

# **Bianca Mădălina ZGREABĂN**

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[updated Nov 2025, \* important activities]

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Awardee of Two Bright Minds Fellowships\*  
Prestigious [fellowship](#) awarded to 10 students.  
*Utrecht University*

EDUCATION

ILS PhD Candidate\*  
Generability, explainability, NLU & NLP.  
Supervisors: Lasha Abzianidze, Tejaswini Deoskar, and Yoad Winter.  
*Utrecht University*  
2024–Ongoing

Research MA Linguistics\*  
*Utrecht University*  
[[Thesis](#)]

BA: Romanian / English Language and Literature 2019–2022  
*University of Bucharest*

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant in Legal NLP\*  
Fine-tuned a LegalBERT classifier to detect illegal consent banners.  
*Utrecht University*

Research Intern for Vision & Language Models\*  
Active/passive and ditransitive sentences for the VALSE benchmark.  
*Utrecht University* 2023–2024

Research Assistant in Forensic NLP 2023–2024  
Author identification pipeline from scratch.  
*Leiden University*

Research Assistant in Computational Semantics  
Checked automatic DRT & CCG discourse annotations.  
*Utrecht University*

2023

Teaching Assistant  
Course on A.I. & psycholinguistics. Supervised 30 NLP research proposals.  
*Utrecht University*

2023

Visiting Researcher\*  
Created a new dataset of Romanian nominal compounds. Crowdsourcing.  
*University of Sheffield*

2023–2024

Research Contributor  
Co-wrote ‘A Romanian Corpus Annotated with Verbal Multiword Expressions’.  
*The Romanian Academy*

2021–2022

## PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEW)\*

Zgreabăñ, M., Deoskar, T., & Abzianidze, L. (2025). MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference. arXiv preprint arXiv:2510.24295.

Zgreabăñ, M., Gatt, A., & Mosteiro, P. (2025, September). Hit or Be Hit: Tests of (Pre) Compositional Abilities in Vision and Language Models. In Proceedings of the 21st Conference on Natural Language Processing (KONVENS 2025): Long and Short Papers (pp. 306–317).

Zgreabăñ, B. M., & Stasica, A (2024). Using a bilingual dual-path model for exploring syntactic mixing of simultaneous bilingual children. *LingUU*, 7(2), 39–52.

Zgreabăñ, B. M., & Suresh, R. (2023). Prompting ChatGPT to Draw Morphological Connections for New Word Comprehension. In *Proceedings of the 8th Student Research Workshop associated with the International Conference Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing* (pp. 98–107).

Barbu-Mititelu, V., Cristescu, M., Mitrofan, M., Zgreabăñ, B. M., & Bărbulescu, E.A. (2022). A Romanian Treebank Annotated with Verbal Multiword Expressions. In *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference Computational Linguistics in Bulgaria* (pp. 137–146), ISSN: 2367-5675.

## PUBLICATIONS (OTHERS)\*

- Zgreabăñ, B. M. (2022). To Roast: a pragmatic analysis. *Publishing of University of Bucharest* (in print).
- Zgreabăñ, B. M. (2021). Roast Battle: a view on its Pragmatics. *Observator Cultural*, 1088, 14.
- Zgreabăñ, B. M. (2020). The Library of Babel and The Turing Test. *Observator Cultural*, 1040, 15.

## TALKS\*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| CLIN   | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’<br>[Presented by Lasha Abzianidze] |      |
| Uiltjesdagen   | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’                                    |      |
| Konstanz Linguistics Conference 2024   | 2024 |
| Overview of benchmarks for vision and language models.   |      |
| Fifth International Conference on Computational Linguistics in Bulgaria  | 2022 |
| Article ‘A Romanian Corpus Annotated with Verbal Multiword Expressions’.<br>[ <a href="#">Recording</a> ]                      |      |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS\*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| M2L 2025   | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’<br>[Poster]                      |      |
| LxMLS 2025   | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’<br>[Poster]                      |      |
| LOT 2025   | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’<br>[Poster]                      |      |
| EMLAR 2024   | 2024 |
| ‘The Squirrel Test: Competing forms for new words in interaction’<br>[ <a href="#">Abstract</a> ] [ <a href="#">poster</a> ] |      |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| EMLAR 2024  | 2024 |
| ‘Who What When Did: Multiple WH-questions in Large Language Models’               |      |
| [Abstract]  |      |
| 2nd General Meeting UniDive   | 2024 |
| Results of the University of Sheffield annotation project                         |      |
| [Poster]  |      |
| RANLP 2023  | 2023 |
| ‘Prompting ChatGPT to Draw Morphological Connections for New Word Comprehension’. |      |
| [Poster]  |      |

## COLLOQUIUMS, WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIA\*

|   |      |
|---|------|
| NALOMA  | 2025 |
| ‘MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.’ |      |
| [Presented by Lasha Abzianidze].  |      |
| SLE 2024 Workshop   | 2024 |
| ‘LLMs and Humans: Nominal Compounds Compositional Preferences’. Crowdsourcing.              |      |
| UniDive 2nd General Meeting   | 2024 |
| <i>University of Naples "L'Orientale"</i>   |      |
| LUCDH Pilot Project Symposium 2024  | 2024 |
| <i>Leiden University</i>  |      |
| UniDive 1st General Meeting   | 2023 |
| <i>Paris-Saclay University</i>  |      |

## RESEARCH GRANTS\*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Short-Term Scientific Mission Research Grant | 2023 |
| <i>UniDive, University of Sheffield</i>      |      |

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS\*

|                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Humanities Conference Grant Award | 2024 |
| <i>Utrecht University</i>         |      |

Bright Minds Fellowship\* 2023  
*Utrecht University*

Humanities Conference Grant Award 2022  
*Utrecht University*

Craving Science? Discover Conferences! Grant 2022  
*Utrecht University*

Bright Minds Fellowship\* 2022  
*Utrecht University*

Award for Scientific Excellence 2021  
*University of Bucharest*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

2nd UniDive Training School 2025  
*UniDive*

First-Generation Fund 2024  
*Utrecht University*

Scholarship to attend Summer Datathon on Linguistic Linked Open Data 2023  
*NexusLinguarum*

Grants to attend ALPS 2023, ESSLLI 2022, MLWS-CV 2022-2023

Scholarship for "Logic and Transdisciplinarity" Research School 2019  
*CIVIS Consortium*

First Merit Scholarship 2020–2024  
*University of Bucharest*

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

M2L 2025  
*University of Split*

LxMLS 2025  
*University of Lisbon*

LOT 2025  
*University of Antwerp*

ESSLLI 2023  
*University of Ljubljana*

5th Summer Datathon on Linguistic Linked Open Data 2023  
*NexusLinguarum*

ALPS Winter School 2023

ESSLLI 2022  
*National University of Ireland Galway*

Machine Learning Winter School on Computer Vision (MLWS-CV) 2022  
*Duke University*

"Logic and Transdisciplinarity" Research School 2022  
*CIRM*

## LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

A Cup of Linguistics 2024  
Organized seminar meetings in which RMA/PhD students present their research work.  
*Utrecht University*

[Lingathon](#) 2024  
Organized the first hackathon for linguistics, sponsored by the LOT Ad-hoc Event Fund.  
*Netherlands National Graduate School of Linguistics*

## **Programming Languages**

Python, R, Julia & PHP

## **Languages**

Romanian (Native), English (C2)

Member of [UniDive](#), [MultipLEYE](#)