

# Nika Jurov

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## Education

**PhD in Linguistics** | June 2024 (expected)

Advisors: Naomi Feldman, William Idsardi

**University of Maryland, USA**

**Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (NACS) Certificate** | June 2022

Advisors: Naomi Feldman, William Idsardi

**University of Maryland, USA**

**MA in Phonology and Phonetics (Linguistics)** | June 2019

Advisor: Ewan Dunbar

**University of Paris (Formerly: Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7, France)**

**BA & MA in French and Comparative Literature** | June 2014

**University of Ljubljana, Slovenia**

## Research Interests

### Broad:

- Cognitive modeling, speech perception, neural mechanisms, attention, memory, scaling models to human level, AI.

### Narrow:

- Adaptation to accent, speech features weighting;
- Memory of speech sounds, repetition effects on memory;
- Bayesian models, generative deep learning models, associative networks, Hopfield networks.

## Publications

2023, August | **Jurov, N.**, Idsardi, B., Feldman N. A neural architecture for selective attention to speech features. In *INTERSPEECH (2023)*.

2023, August | **Jurov, N.**, Wolf, G., Idsardi, B., Feldman N. Speech features are weighted by selective attention. In *Proceedings of the Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience*.

2019, July | Millet, J., **Jurov, N.**, Dunbar, E. Comparing unsupervised speech learning directly to human performance in speech perception. In *CogSci 2019-41st Annual Meeting of Cognitive Science Society*.

## Teaching/Mentorship

### Hopfield Networks | Guest Lecture | Fall 2023

- Guest lecture on how and why Hopfield networks implement associative memory.

### Models of Speech Perception | Instructor of Record | Spring 2023

- Designed and implemented a curriculum that explored mechanisms associated with speech perception.
- Led class sessions and moderated discussion on primary literature.
- Provided guidance on formation of research questions and oversaw research proposals as final projects.
- Taught Python to implement simple cognitive mechanisms, graded and provided feedback on all assignments.

### Mentorship: Grayson Wolf | Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

- Provided guidance on understanding primary literature, advised on computational extraction of corpus data and provided guidance on formation of research questions.

### Historical Linguistics | Teaching Assistant | Spring 2022

- Led discussion of phonology related problems in class and worked through solutions with students.
- Held regular office hours, graded and provided feedback on all assignments.

### Phonology 1 | Teaching Assistant | Fall 2021

- Led discussion of phonology problems in class and worked through solutions with students.
- Held regular office hours, graded and provided feedback on all assignments.

### LING200 | Technical support | Fall 2020

- Helped with technical support for online zoom classes.

### Mentorship: Elisa Lannelongue, MA project | Spring 2018

- Provided guidance on understanding primary literature, advised on computational modeling of experimental results.

## Research Experience

### Non-native speech perception modeling | Fall 2018 & Spring 2019

Cognitive Machine Learning, ENS/Université de Paris | Advisor: Ewan Dunbar

### Lexical comprehension of phonological distractors | Fall 2017

Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, Université de Paris | Advisor: Caterina Donati

## Awards and Honors

### Summer Fellowship | June 2023

School of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland

### Goldhaber Travel Grant | May 2023

The Graduate School, University of Maryland

**ARHU Graduate Student Travel Award | May 2023**

School of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland

**International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA) | May 2023**

The Graduate School,, University of Maryland

**Summer Fellowship | June 2022**

School of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland

**PhD Fellowship | September 2019 - June 2024**

University of Maryland

**Campus France Master Scholarship | September 2017 - June 2018**

Foreign Affairs, Ministry of France

**Erasmus+ Scholarship | February 2013-May 2013**

Stipend for internship in Reims, France

**Erasmus Scholarship | September 2011 - June 2012**

Stipend for exchange students | Slovenian government and European Union

**Zois Award | September 2004 - June 2014**

Stipend for talented students | Slovenian government

## Service

**CCN 2023 Reviewer | May 2023**

Ad hoc reviewer for CCN 2023 submissions.

**Search Committee | December 2022 - April 2023, University of Maryland**

Participated as a student member of the search committee for three assistant professor hires.

**Phonology Circle | January 2021-August 2022, University of Maryland**

Organizer of lab research meetings on the topics of phonology, speech, cognitive modeling.

**Conseil de l'UFR | September 2018-July 2019, University of Paris**

Student representative for the Linguistics department administration

## Computational Skills

**Programming:** Python | Matlab | R

**Packages:** TensorFlow | PyTorch | Keras | SciPy | NumPy | Pandas | Jupyter | Seaborn

**Toolkits:** Git | Praat | SoX | Audacity | Kaldi

## Languages

**Slovenian** (native)

**Serbo-Croatian** (native)

**English** (fluent)

**French** (fluent)

**Spanish** (elementary)

## Professional Affiliations

**Cognitive Science Society** | 2019 - 2022

**ISCA** | 2023 -