







# Jessica M. Alexander

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## Education

- anticip. 2028 **Ph.D. in Neurolinguistics**, The University of Texas at Austin  
Research topic: Impact of emotional prosody on cognitive and neural function of the listener  
Methodologies: electroencephalography (EEG), signal processing, machine learning, statistics  
Advisor: Dr. Fernando Llanos
- 2004 **B.A. in Linguistics** with distinction, Boston University, *summa cum laude*  
Thesis: "Frequency, Prosody, and French Liaison: Testing Bybee's Hypothesis"  
Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Barnes

## Publications

**Alexander, J. M.** and Llanos, F. (*in review*). High-Arousal Emotional Speech Enhances Speech Intelligibility and Emotion Recognition in Noise.

**Alexander, J. M.** and Buzzell, G. A. (2024). Emotional Context and Predictability in Naturalistic Reading Aloud. *Emotion*, 24(3), 617-627.

## Conferences

**Alexander, J. M.** and Llanos, F. (2024, 18-22 November) Benefits of emotional prosody for sentence intelligibility and emotion recognition in speech-shaped noise: acoustic and perceptual basis. [Flashtalk]. 187<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, Virtual Meeting.

Sahar, L., **Alexander, J. M.**, Buzzell, G.A. (2024, April 1) Unfamiliarity reveals prosodic correlates of social anxiety: Evidence from naturalistic reading. [Poster presentation]. GSAW Scholarly Forum at Florida International University, Miami, FL, USA.

**Alexander, J. M.**, Lopez-Nuñez, A., Rodriguez, B. M., Duncombe, A. N., Malykke, S. B., Buzzell, G. A. (2022, October 6-8). Effects of Lexical Valence and Emotional (In)Congruency in Naturalistic Reading Aloud. [Poster presentation]. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

## Grants & Fellowships

- 2024-2025 **Scholars Lab Fellowship**, UT Austin [\$3000]
- 2024 **Carlota Smith Fellowship**, UT Austin [\$1062]
- 2024 **Hertz Fellowship Finalist**, Fannie and John Hertz Foundation
- 2001-2004 **Merit Scholarship**, Boston University [50% coverage of tuition]

## Professional Experience (curated for relevance)

### 2021-2023 **Neural Dynamics of Control Laboratory at Florida International University**

PI: Dr. George A. Buzzell

*Cognitive neuroscience research lab focused on cognitive control, self-monitoring, and social anxiety in naturalistic task settings*

#### **Lab Manager**

- Organized launch activities for \$2.5M NIMH grant (R01 MH131637), including hiring staff, establishing procurement lines, coordinating translations of consent forms and study questionnaires, and ensuring completion of university conflict of interest requirements from all study team members
- Contributed to the design, piloting, and drafting of successful \$257K NIMH grant (R21 MH131928)
- Supported PI, graduate students, and research assistants to assure efficient timelines, clear procedures, quality of research, and overall lab organization (across GitHub, Google Drive, Slack and the FIU HPC)
- Managed IRB protocols (~10) for all active studies, including initial submission, amendments, and compliance monitoring
- Recruited, interviewed, and trained undergraduate research assistants
- Assisted with management of lab budget, including expenditure tracking and forecasting
- Facilitated NIMH research award program (R01, R21) grant applications with organizational administration and editorial feedback
- Actively collaborated in the creation of study protocols, data preprocessing, and analysis scripts

### 2011-2021 **Idem Translations, Inc.**

*Largest independently owned translation company in the United States that specializes in serving the life sciences community, from preclinical research to postmarket surveillance*

#### **VP, Quality & Operations (2014-2021)**

- Multi-functional role on geographically-diverse, 20-person team
- Facilitated daily operations and supported company-wide improvement projects
- Monitored metrics to analyze business performance and quality initiatives; translated data findings to top management to inform strategic decision-making
- Created informative, actionable reporting to highlight business strengths and opportunities
- Communicated complex quality system issues to management and production staff
- Represented production group as interface with database manager for increased data access and UX improvements to homegrown, SQL-based, project- and business-management tool
- Recruited and trained new project managers on system tools, processes, and expectations
- Oversaw recruitment and relationship maintenance for pool of 700+ freelance vendors
- Administered toolkit of technological resources available to project management team

#### **Director, Quality (2012-2014)**

- Built data funnels and developed analytics to shift organization from intuition- to fact-based decision-making
- Rewrote full set of operational procedures in order to achieve certification to two additional ISO standards
- Forged group dynamic obsessed with getting every detail right in the service of our customers

#### **Project Manager (2011-2012)**

- Managed life sciences translation projects (quotation, budgeting, schedule, vendor coordination, client interface)

### 2007-2011 **Self-Employed Translator and Editor**

- Managed all aspects of sole proprietorship, translating French-to-English and Chinese-to-English documents with a focus on marketing copy, creative content, and literary endeavors
- Edited creative English content for grammar, style, voice, and readability

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## Skills

### Programming:

R ●●●●● Python ●●●●● MATLAB ●●●●● SQL ●●●●● Praat ●●●●●

### Data Analysis:

ML ●●●●● Excel ●●●●● Signal Processing ●●●●●  
DL (PyTorch) ●●●●● NLP ●●●●● Multi-Channel Arrays ●●●●●

### Organization:

Google Drive ●●●●● Zotero ●●●●● Markdown ●●●●●  
Git ●●●●● Linux HPC ●●●●● Acrobat ●●●●●

### Data Collection:

REDCap ●●●●● SONA ●●●●● PsychoPy ●●●●● Pavlovia ●●●●● Gorilla ●●●●●

### Presentation:

ggplot ●●●●● Word ●●●●● PowerPoint ●●●●● InDesign ●●●●● WordPress ●●●●● Quarto ●●●●●

### Languages:

English ●●●●● (native)  
French ●●●●● (fluent)  
Mandarin ●●●●● (intermediate, spoken & written)

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## Honors & Awards

- 2004 **BU College Prize and MFL Award for Excellence**, Boston University
- 2004 **Phi Beta Kappa** induction
- 2004 **Shmuel Traum Translation Prize**, Boston University [translations from Colette's *La femme cachée*]
- 2003 **Barbara Argote Junior Award in Linguistics**, Boston University
- 2003 **Phi Sigma Iota** induction

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## Relevant Coursework

### University of Texas at Austin (2023-present)

- Computational Methods in Linguistics
- Bilingual Brain
- Phonetics
- Neurolinguistics
- Syntax
- Phonology
- Semantics

### Online Continuing Education (2021-2022)

- Basic Statistics (Coursera)
- Inferential Statistics (Coursera)

- Fundamentals of Neuroscience: The Electrical Properties of the Neuron (HarvardX)
- Fundamentals of Neuroscience: Neurons and Networks (HarvardX)
- Fundamentals of Neuroscience: The Brain (HarvardX)
- Neuromatch Academy, Computational Neuroscience (July 11-29, 2022)

(Last updated: 2024-11-05)