

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

2021-present: **PhD in Cognition and Perception** | Neuroscience of Language Lab, Psychology Department, New York University | Advisor: Alec Marantz
2019-2020: **Master of Science in Psychology of Language** *cum laude* | School of Philosophy, Psychology, and Language Sciences, The University of Edinburgh | Advisor: Antonella Sorace
Dissertation: *Affective Norms for Lebanese Arabic and Lebanese English Words: A cross-cultural and cross-linguistic investigation.*
2016-2019: **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology** *summa cum laude* | Lebanese American University.

Publications

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. (2025) Semantic Typicality of Affixes Facilitates Word Processing: MEG Evidence from Arabic. *Neurobiology of Language*. 1-73

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. (2025) The roles of suffix ambiguity and productivity in word comprehension: a MEG study (*submitted*). Available as preprint: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5243027

Manuscripts

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. (2025) The neural basis of derivational morpheme acquisition under semantic uncertainty (*in preparation, behavioral data collected, MEG data soon to be collected. Presented at SNL 2025*)
Data and code available publicly online (respectively):

<https://osf.io/svgfm/>

<https://github.com/marianneazar/Artificial-Grammar-Learning>

Honors, Awards, and Grants

2025: SNL Travel Award (\$500)
2021--: New York University GSAS MacCracken Fellowship (\$31,000/year)
2020: *cum laude* graduation from University of Edinburgh
2019: *summa cum laude* graduation from Lebanese American University
2019: Torch Award from Lebanese American University (\$3,000)
2019: President's Award from Lebanese American University (\$3,000)
2019: Best Senior Thesis Award – Department of Psychology, Lebanese American University
2019: Oxford Rhodes Scholarship Finalist Award (Rhodes for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine)
2018: First place winner of Creative Writing Award, Lebanese American University
2017: Erasmus Mundus Scholarship – University of Tampere (€10,000)
2016-2019: Honors Scholarship - Lebanese American University (50% of tuition)
2016-2019: Model Arab League Scholarship - Lebanese American University (25% of tuition)

Invited Talks

6/2025: Middlebury College Language Access Summer Program: *Underrepresented languages in society: from policy to neuroscientific research*.

11/8/2025 (originally 11/2024 – postponed due to ongoing war): *From Stories to Morphemes, Narrative to Brain: Studying Arabic in the Mind* - Lebanese American University Research Symposium (Hybrid: Online-Beirut)

2/2024: Invited panelist in *Arabic Morphology as a Window into How the Brain Processes Language* - 37th Annual Symposium on Arabic Linguistics (ASAL; New York)

3/2023: Invited speaker with author of “Stories of your Life and Others” Ted Chiang -- Horace Mann High School Book Day (role of Language Scientist) – *The Science and Fiction of Language and Thought*.

Conference Poster Presentations and Talks

Poster Presentations:

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. The neural basis of derivational morpheme acquisition under semantic uncertainty: An artificial grammar learning MEG Study. *Society for Neurobiology of Language 17th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 12-14 September 2025*.

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. The roles of suffix ambiguity and productivity in word comprehension. *NYU Minds, Brains, and Machines Poster conference, October 21st, 2024*.

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. The roles of suffix ambiguity and productivity in word comprehension. *30th Architectures and Mechanism of Language Processing (AMLaP) conference, 5-7 September 2024, Edinburgh, UK*

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. Affix semantic typicality facilitates word processing: MEG evidence from Arabic *Society for Neurobiology of Language 15th Annual Meeting, 24-26 October 2023, Marseille, France*.

Azar, M., & Marantz, A. The role of affix semantic typicality in word processing: MEG evidence from Arabic *28th Architectures and Mechanism of Language Processing (AMLaP) conference, 7-9 September 2024, York, UK*

Azar, M., & Sorace, A. Affective Norms for Lebanese Arabic and English Words (ANLAW): a Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural investigation. *Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium, 25-26 October 2021. Virtual Conference*.

Azar, M., & Sorace, A. Affective Norms for Lebanese Arabic and English Words (ANLAW): a Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural investigation. *27th Architectures and Mechanism of Language Processing (AMLaP) conference. September 2-4, 2021. Virtual Conference*.

Talks:

Azar, M. & Abi Habib, R. Emotional interference effects across languages in multilingual Lebanese code-switchers. *Groupe de Mémoire et de Recherches Cliniques du Liban – 3rd Annual Congress, March 2018*.

Academic Teaching

New York University

Fall 2024: Language and Mind (Teaching Assistant), Linguistics Department

Fall 2023: Lab in Cognition and Perception (Teaching Assistant), Psychology Department

Fall 2022: Introduction to Psychology (Grader), Psychology Department

University of Edinburgh

2020-2021 Academic Year: Statistics and R for Environmental Valuation (TA and Demonstrator)

Mentorship

2023: Ariel Stein – Undergraduate Research Assistant (Brown University)

Service

2025--: Psychology undergraduate and master's programs advisory board member -- Lebanese American University

2025: Academic Writing Group Organizer for Linguistics Department (PhD students and faculty)

2021-2025: Judge for the NYU Annual MA in Psychology Research Conference

2024: 37th Annual Symposium for Arabic Linguistics Society, New York –conference co-organizer

2024: Neuroscience of Language Lab Methods Meeting – organized weekly methods meeting for knowledge transfer and discussion among lab members.

2022-2023: Student Social Chair for Cognition and Perception Program

May 2023: Judge for the CLaME (Center for Language, Music and Emotion) 2nd Annual High School Conference. *Grace Church High School*

2019-2021: Science communication, public impact, and research volunteer; liaison person with Edinburgh Syrian refugee community; and web conference moderator for refugee week conference on refugee languages. *Bilingualism Matters, University of Edinburgh*

Research and Technical Skills

Programming languages

R, Python, JavaScript, HTML (in order of proficiency)

Data acquisition and analysis

Magnetoencephalography (MEG) (MNE, Eelbrain); behavioral data (in-person and online) (Github pages, Prolific, Gorilla, Qualtrics); data collection and experiment design for patients with aphasia/dysgraphia; eye-tracking for reading.

Language Skills

Arabic (Modern Standard and Levantine) – fluent & bidirectional interpreter

English – fluent & bidirectional interpreter

French – fluent & bidirectional interpreter

Spanish – intermediate (B2)

Finnish – beginner (A1) (inactive)

Syriac (West Aramaic)– rudimentary