

Ana Zappa

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nationalities

Brazilian and Italian

education

- 2016 - 2020 **PhD in Language sciences** (10/12/2020) • Aix-Marseille Université • Laboratoire de parole et langage • Aix-en-Provence • *Embodied language put to the test: electrophysiological evidence from virtual reality and classical environments*
- 2015 - 2016 **Master's degree in Language Sciences** (TheLiTex) • Aix-Marseille Université • Aix-en-Provence
- 2012 - 2015 **Undergraduate degree in Language Sciences** • Aix-Marseille Université • Aix-en-Provence
- 2010 **Documentary filmmaking** • Les Ateliers Varan • Paris

research experience

- 2022 - present **Marie Skłodowska Curie European fellowship** • Dept. of Cognition, Development and Educational Psychology and the Event Lab, Institute of Neurosciences • University of Barcelona (with Antoni Rodríguez-Fornells & Mel Slater)
- 2021 - 2022 **Post-doctoral contract, Institute of Language, Communication and the Brain (ILCB)** • Aix-Marseille University

peer-reviewed publications

Zappa, A., Slater, M., Rodríguez-Fornells, A. (accepted pending minor revisions). Understanding how social interaction shapes second language learning and the potential of virtual reality for unlocking new insights: An interdisciplinary review. *Npj, Science of Learning*

Grassi et al., (IPA) Do musicians have better memory than nonmusicians? A multi-lab study. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*.

Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J.-M., Fargier, R., Mestre, D., & Frenck-Mestre, C. (2024). The neural correlates of embodied L2 learning: Does embodied L2 verb learning affect representation and retention? *Neurobiology of Language*, 1–59.

*Bechtold, L., Cosper, S. H., Malyshevskaya, A., Montefinese, M., Morucci, P., Niccolai, V., Repetto, C., Zappa, A., & Shtyrov, Y. (2023). Brain Signatures of Embodied Semantics and Language: A Consensus Paper. *Journal of Cognition*, 6(1). (*all authors are first authors)

Zappa, A., & Frenck-Mestre, C. Embodied L2 processing and learning from a neurocognitive perspective, (2023) *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Neurolinguistics*

Frenck-Mestre, C., Choo, H., **Zappa, A.**, Herschensohn, J., Kim, S-K., Ghio, A., Koh S. (2022) The Online Processing of Korean Case by Native Korean Speakers and Second Language Learners as Revealed by Eye Movements. *Brain Sciences* 12(9) :1230

Zappa, A., Mestre, D., Pergandi, J.-M., Bolger, D., & Frenck-Mestre, C. (2022). Cross-linguistic gender congruency effects during lexical access in novice L2 learners: Evidence from ERPs. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, 37, 1073–1098.

Tellier, M., Eschenauer, S. & **Zappa, A.** (2022) Incorporating languages: recognizing the role of the body in teaching and learning, *Travaux interdisciplinaires sur la parole et le langage (TIPA)*, 38

Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J.-M., Mallet, P., Dubarry, A.-S., Mestre, D., & Frenck-Mestre, C. (2019). Motor resonance during linguistic processing as shown by EEG in a naturalistic VR environment. *Brain and Cognition*, 134, 44-57.

publications under review & in prep.

Zappa, A., Osokina, P., Cerda, X. Mateu, M. Slater, M. Rodriguez-Fornells, A. Neurophysiological and pupillometric correlates of learning words with social feedback (under review), preprint available on <https://www.biorxiv.org>

Zappa, A., Léon-Cabrera, P., Ramos-Escobar, N., Laine, M., Rodriguez-Fornells, A., François, C. Increased Oscillatory brain activity during consolidation of newly learned words (under review), preprint available on <https://www.biorxiv.org>

Pan, Y-L, **Zappa, A.**, Bolger, D, Frenck-Mestre, C. Impacts of Emotional valence on word processing: behavioral and ERP evidence. (under review)

Zappa, A., Osokina, P., Curto, S., Anderssen, N., Fargier, R., Zambrana, I., Slater, M., Rodriguez-Fornells, A Following social gaze in VR supports language learning in adults. (in prep)

Porto Torres M., Santos, M.A., Cadena, G., **Zappa, A.**, Peñalosa, C., Rodriguez-Fornells, A., Motivating language treatment through novel word learning: A Series of single-case experimental designs in variants of primary progressive aphasia (NOVA-PPA) (in prep)

Zappa, A., Bolger, Ghio, A., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. (2022). What Role Does Motor Activation Play in Language Processing? An EEG Study (in prep.)

communications

2025 (February) **Invitation for talk** • How social cues and interaction shape L2 learning: evidence from EEG, pupillometry and eye-tracking • University College London, Department of Psychology (Oral)

2024 **Multimodality workshop** • Marseille • Following reliable social gaze supports language learning in adults: evidence from virtual reality (Oral)

Conference on multilingualism • Aix-en-Provence • Learning L2 words with social feedback: evidence from pupillometry and EEG (Oral)

European workshop on imagery and cognition • Naples • Using VR to explore the role of social cues and interaction in Second Language learning (Oral)

Invited talk for Base Corpus Langage lab • Université Côte d’Azur, Nice • Exploring the role of action and social cues in L2 learning using interactive VR and EEG (Oral)

- 2023 **Neurovirtual Group** • Faculty of Medicine • University of Barcelona • Barcelona • *VR to investigate language processing and learning* (Oral)
- Embodied and Situated Language Processing Conference** • Messina • Italy • Zappa, A., Panisello, S., Slater, M., Anderssen, N., Zambrana, I., Fargier, R., Rodriguez-Fornells, A. • *Can social gaze in a virtual environment contribute to language learning?* (Oral)
- 2021 **Embodied and Situated Language Processing Conference** • Virtual • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Fargier, R., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *Does embodied L2 verb learning affect retention and representation?* (Oral)
- Visites Insolite** • Aix-en-Provence • *Language and the brain* (Oral)
- 2020 **Embodied interactions, Linguaging and the Dynamic Medium Workshop** • ENS Lyon • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Fargier, R., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *Does embodied L2 verb learning affect retention and representation?* (Poster)
- Live MEEG** • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Fargier, R., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *The neural correlates of embodied L2 learning* (Poster)
- 2019 **Society for the Neurobiology of Language** • Helsinki • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *Grammatical gender inhibition in learning of a second language vocabulary: ERP evidence* (Poster)
- Society for the Neurobiology of Language** • Helsinki • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *The role of motor activation during action verb processing: An EEG study* (Poster)
- 2018 **Society for the Neurobiology of Language** • Quebec City • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Mallet, P., Dubarry, A.S., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • *Planning to manipulate virtual objects elicits activation of motor-related brain activity: evidence from ERPs in a CAVE* (Oral)
- International meeting of the Psychonomic Society** • Amsterdam • Zappa, A., Bolger, D., Pergandi, J., Mallet, P., Dubarry, A.S., Mestre, D., Frenck-Mestre, C., *Is motor activation necessary for action language processing? Evidence from EEG* (Poster)
- Laboratoire de parole et langage, Centre Gilles Gaston Granger, ED 356** • Aix-en-Provence, Marseille • Embodiment Workshop • *Embodiment and language: what do we know?* (Oral)
- Laboratoire de parole et langage** • Journée de rencontre avec les enseignants de primaire et secondaire • *Embodied cognition and second language acquisition* (Oral communication)
- Fête de la science** • Aix-en-Provence • *Language processing and the brain* (Oral communication)
- 2017 **Cognitive Neuroscience Society** • San Francisco • Zappa, A., Pergandi, J., O'Neil, K., Mestre, D., Newman, A., Frenck-Mestre C., *Adult Second Language Learning and Semantic Integration as revealed by Eye-tracking and EEG* (Poster)
- International Symposium of bilingualism** • Limerick • *Rapid Integration of Sentence Meaning in an L2 as revealed by ERPs: Electrophysiological evidence of rapid L2 learning through computerized games* (Poster)
- Society for the Neurobiology of Language** • London • Zappa, A., Pergandi, Mestre,

D., Frenck-Mestre, C. • Society for the Neurobiology of Language • *How Serious are Games? Electrophysiological evidence of rapid L2 learning* • London (Poster)

Laboratoire de parole et langage • Rencontre avec les enseignants de primaire et secondaire • *Embodied cognition and second language acquisition* (Oral communication)

conference organization & dissemination

- 2024 **Evaluator for the International Multi-Brain Barcelona Congress** • University of Barcelona • Barcelona
- 2023 **Judge for doctoral Day Oral and Poster presentations** • Institute of Neurosciences • University of Barcelona • Barcelona
- Interview for Meet the Brains** • Institute of Neurosciences • University of Barcelona • Barcelona
- 2021 **CuttingEEG** • ILCB, Aix-Marseille Université, Institut des Neurosciences des Systèmes, Cénir, Institut du cerveau • Aix-en-Provence • Organization and logistics
- 2017 - 2018 **Embodiment Seminars and Workshops** • LPL, Centre Gilles Gaston Granger, ED 356 • Aix-en-Provence, Marseille • Organization of three seminars and two international workshops on Embodiment
- 2016, 2017, 2018 **LPL Doctoral Candidates Day** • Aix-en-Provence • Organization and logistics

teaching

- 2024 **University of Barcelona** • Barcelona • *Invited lecture on Embodiment and Social interaction in language processing and learning* • Cognitive Psychology Master's
- 2021 - 2022 **Aix-Marseille University** • Marseille • *Scientific English* • Psychology Master's
- 2020 **MASCO (Master in Cognitive Science)** • Aix-en-Provence & Marseille • *Embodied cognition and language processing* • Language and cognition Master's
- INSPE** • *Embodied effects in Language processing* • Education Master's

prizes, fellowships & grants

- 2023 **Embodied and Situated Language Processing Conference** • Best short presentation prize • Gorilla
- 2023 **Spanish government funding** • REF: SUBV23/00007. "A Neurophysiological Biomarker of Craving in Gambling Disorder: A Decoding Project [D-CRAVING]." PI: Adrià Vilà Balló. Universitat de Barcelona (Spain). Funding: Ministerio de Consumo / Dirección General de Ordenación del Juego. €40,529.26. 2023-2024.
- 2022 **Marie Skłodowska Curie European Fellowship** • European Commission €226,441.20
- 2021 **Best Thesis Prize** • Aix-Marseille University • Marseille. €1,000
- 2021 **Qualification** to the function of Assistant/Associate Professor (mandatory prerequisite for teaching & research faculty positions in France) Section CNU 7 – Sciences du langage : linguistique et phonétique générales (N° 19269330293)

2020

Institute of Language, Communication and the Brain (ILCB), Financing for EEG experiments • Aix-Marseille University

reviewer

2021 - 2024

Cortex, Wiley Language Learning, PloS One, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Journal of Cognitive Psychology etc.

other professional experience & training

2024

Leadership Program for Junior Women in Science by Alicia Marín Muniesa • "Sky is the limit".

2018 - 2022

Osiris • Marseille • Interpreting for therapy in support of victims of torture and political repression

2012 - 2020

Freelance translation/interpreting (film subtitling and conference interpretation)

2008 - 2012

Documentary filmmaking and film production (Focus Files & Batoque Filmes • Rio de Janeiro, French Connection • Paris)

mentoring

2022 - present

Polina Osokina, CCiL, (Master's in Cognitive Science and Language and now PhD, Department of psychology) • University of Barcelona
Maria Mateo (Master's in Computer Science) • Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Sergi Curto Panisello • Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

2020 - 2021

Fatima Kassim, MASCO (Master's in Cognitive Science) • Aix-Marseille University

2019 - 2020

Daria Goryachun, (Master in Language Science) • Aix-Marseille University

languages

brazilian portuguese

native

english

native

french

proficient

spanish

intermediary

catalan

intermediary

italian

basic

russian

basic

additional experience

Note: Prior to this I obtained an International Baccalaureate degree in Moscow, Russia and completed an BA (Major in Theatre and Literature) at Smith College Massachusetts, United States. In 2012 I moved France, where my professional experiences centered around:

- 1) **Film production and direction** I worked as an interpreter and production assistant for major French-Brazilian co-productions (e.g. *OSS 117 – Rio ne répond plus*) and French-Brazilian TV co-productions (e.g. *Boulevard Brasil*). I also worked in documentary film production and directed two independent documentary films: *L'Opérette* (Ateliers Varan) and *Baguette, Pão de Queijo* (Batoque Filmes).
- 2) **Interpreting** for refugees and migrants in Marseille, in both the psycho/social and medical sectors. Most of this work has been done with *Osiris*, a French association that provides therapeutic support for victims of torture and political repression. They also have a platform that offers interpreting services to foreigners (mostly migrants) in health establishments.