



# 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

## 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

## 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

## RECENT TRAINING

2022 | Deaf Awareness Training

2022 | Mental Health First Aid Training

2022 | Supervision Masterclass

2022 | Foundations of Supervision

2021 | Manawari Cultural Safety Training

## 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)

## 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

## SUPERVISORY ROLES

### Co-supervisor

- Aug 2022 - Present: Abigayle Peterson, Master of Research student at Macquarie University

- Jul 2022 - Present: Courtney Casale, Master of Research 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

## 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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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.