

# Bianca Mădălina ZGREABĂN

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[updated Nov 2025, \* important activities]

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Awardee of Two Bright Minds Fellowships\* 2022–2024  
Prestigious [fellowship](#) awarded to 10 students.  
*Utrecht University*

## EDUCATION

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

Research MA Linguistics\* 2022–2024  
*Utrecht University*  
[\[Thesis\]](#)

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIANCE

Research Assistant in Legal NLP\* 2024  
Fine-tuned a LegalBERT classifier to detect illegal consent banners.  
*Utrecht University*

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

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. <i>Utrecht University</i>	2023
Teaching Assistant Course on A.I. & psycholinguistics. Supervised 30 NLP research proposals. <i>Utrecht University</i>	2023
Visiting Researcher* Created a new dataset of Romanian nominal compounds. Crowdsourcing. <i>University of Sheffield</i>	2023–2024
Research Contributor Co-wrote ‘A Romanian Corpus Annotated with Verbal Multiword Expressions’. <i>The Romanian Academy</i>	2021– 2022

## **PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEW)\***

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

Zgreabăn, 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).

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

Zgreabăn, 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., Zgreabăn, 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)\*

Zgreabăn, B. M. (2022). To Roast: a pragmatic analysis. *Publishing of University of Bucharest* (in print).

Zgreabăn, B. M. (2021). Roast Battle: a view on its Pragmatics. *Observator Cultural*, 1088, 14.

Zgreabăn, 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.'  
[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'.  
[\[Recording\]](#)

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS\*

M2L 2025 2025  
'MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.'  
[Poster]

LxMLS 2025 2025  
'MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.'  
[Poster]

LOT 2025 2025  
'MERGE: Minimal Expression-Replacement GEneralization Test for Natural Language Inference.'  
[Poster]

EMLAR 2024 2024  
'The Squirrel Test: Competing forms for new words in interaction'  
[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[poster\]](#)

EMLAR 2024 ‘Who What When Did: Multiple WH-questions in Large Language Models’ <a href="#">[Abstract]</a>	2024
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2nd General Meeting UniDive Results of the University of Sheffield annotation project <a href="#">[Poster]</a>	2024
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RANLP 2023 ‘Prompting ChatGPT to Draw Morphological Connections for New Word Comprehension’. <a href="#">[Poster]</a>	2023
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## COLLOQUIUMS, WORKSHOPS & SYMPOSIUMS\*

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

Short-Term Scientific Mission Research Grant <i>UniDive, University of Sheffield</i>	2023
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## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS\*

Humanities Conference Grant Award <i>Utrecht University</i>	2024
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Bright Minds Fellowship* <i>Utrecht University</i>	2023
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Humanities Conference Grant Award <i>Utrecht University</i>	2022
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Craving Science? Discover Conferences! Grant <i>Utrecht University</i>	2022
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Bright Minds Fellowship* <i>Utrecht University</i>	2022
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Award for Scientific Excellence <i>University of Bucharest</i>	2021
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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

2nd UniDive Training School <i>UniDive</i>	2025
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First-Generation Fund <i>Utrecht University</i>	2024
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Scholarship to attend Summer Datathon on Linguistic Linked Open Data <i>NexusLinguarum</i>	2023
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Grants to attend ALPS 2023, ESSLLI 2022, MLWS-CV	2022-2023
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Scholarship for "Logic and Transdisciplinarity" Research School <i>CIVIS Consortium</i>	2019
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First Merit Scholarship <i>University of Bucharest</i>	2020–2024
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## SUMMER SCHOOLS

M2L <i>University of Split</i>	2025
LxMLS <i>University of Lisbon</i>	2025
LOT <i>University of Antwerp</i>	2025
ESSLLI <i>University of Ljubljana</i>	2023
5th Summer Datathon on Linguistic Linked Open Data <i>NexusLinguarum</i>	2023
ALPS Winter School	2023
ESSLLI <i>National University of Ireland Galway</i>	2022
Machine Learning Winter School on Computer Vision (MLWS-CV) <i>Duke University</i>	2022
"Logic and Transdisciplinarity" Research School <i>CIRM</i>	2022

## LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

A Cup of Linguistics Organized seminar meetings in which RMA/PhD students present their research work. <i>Utrecht University</i>	2024
<a href="#">Lingathon</a> Organized the first hackathon for linguistics, sponsored by the LOT Ad-hoc Event Fund. <i>Netherlands National Graduate School of Linguistics</i>	2024

## **Programming Languages**

Python, R, Julia & PHP

## **Languages**

Romanian (Native), English (C2)

Member of **UniDive**, **MultiplEYE**