RYSSA MOFFAT

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

RESEARCH SKILLS

Experimental techniques
• fNIRS • EEG • TMS
• Motion Capture
• Ultrasound tongue imaging
• Behavioural • Qualitative/Interviews

Programming
• R • Python • HTML • MATLAB

Software
• PsychoPy • OpenPose • Praat • Adobe

Natural languages
Fluent English, German, French
Intermediate Croatian, Finnish, Spanish

EDUCATION

2018 - 2022
PhD in Cognitive Science (2018 - 2022)
Joint degree from Macquarie University, Newcastle University, Universities of Groningen & Potsdam
Thesis title: *Recognition and cortical haemodynamics of vocal emotions – an fNIRS perspective*
Advisors: Prof. David McAlpine, Prof. Deniz Baskent, Dr. Lindsey van Yper, Dr. Robert Luke

2016 - 2018
M.Sc. in Clinical Linguistics
Joint degree from Universities of Eastern Finland, Groningen & Potsdam
Thesis title: *Coarticulation as a synchronic predictor of reading dysfluency*
Advisors: Prof. Martijn Wieling, Dr. Aude Noiray

2012 - 2016
HBA, Major in German Language and Culture, Minor in Linguistics
University of Ottawa
Exchange year at University of Bonn (Oct 2014 - Oct 2015)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

July 2019 - Dec 2020
Macquarie University:
School of Psychological Sciences
• Delusions and Disorders of the Mind and Brain

Department of Linguistics
• Introductory Phonetics and Phonology
• Introduction to Psycholinguistics
• Phonological Analysis
• Language as Evidence

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Sept 2021 - present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow | School of Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University
Social Brain in Action (SoBA) Lab
• Interpersonal motor synchrony • Human-Robot interaction • Inhibition • fNIRS • Aesthetic appreciation

Jan - Sep 2021
Research Assistant | School of Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University
Social Brain in Action (SoBA) Lab
• Child-Robot interaction • Artificial agent perception • Qualitative analysis

Mar - Dec 2018
Research Assistant | Department of Linguistics, University of Potsdam
Laboratory for Oral Language Acquisition (LOLA) & BabyLAB
• Lingual coarticulation • Developmental language disorders • Ultrasound imaging • fNIRS

May - Aug 2016
Research Assistant | Department of Neurology, RWTH Aachen University Hospital
Section for Clinical Cognition Sciences & Stroke/Aphasia Units
• Language production • TMS • EEG • Electrical pharyngeal stimulation

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2022 | ECR Travel Award to AS4SAN
2019 | Student Travel Award to CIAP
2019 | Graduate Research Funding, Maquarie University
2018-2022 | IDEALAB PhD Fellowship
2016-2018 | Erasmus+ Mobility Grant

SUPERVISORY ROLES

Co-supervisor
• Jul 2022 - Present: Courtney Casale, Master student at Macquarie University

Supervisor
• Jul - Sept 2022: Annika Richter, DAAD RISE Intern (undergraduate) visiting SoBA Lab
• Jun- Jul 2022: Nida Mneme-Totu, Intern (undergraduate) visiting SoBA Lab

RECENT TRAINING

2022 | Deaf Awareness Training
2022 | Mental Health First Aid Training
2022 | Supervision Masterclass
2022 | Foundations of Supervision
2021 | Manawari Cultural Safety Training

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2022 | Crestwood Secondary School, Canada & Camp Aspire, Maquarie University
Workshops on measuring motor synchrony, and maximising its social benefits for each Canadian and indigenous Australian highschool students

2022 | LEAP UP University Experience Day, Maquarie University

2021| Widening Participation, Maquarie University
Reading robot-buddy activities introducing robots and scientific practic with each refugee and indigenous Australian highschool students

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Peer-reviewed Publications

1. Caruana, Moffat, Blanco & Cross. Talk, listen and keep me company: A mixed methods analysis of children's perspectives towards robot reading companions. HAI '22: International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction, Dec 2022. doi: 10.1145/3527188.3563917

Preprints

1. **Moffat**, Caruana & Cross. Synchronised interactions with a peer observer increase self-monitoring during response inhibition: An fNIRS study. Under review at *NeuroImage*. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/2n8sv

2. Caruana, **Moffat**, Blanco & Cross. Perceptions of intelligence & sentience shape children's interactions with robot reading companions: A mixed methods study. Under review at *Scientific Reports*. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/7t2w9

3. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. Cortical haemodynamic responses predict individual ability to recognise vocal emotions with uninformative pitch cues but do not distinguish different emotions. Under review at Human Brain Mapping. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/jkvyd

Workshops & Invited Talks

1. Workshop: McAlpine, Luke & **Moffat**. "Using fNIRS to map auditory cortical function". IERASG, Jul 2019.

2. Invited talk: **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. " Towards an fNIRS paradigm to map emotional prosody processing". Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Feb 2020.

Conference Talks

1. **Moffat**, Caruana & Cross. "Cortical correlates of inhibition when observed by synchronised vs. non-synchronised peers". SFN, Nov 2022.

2. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. "Exploring metabolic responses to emotional prosody with fNIRS". Listen and Learn Workshop, Nov 2019.

3. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. "Pilot: Processing emotional prosody in normal hearing listeners with fNIRS". CIAP, Jul 2019.

Conference Posters

1. **Moffat**, Caruana & Cross. "Cortical activity evoked by synchronised vs. non-synchronised peer observers as detected with fNIRS". fNIRS2022, Oct 2022.

2. Caruana, **Moffat**, Blanco & Cross. "A welcome social presence: Attentive and responsive robot reading buddies are preferred". AS4SAN, Jun 2022.

3. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. "Cortical responses to vocal emotions with attenuated voice pitch variation measured with fNIRS". sfNIRS, Oct 2021.

4. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. "Pilot: Mapping emotional prosody in normal hearing listeners with fNIRS". ARO, Jan 2020.

5. **Moffat**, Baskent, Luke, McAlpine & van Yper. "Pilot: Using fNIRS to explore emotional prosody perception". SPIN, Jan 2020.