

PERSONAL INFORMATION



Simone Gastaldon

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Date of birth 20/03/1989 | Nationality Italian

WORK EXPERIENCE /
COLLABORATIONS

2016-present

Science communicator

Minerva – Associazione di Divulgazione Scientifica

- Since November 2016 I am part of the editorial staff of “Minerva – Associazione di Divulgazione Scientifica”, a non-profit association devoted to bringing science to the general Italian public, both through web content and events. I write short articles and posts on social media focusing on cognitive sciences, especially from a biological perspective, covering topics such as genetics, human evolution, and neuroscience.

Website: <http://noidiminerva.it/>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Minerva-Associazione-di-Divulgazione-Scientifica-161460900714958/?fref=ts>

2015–2016

Research Collaborator / Volunteer

La.Br.I.S. research group, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

- From September 2015 to July 2016 I have been working as a volunteer with the “Language and Brain Interface Structures” (La.Br.I.S.) research group at the University of Padova. I collaborated on an electrophysiological study on the processing of linguistic referents using the electroencephalography / event-related potential (EEG / ERP) technique, and I have been working on stimuli preparation, participants recruitment, EEG data collection in the lab, and EEG pre-processing. The research group is coordinated by post-doc research fellows, at the time affiliated to the Department of Neurosciences and the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies (Dr. Chiara Zanini, Dr. Francesca Franzon, Dr. Giorgio Arcara).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2016-present

PhD in Cognitive Science and Language

University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

- Since September 2016 I am a PhD student in Cognitive Science and Language at the Universitat de Barcelona. My project, in the context of biolinguistics / cognitive biology, will focus on the role of the cerebellum in higher cognition, including language, and its relation to neurodevelopmental disorders like autism, trying to build linking hypotheses from the level of genes, to neural, and behavioral/cognitive phenotypes. I will also explore in an evolutionary perspective how these aspects relates to the evolution of cognition in Anatomically Modern Humans.
- Supervisor: Prof. Cedric Boeckx
- Research group: Biolinguistics Initiative Barcelona [Website: <http://bioling.ub.edu>]

2012–2015

Master of Arts in Linguistics (Grade: 110/110 cum laude)

University of Padova, Padova, Italy

- **Relevant coursework:** English language and translation (level C2), phonology, morphology, syntax, neuropsychology, psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology, logic, sociolinguistics, Italian dialectology; experimental thesis on language and cognition.
- **Thesis details:**
Title: *Effects of Morphosyntactic Number Agreement on Referential Numerosity Processing*
Supervisor: Prof. Cecilia Poletto
Co-supervisors: Dr. Chiara Zanini, Dr. Francesca Franzon, Dr. Giorgio Arcara

2008–2012 **Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages and Literatures**
(Grade: 106/110)
University of Padova, Padova, Italy

2003–2008 **Diploma in Computer Science (Grade: 88/100)**
ITS L. Einaudi, Montebelluna (TV), Italy

Other courses, seminars,
summer schools, and
workshops attended

- Relevant subjects: object-oriented programming, information technology, website design, databases and SQL, statistics, English language for information technology.
- **February–June 2017**: courses attended at the University of Padova, Italy:
 - Anthropology [Molecular Anthropology] (MSc in Natural Sciences) (Dr. Luca Pagani)
 - Phylogeny and Evolution (MSc in Evolutionary Biology) (Prof. Giuseppe Fusco)
- **September 2016**: Beyond Language Learning, workshop, 29–30 September, Universitat de Barcelona and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- **July 2016**: CogEvo 5th edition – Rovereto Workshop on Cognition and Evolution, 6–9 July, CIMeC (Center for Mind/Brain Sciences) / University of Trento, Rovereto, Italy.
- **April 2016**: intensive course “Statistical analysis of event-related potentials with R”, held by Dr. Giorgio Arcara, 4–7 April, Corsi Avanzati per la Ricerca Scientifica [Advanced Courses for Scientific Research], School of Psychology, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.
- **October–December 2015**: course of Philosophy of Biological Sciences, held by Prof. Telmo Pievani and aimed primarily to undergraduate and graduate students of Biological Sciences, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.
- **November 2015**: international workshop “Theory of Language and the Debate on Language Origins”, 18–20 November, University of Trento, Trento, Italy.
- **August 2015**: “Language Science: Current Methods and Interdisciplinary Perspectives” (course leader: James McQueen), Radboud Summer School, 2–7 August, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- **May 2015**: “Milanguage”, international spring school in language science, 27–29 May, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy.
- **November 2014**: introductory seminar to compositional semantics (held by Prof. Malte Zimmermann), University Ca’ Foscari, Venice, Italy.
- **April–June 2013**: introductory seminar to experimental phonetics (held by Prof. Maria Grazia Busà), University of Padova, Padova, Italy.
- **March–April 2013**: introductory seminar to fundamentals of Indo-European linguistics, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.
- **May 2011**: 4th international workshop of terminology and specialised translation “Modena Lexi-Term”, 12–13 May, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian, Venetan (regional language)

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C1	C1	C2
	PET (Cambridge Certificate, level B1, 2006, pass with merit) FCE (Cambridge Certificate, level B2, 2007, grade B)				
French	B1	B2	A1	A2	B1

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Digital competence

- excellent command of Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- basic experience with object-oriented programming (C++) and mark-up (HTML, CSS) languages gained during high school
- basic experience with SQL language for database query gained during high school
- basic experience in using DMDX and PsychoPy as software solutions for experimental design in psycholinguistics

- basic experience in using R (statistics software)
- basic experience in using BrainVision Recorder and ActiCAP Control for EEG recording
- basic experience in using Brainstorm (a Matlab tool for analysing EEG and MEG data)
- basic experience in using Praat (phonetic analysis software)
- basic experience in using genome browsers and genomic databases
- basic experience in using Adobe Lightroom and Nik Collection for photography post-production

- Other skills
- amateur photography (<https://500px.com/sgastaldon>)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

2016

- **Gastaldon, Simone**, Chiara Zanini, Giorgio Arcara, Francesca Peressotti, Francesca Franzon. "Numerosity and Morphosyntactic Number Agreement: a Psycholinguistic Study on Italian *qualche/alcuni*", *Rivista di Grammatica Generativa: Research in Generative Grammar* 38: 105–113. [<http://hdl.handle.net/11707/5674>]

Seminars

2017

- "Putting 'bio' back into biolinguistics: molecular windows and animal models", February 3, 2017. Seminars of linguistics, Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.

2013

- "'Germanic' dragons: Poetic *Edda*, *Bēowulf*, *The Hobbit*", October 21, 2013. Medieval English Literature course, Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies, University of Padova, Padova, Italy.

Conferences

2017

- Theofanopoulou, C., Messner, A., O'Rourke, T., **Gastaldon, S.**, Martins, P., Alamri, S., Samuels, B., Boeckx, C., *Paleogenomic evidence for self-domestication in Homo sapiens*. Oral presentation at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution conference, April 6–8, 2017, Ecole normale supérieure, Paris, France.

2015

- **Gastaldon, S.**, Zanini, C., Arcara, G., Peressotti, F., Franzon, F., "Referential Numerosity and Morphosyntactic Number Agreement: a Psycholinguistic Study on Italian *qualche/alcuni*". Poster presentation at the international conference 41^o Incontro di Grammatica Generativa (IGG41) [41st Generative Grammar Meeting], February 26, 2015, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Perugia, Italy.

Other interests

- Popular science
- Music
- Amateur photography and post-production (I also collaborated to the creation of the cover artwork for an EP by an emergent Manchester-based experimental musical project)
- Cooking
- Ancient Scandinavian culture and mythology