Laura Spinu www.linkedin.com/in/lspinu/, lspinu.commons.gc.cuny.edu/

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Summary

Education

Vast teaching and mentoring experience | *collaborative research skills* | *wide array of scholarly contributions* | *research* interests in bilingual cognition, phonetic and phonological learning, and the acoustics of speech sounds (fricatives)

and psycholinguistics. The two main directions I pursue in my research are (1) the acoustic properties of fricatives, and in particular methods for fricative classification relying on cepstral measures, and (2) bilingual **cognition**, specifically the mechanisms underlying phonetic and phonological learning of third languages or dialects. My teaching experience spans nine North Amerpublications and conference presentations with them.

City University of New York - Kingsborough CC

My research interests lie in the fields of phonetics ican universities over the past 15 years, including a variety of subjects and course levels, course types (lecture or lab-based), and class sizes (6-160 students). I have developed and taught courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. I am also a dedicated and prolific student mentor, having supervised graduate and undergraduate students' research projects and co-authored

Brooklyn (NY), USA

Work Experience	
Univ. of Bucharest, BA, Foreign Languages & Literatures (English-Spanish)	1996-2000
Stony Brook University, MA, Linguistics	2002-2004
University of Delaware, PhD, Linguistics	2004-2010

Associate Professor – Tenure Track	Sep 2021 – present
Department of Communications and Performing Arts	2 2017 1 2021
Assistant Professor – Tenure Track Department of Communications and Performing Arts	Sep 2017 – Aug 2021

City University of New York - The Graduate Center Brooklyn (NY), USA **Doctoral Faculty** Sep 2022 – present

Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences Department

Part-time/limited-term employment: (NEAR) TORONTO (ON), CANADA **Sessional Lecturer** Jan '17 - May, '17

University of Toronto, Linguistics Department Sep '15 - Apr '17 Course Director/Marker

York University, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics

Instructor Jan '16 – April '17

Brock University, Department of Applied Linguistics

Assistant Professor Jan '15 – April '16

University of Western Ontario, Anthropology and French Studies Departments

Sep '14 - Dec '14

Wilfrid Laurier University, Psychology Department

University of Delaware NEWARK (DE), USA

Assistant Professor, 50% workload Aug '13 - June '14

Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science

Concordia University Montreal (QC), Canada

Assistant Professor, Limited-Term Appointment Aug '10 - May '13

Department of Classics, Modern Languages and Linguistics

Publications

Doctoral Dissertation University of Delaware

Palatalization in Romanian: Experimental and theoretical approaches published online by ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing

2010

Journal Publications	
Differences between Monolinguals and Bilinguals in Phonetic and Phonological Learning and the Connection with Auditory Sensory Memory (Spinu, L., Hwang, J. & Vasilita, M.) Brain Sciences.	2023.
Serial memory mechanisms in monolingual and bilingual speakers (Spinu, L.) International Journal of Bilingualism.	2022.
Exploring the front fricative contrast in Greek: A study of acoustic variability based on cepstral coefficients. (Lilley, J., Spinu, L., & Athanasopolou, A.) <i>Journal of the International Phonetic Association</i> .	2020.
Investigating the status of a rare cross-linguistic contrast: The case of Romanian palatalized postalveolars. (Spinu, L.) The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 143(3), 1235–1251.	2018
Acoustic classification of Russian plain and palatalized sibilant fricatives: Spectral vs. cepstral measures. (Spinu, L., Kochetov, A. & Lilley, J.) <i>Speech Communication</i> , 100, 41–45.	2018
Is there a bilingual advantage in phonetic and phonological acquisition? The initial learning of word-final coronal stop realization in a novel accent of English. (Spinu, L., Hwang, J. & Lohmann, R.) <i>International Journal of Bilingualism</i> , 22.3: 350-370, first published online Dec 9, 2016.	2018
A comparison of cepstral coefficients and spectral moments in the classification of Romanian fricatives. ((Spinu, L., and Lilley, J.) <i>Journal of Phonetics</i> , 57, 40–58.	2016
Palatalization in Romanian – Acoustic properties and perception. (Spinu, L., Vogel, I. and Bunnell, H.T.) <i>Journal of Phonetics</i> , 40, 54–66.	2012
Peer-Reviewed Proceedings	
Voicing neutralization in Romanian fricatives across different speech styles (Spinu, L., Vasilescu, I., Lamel, L. and Lilley, J.) Proceedings of Interspeech 2022, 1342-1346, DOI: 10.21437/Interspeech.2022-10716	2022
Serial memory error patterns in bilinguals and monolinguals. (Philipp-Muller, N., Spinu, L., Rafat, Y., and Rand, J.) Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics 176 (35:1, p. 060007). Acoustical Society of America.	2021
Exploring the use of an artificial accent of English to assess phonetic learning in monolingual and bilingual speakers (Spinu, L., Hwang, J., Pincus, N. and Vasilita, M.) Proceedings of Interspeech 2020, 2377-2381, DOI: 10.21437/Interspeech.2020-2783.	2020
Articulatory Characteristics of Secondary Palatalization in Romanian Fricatives. (Spinu, L., Percival, M. and Kochetov, A.) Proceedings of Interspeech 2019, 3307–3311, DOI: 10.21437/Interspeech.2019-3039.	2019
The initial learning of intonation patterns in a novel dialect of English by monolinguals and bilinguals: An unexpected monolingual advantage (Spinu, L. and Rafat, Y.) Proceedings of the International Symposium on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech 2019, E. Babatsouli (ed.), 122-129. ISBN: 978-618-82351-3-7	2019
An investigation of articulatory skill in monolingual and bilingual speakers. (Dugaillard, B. and Spinu , L .) Proceedings of the International Symposium on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech 2019, E. Babatsouli (ed.), 31–37. ISBN: 978-618-82351-3-7	2019
The Unit of Speech Encoding: the case of Romanian. (Vogel, I. and Spinu, L.) Interspeech-2016, Proceedings of the Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association	2016
Being "better" with accents: evidence from bilinguals. (Kondratenko, Y. and Spinu, L.) Proceedings of the 48th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, eds. Beltrama, A. et al. 387–400	2014

Vowel Length in Luganda. (Vogel, I. and Spinu, L.) Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics, 12, Acoustical Society of America.	2013
Perception of English compound vs. phrasal stress: natural vs. synthetic speech. (Vogel, I., Hestvik, A., Bunnell, H. T., and Spinu, L.) Proceedings of Interspeech 2009, 10 th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association	2009
Romanian palatalized consonants: A perceptual study. Proceedings of ISCA Tutorial and Research Workshop on Experimental Linguistics, 28-30 August 2006, Athens, Greece	2006
Articles in Peer-Reviewed Volumes	
Childhood Language Exposure: Does Early Experience Affect Sound Perception and Production in Speakers with Reduced Language Proficiency? (Hanini, R., Spinu, L., Rafat, Y. and Alkhudidi, A.), The Phonetics and Phonology of Heritage Languages, ed. by R. Rao, Cambridge University Press	Forthcoming: 2023
Romanian palatalization: the role of place of articulation. Romance Linguistics 2007, ed. by P. J. Masullo et al., Amsterdam: John Benjamins	2009
The domain of palatalization in Romanian. (Vogel, I. and Spinu, L.), Romance Linguistics 2007, ed. by P. J. Masullo et al., Amsterdam: John Benjamins	2009
Perceptual Properties of Palatalization in Romanian.	2006

Awards and Grants

CUNY Kingsborough Fostering Excellence in Teaching Award (\$5,000): The K-Core initiative (Spring 2023)

PSC-CUNY Enhanced Award (\$11,950): Bilingual language cognition: exploring the connection between phonetic learning ability and articulatory skill (Spring 2020)

K-Core: Kingsborough Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Conference Bootcamp (\$15,000): CUNY Coordinated Undergraduate Education Initiative (Spring 2020)

CUNY Research Scholars Program (\$7,950): used for my mentees' conference travel and the purchase of an ultrasound system for speech research (Fall 2019-Spring 2020)

Humanities NY Vision Grant (\$1,500), with M. Yamamura, T. Mintz, J. Leggett and T. Berg: UnHomeless NYC: Identify and Visualize the Causes of Homelessness for Positive Social Change (Fall 2019)

CUNY Faculty Travel for Research Program (\$750): CUNY Research Foundation (Fall 2018)

Romance Linguistics 2006, ed. by J. Camacho et al., Amsterdam: John Benjamins

PSC-CUNY Award (\$5,966): Exploring the Bilingual Advantage in Language Learning: Auditory Sensory Memory in Bilinguals and Monolinguals (Spring 2018)

CUNY Research in the Classroom Idea Grant (\$7,500): Many countries, one language: using phonetic analysis to create a linguistic map of Kingsborough Community College (SPE29 Spring 2018)

Award For Excellence for Teaching in French Studies, University of Western Ontario: 2014

Award For Excellence in Teaching, University of Delaware: 2010

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant #0720231 (\$10,000), National Science Foundation, USA: June 2007-May 2009

University Competitive Fellowship, University of Delaware: 2007-2008

Service

Guest Editor

Special Issue "Phonetic and Phonological Complexity in Romance Languages", co-edited with Irene Vogel for the journal Languages (2023)

Job Search Committees

Spring 2022: co-chair for two lecturer positions (Communications & Performing Arts, CUNY Kingsborough)

Fall 2022: served on the job search committee for Vice President for Institutional Advancement, CUNY Kingsborough)

Summer 2022: served on RFCUNY Grants Specialist Search Committee)

Spring 2019: served on departmental Lecturer Search Committee)

Conference Organizing Committee

53rd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL 53 (June 26-30, 2023)

General Chair

CUNY's Fifth Biennial Conference on Language, Society, and Culture (May 14, 2021)

Workshop organizer

From speech technology to big data phonetics and phonology: a win-win paradigm, Phonetics and Phonology in Europe, June 21-23, 2021, University Pompeu Fabra and University of Barcelona Identifying and eliminating discrimination based on accent or dialect from the classroom, CUNY Faculty Diversity & Inclusion Conference, April 15-16, 2021

Theme Session Organizer and Chair

Exploring language learning in bilinguals, International Symposium on Bilingualism, June 23-28, 2018, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Vice President and Officer of the Board

CUNY League of Active Speech Professors (CLASP), 2019-present

Faculty Research Support Group Co-founder

IGNITERS, CUNY Kingsborough Community College

Scientific Committee Member / Reviewer / Referee

Conferences

- Interspeech: 2023, 2022, 2021
- International Seminar on Speech Production: 2020
- Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages: 2021, 2020
- International Symposium on Bilingualism: 2021, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012

Journals

- Journal of the Acoustical Society of America: 2021(x3), 2019(x3)
- Journal of Phonetics: 2021(x2), 2016
- Studii de lingvistica (Studies in Linguistics): 2021
- Journal of the Acoustical Society of America Express Letters: 2020
- Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics: 2020
- Brain Sciences: 2020
- Languages: 2020
- Journal of Monolingual and Bilingual Speech: 2020
- Journal of Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics: 2018
- Bilingualism: Language and Cognition: 2012

- Language and Speech: 2009

• Volumes

- Selected Papers from the 50th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages, Open Romance Linguistics Series, Language Science Press (Spring 2021)
- Proceedings of the International Symposium on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech. Babatsouli, E. (ed.) (Fall 2019)
- Selected Papers from the 47th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages, Amsterdam: John Benjamins. Vogel, I. et al. (eds.) (Winter 2018)
- Rhotics. New data and perspectives. Spreafico, L. and Vietti, A. (eds.) Bozen: Bozen-Bolzano University Press. (Fall 2013)

Grants

- PSC-CUNY Research Award Program (2021, 2020)
- CUNY Research in the Classroom Idea Grant (2020, 2018)
- National Science Foundation (NSF), USA (2011)
- Fonds de Recherche sur la Société et la Culture Québec, Canada (2011)

Advising/Mentorship

Founder/Director of K-Core: Kingsborough Collaborative Undergraduate Research Bootcamp (2019-present)

Mentored over 20 undergraduate students to date who presented their collaborative work at over 40 professional conferences; employed 5 student research assistants.

MA Thesis Co-Supervisor, with Dr. Y. Rafat (Defense: Nov 2021)

Niloufar Ansari Dezfuly, Univ. of Western Ontario (Hispanic Studies, Linguistics Track): The effect of bilingualism and music experience on tone and vowel discrimination ability

MS Thesis External Reviewer (Defense: Aug 2021)

Insiya Bhalloo, University of Toronto (Rehabilitation Sciences Institute): Developing Language-Specific Screening Tools: Assessing Phonological Awareness Skills in Urdu-English Bilingual Children

Mentor (2017-present)

CUNY Research Scholars Program: Celeste McKenzie, Ketevan Shavdia, Julia Wallace, Hanan Yafai, Anastasiia Myslyk, Nastasia Gorea, Jaweria Bakar, Natalie Mosseri, Mariana Vasilita, Rawan Hanini, Beckie Dugaillard, Vali Valizade, Sholom Gutleizer

Supervisor (2013-present)

Research Assistants (CUNY Recovery Corps): S. Ahmad, E. Sauri

Research Assistants (CUNY): C. Gilbert, R. Hanini, M. Vasilita, B. Dugaillard

Doctoral Qualifying Paper (Univ. of Western Ontario, co-advisor Dr. Y. Rafat): E. Ruiz-Peña Independent research tutorial (U. of Toronto, co-advisor Dr. A. Kochetov): N. Philipp-Müller

Honors Theses (Concordia Univ.): M. Callahan, D. Genest

Skills

Acoustic analysis: Praat, Audacity, ModelTalker | Statistics software: SPSS, Matlab | Experimental design and procedures: E-Prime package, Psyscope, Psychopy | Online course management systems: Moodle, Sakai, Blackboard, My Learning Space | Data and document processing: Microsoft Office, LATEX, HTML | CUNY Research Certificates: Human Subjects Research and CUNY Researchers (Summer 2023)

Se	lected Conference Presentations and Invited Talks	
	Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain) (with Muscalu, L.) Orthographic interference in cognates: aspects of the relationship between central planning and motor execution of cognates.	Sept '23
	The 53rd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (Paris, France) (with Martinez Loyola, G, Colgiu, I., Laura Spinu, and Rafat, Y.) What does your accent say about you? An analysis of Cuban and Peninsular Spanish varieties.	June '23
	The 184th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (Chicago, IL, USA) (with Chang Wu, C.) Exploring bilingual effects on iconic memory using 2D and 3D visuospatial recognition tasks.	May '23
	2023 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association (Toronto, Canada) (with Martinez Loyola, G, Colgiu, I., Laura Spinu, and Rafat, Y.) The Perception of Cuban and Peninsular Spanish Voices: An Analysis of Education, Income, and Employment.	May '23
	Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium (Edinburgh, Scotland and online) (with Myslyk, A., Nieves, N., Duncan, L. and Oreste, C.) A Sensorimotor Perspective in Bilingual Cognition: Exploring the Connection Between Phonetic Learning, Articulatory Skill, and Auditory Sensory Memory.	Oct '22
	The 182nd Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (Denver, CO, USA) (with Muscalu, L., Vasilita, M., Gilbert, C., and Wallace, J.) What mechanisms underlie phonetic and phonological learning ability in monolingual and bilingual populations? A closer look at the connection with cognitive and sensory functions.	May '22
	Invited talk: Monthly Lecture of the International Linguistic Association Toward an Integrated Framework for Studying the Relationship between Bilingual Language Experience and Cognitive Reserve	April '22
	The 66th Annual Conference of the International Linguistic Association at Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ) (with C. de Cuba and P. Slocum) Addressing Linguistic Discrimination on Our Campuses: Some Strategies That Work	April '22
	Assoc. of American Colleges & Univ. Annual Meeting (Washington, DC) (with N. Hensel, R. Nerio, E. MacLachlan and I. Veras) Community Colleges and Undergraduate Research	Jan '22
	Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (Washington, DC) (with C. De Cuba and P. Slocum) Taking action for positive change in faculty and student attitudes toward language variation	Jan '22
	International Symposium on Bilingualism (University of Warsaw, Poland) (with L. Muscalu) Enhanced phonetic and phonological learning in bilinguals relates to auditory sensory memory capacity but not to executive functions	June '21
	International Symposium on Bilingualism (University of Warsaw, Poland) (with L. Muscalu) An analysis of the relationship between general cognitive abilities and translation of cognates	June '21
	The 180th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (virtual meeting) (with L. Muscalu and J. Wallace) Testing phonetic and phonological learning skills remotely: common challenges & solutions	June '21
	The 180th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (virtual meeting) New methodologies for research in bilingual speech processing	June '21
	CUNY Faculty Diversity and Inclusion Conference (City University of New York, NY) (with E. Conte, C.de Cuba, I. Espinet, A.M. La Franceschina, J. Leggett, A. Mancini, P. Slocum) Identifying and Eliminating Discrimination Based on Accent or Dialect from the Classroom	Apr '21
	International Seminar on Speech Production (Yale University and Haskins Labs, virtual) (with J. Hwang & N. Pincus) Phonetic and Phonological Learning in Bilinguals	Dec '20
	The 179th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (virtual meeting) (with L. Muscalu) The connection between executive function and phonetic and phonological learning in monolingual and bilingual speakers	Dec '20
	Invited Talk: Phonetic and phonological learning in bilinguals: emerging methodologies and areas of research CUNY Graduate Center, Linguistics Colloquium	Nov '20

The 2020 Meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association (Western University, virtual) (with C. Gilbert, M. Krivoshaev, & B. Dugaillard) Articulatory Skill in Monolingual and Multilingual Speakers: A Tongue-Twister Study	June '20
The 178th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (San Diego, CA) (with R. Hanini, A. Alkhudidi, & Y. Rafat) Geminate attrition in the speech of Arabic-English bilinguals living in the United States	Dec '19
The 178th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (San Diego, CA) (with M. Vasilita & B. Dugaillard) The acquisition of a novel accent by monolinguals and early bilinguals: vowel epenthesis in English voiceless s-clusters	Dec '19
Annual Meeting on Phonology (Stony Brook University, NY) (with M. Percival & A. Kochetov) An articulatory perspective on the secondary palatalization contrast in Romanian postalveolar fricatives	Oct '19
International Symposium on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech (Chania, Greece) (with B. Dugaillard) An investigation of articulatory skill in monolinguals and bilinguals	June '19
International Symposium on Bilingualism (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada) (with J. Hwang & N. Pincus) Exploring phonetic and phonological learning in bilinguals: is there a link between auditory sensory memory and skill?	June '19
International Symposium on Bilingualism (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada) (organizer and chair of theme session) Exploring language learning in bilinguals	June '19
110th Annual Eastern Communication Association Convention (Providence, RI (co-chair and organizer, with C. DeCuba, P. Slocum, & A. Keller) Many Englishes, One Classroom: Creating future spaces for language variation in communication courses	Apr '19
The 176th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (Victoria, BC, Canada) (with J. Lilley & A. Athanasopoulou) Cepstral coefficients successfully distinguish the front Greek fricatives	Nov '18
Intern. Symp. on Bilingual Processing in Adults & Children (Germany) (with N. Philipp-Müller) Digit span error patterns in bilinguals and monolinguals.	May '18
Invited talk: Improving fricative classification with cepstral coefficients and HMM-regions. Speech Processing Lab, National Center for Scientific Research, Paris-Saclay University, France	Apr '18
International Symposium on Bilingualism (Limerick, Ireland) (with J. Hwang) A bilingual advantage in phonetic learning: the acquisition of a vowel 'un-merger'	June '17
IPS Workshop, Institute of Phonetics, Ludwig Maximilians Univ. (Germany) (with I. Vasilescu, B. Vieru and L. Lamel) Phonetic variation and contrast neutralization patterns in Romanian fricatives across different speech styles	May '17
The Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology Workshop (MOT 2017) (Montreal, Canada) (with A. Kochetov and J. Lilley) Acoustic classification of Russian plain and palatalized sibilant fricatives: Spectral vs. cepstral measures	Mar '17
The Annual Conf. of the International Speech Communication Assoc. (San Francisco, CA) (with I. Vogel) The Unit of Speech Encoding: the case of Romanian	Sep '16
LabPhon: the 15th Conference on Laboratory Phonology (Ithaca, NY) (with J. Hwang & R. Lohmann) The role of echoic memory in the initial learning of a second dialect: the case of bilinguals	Jul '16
New Sounds 2016 - 8th International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech (Aarhus, Denmark) (with Y. Rafat & E. Ruiz-Peña) The role of intonation in the perception of accentedness	Jun '16
The 171st Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (Salt Lake City, UT) (with J. Hwang & R. Lohmann) The bilingual advantage in phonetic/phonological learning	May '16
LSRL 46: The Linguistics Symposium on Romance Languages (Stony Brook, NY) (with Y. Rafat & E. Ruiz-Peña) Exploring the bilingual advantage in the acquisition of intonation: the case of Quebec French-English bilinguals	Mar '16

Teaching

CUNY - The Graduate Center: Fall '23

SPCH709: Introduction to Doctoral Research

CUNY - Kingsborough Community College: '17-'23

SPE11: Basic Communication Skills & Practice

SPE12: Interpersonal Communication

SPE26: Intercultural Communication

SPE29: Voice and Articulation

SPE40: Phonetics

SPE41: Language Development

University of Toronto: Spring '17

JLP 315: Language Acquisition

Brock University: '16-'17

LING 1P91: Acoustic and Physiological Phonetics LING 1F25: The Study of Language (full year course)

York University: '15-'16

LING 4220: Acoustic Phonetics

University of Western Ontario: '15-'16

ANTHRO 3337: Sociolinguistics ANTHRO 2243: Applied Linguistics

LING 2288: Introduction to General Linguistics

Wilfrid Laurier University: Fall '14

PSYCH 378: Language Development

University of Delaware: '13-'14; '04-'10

LING 101: Introduction to Linguistics (regular and honors sections)

CGSC 102: Language, Mind, Society LING 222: Language and Gender

LING 253: Laboratory Phonetics

LING 433/633: Acoustic Phonetics (undergraduate and graduate sections)

LING 444: First Language Development

ELI course: Culture and Pedagogy (for international graduate TAs)

Concordia University: '10-'13

LING 200: Intro to Linguistic Science

LING 353: Psycholinguistics

LING 372: Descriptive & Instrumental Phonetics

LING 373: Phonological Analysis

LING 425: Language Acquisition and Universal Grammar

LING 473: Advanced Phonology (The Phonology-Phonetics Interface)

LING 429: Experimental Phonology

LING 490: Tutorial - The Physiology of Speech

LING 490: Tutorial - Language and the Brain

LING 495: Tutorial (Master's) - Experimental Designs in Phonology

Other

Languages:

- Romanian (native), English, French (fluent), Spanish (advanced), German (beginner).

Sports:

-completed 6 full marathons (26.2 miles) between 2009-2014 (PR 3h50).

Volunteering:

- adoption processor for Second Chance Rescue NYC (Feb 2019-Sept 2020), Brooklyn NY
- weekly activity partner on the Alzheimer's Patient Floor (June 2014-July 2017), New Horizons Tower Seniors Community, Toronto ON