SPSS, Microsoft Office Suite,  
PsychoPy, Audacity, Eprime, Gorilla,  
Qualtrics

**Programming**

Python, Matlab, R, basic HTML and  
javascript

**Marketing and Design**

Illustrator, Sketch, Invision, Wordpress, SEO  
optimization (Yoast), CRM, Google Ad Words

**Languages**

Native in French and English, Advanced  
Spanish