PERSONAL DETAILS

Family name, First name: Vulchanova, Mila

Researcher unique identifier(s) - ORCID: 0000-0002-1299-9654, Loop profile: 72592; AD Scientific Index ID: 1809528; Scopus ID: 26432360500, Research Gate; Google Scholar (Mila Vulchanova)

URL for web site: http://www.ntnu.edu/employees/mila.vulchanova

***EDUCATION**

1996	PhD: in Linguistics, **Disputation date:** *08.06.1996.* Faculty of Humanities, NTNU - Norway
1984	MA in English Linguistics (cum laude) Faculty of Classical and Modern Languages, Sofia University - Bulgaria

***CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

2002 -	Professor Department of Language & Literature, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
2005 -	Director of the NTNU Language Acquisition and Language Processing Lab (https://www.ntnu.edu/langdevlab)
2013-2021	Scientific Director, Norwegian National Graduate School in Linguistics
1997 – 2002	Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages – NTNU, Norway

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

Google Scholar citations: ≈ 3000, H index: 31, (last 5 years: 23)

I have published scholarly work with a number of high impact journals in the field of cognition, psychology, linguistics, psycholinguistics and developmental disorders, such as *Nature Human Behaviour, Psychological Science, Psychonomic Bulletin and Review, Language Learning, Learning and Individual Differences, Autism, Autism Research, Dyslexia, Journal of Logic, Language and Information, Cognitive Neuropsychology, PloS one, Frontiers in Neuroscience* and book chapters and edited volumes with Oxford University Press, De Gruyter, John Benjamins Publishing. I have extensive experience with editing scholarly volumes and special thematic issues with journals, among which "Motion Encoding in Language and Space" (with *Oxford University Press*), "Language and Perception" (with *Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science*), "Language Development in the Digital Age" (*Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*). I have edited a Research Topic with *Autism, Frontiers in Psychiatry* "Physical and Medical Conditions Associated with Autism", and am currently editing the Special issue on "Living in a Digital Ecology" with *Developmental Psychology.*

I started my research career with work on verb semantics and the intersection with grammatical categories, such as aspect across a number of languages, with a focus on comparing Germanic and Slavic languages. Over the past 20 years, my research agenda and expertise expanded substantially to include advanced experimental work in cognition in its relationship to language competence in development and across the life-span, language use, language development and the cognitive and language profiles of atypical populations (autism, dyslexia, developmental language disorder). My recent publications include:

1. Coventry, K., Gudde, H., Diessel, H., Collier, J., Guijarro-Fuentes, P., **Vulchanova, M.** et al. (2023). Spatial communication systems across languages reflect universal action constraints. *Nature Human Behaviour* https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-023-01697-4 (23 citations)
2. **Vulchanova, M.,** Vulchanov, V., Fritz, I., Milburn, E. A. (2019) Language and perception: Introduction to the special issue "Speakers and listeners in the visual world". *Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science*, vol. 3 (2). (46 citations)
3. Bochynska, A., Coventry, K. R., Vulchanov, V., & **Vulchanova, M.** (2020). Tell me where it is: Selective difficulties in spatial language on the autism spectrum. *Autism*, 24(7), 174 0 –1757 (25 citations).
4. Larson, C., Bochynska, A. & **Vulchanova, M.** (2024). Mental rotation and language in autism spectrum disorder. Autism Research. https://doi.org/10.1002/aur.3128 (3 citations)

In a series of studies (1-4), I have contributed to the study of spatial cognition and spatial communication across languages and cultures (1: study concept, design and selection of languages), the interaction between language and spatial cognition, both in neurotypical (2: theory and concept) and atypical populations (3, 4: theory, study concept, design).

My sustained interest in the cognitive mechanisms which support language development in children, the conceptual underpinnings of words, their acquisition and use, including extended, figurative use of language, in typically developing children and children with developmental disorders (autism, developmental language disorder) has been addressed in a number of highly cited publications:

5. **Vulchanova, M.**, Foyn, C.H., Nilsen, R.A. & Sigmundsson, H. (2014). Links between phonological memory, first language competence and second language competence in 10-year-old children. *Learning and Individual Differences*, 35 (2014), pp. 87-95, 10.1016/j.lindif.2014.07.016 (75 citations)

6. **Vulchanova, M**., Saldaña, D. Chahboun, S., Vulchanov, V. (2015). Figurative language processing in atypical populations: The ASD perspective. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, vol. 9:24. (179 citations)

7. **Vulchanova, M.,** Vulchanov, V., Stankova, M. (2011). Idiom comprehension in the first language: a developmental study. *Vigo International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, vol. 8. (91 citations)

8. **Vulchanova, M.,** Vulchanov, V. & Allen, M. (2023). Word learning in ASD: the sensorimotor, the perceptual and the symbolic. *J Cult Cogn Sci* 7, 9–22 (11 citations.)

9. **Vulchanova, M.,** Saldaña, D. & Baggio, G. (2020). Word knowledge and word processing in developmental deficits. *Word Knowledge and Word Usage: a Cross-disciplinary Guide to the Mental Lexicon*, Mouton de Gruyter. (25 citations).

10. Chahboun, S., Vulchanov, V., Saldaña, D., Eshuis, H., & **Vulchanova, M.** (2016). Can you play with fire and not hurt yourself? A comparative study in figurative language comprehension between individuals with and without autism spectrum disorder. *PloS one*, 11(12), e0168571. (73 citations)

My seminal work on language development and the underlying cognitive mechanisms which support it in children with autism, and specifically, highly-verbal children with a talent for second language learning has received due recognition in the field:

11. **Vulchanova, M.,** Talcott, J.B., Vulchanov, V. & Stankova, M. (2012). Language against the odds, or rather not: The weak central coherence hypothesis and language. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 25 (1), 13-30 (73 cit.)

12. **Vulchanova, M.,** Talcott, J. B., Vulchanov, V., Stankova, M., Eshuis, R. (2013). Morphology in autism spectrum disorders: Local processing bias and language. *Cognitive Neuropsychology*, 29 (7-8). (57 citations)

13. **Vulchanova, M.,** Baggio, G., Cangelosi, A., & Smith, L. (2017). Language development in the digital age. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 11, 1-7. https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00447 (84 citations).

A well-received and well-cited part of my research addresses the predictors of language ability in neuro-typical children and children with autism/at risk for autism, such as deictic gestures and early synchronisation and neural entrainment to speech.

14. Ramos-Cabo, S., Vulchanov, V., & **Vulchanova, M.** (2019). Gesture and language trajectories in early development: An overview from the autism spectrum disorder perspective. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, 1211. (90 citations).

15. Ramos-Cabo, S., Vulchanov, V. & **Vulchanova, M.** (2021), Different Ways of Making a Point: A Study of Gestural Communication in Typical and Atypical Early Development. *Autism Research*, 14: 984-996. https://doi.org/10.1002/aur.2438 (32 citations).

16. Sjuls, G.S., Harvei, N.N. & **Vulchanova, M.D.** (2024). The relationship between neural phase entrainment and statistical word-learning: A scoping review. *Psychon Bull Rev* 31, 1399–1419. https://doi.org/10.3758/s13423-023-02425-9 (7 citations).

17. Sjuls, G., **Vulchanova, M.** & Gervain, J. (2026). Prosody as an Entry Point into Language Structure in Early Language Acquisition. In: Meyer, L. & Strauss, A. (eds). *Rhythms of Speech and Language: Physiology, Cognition, Culture* (Cambridge University Press).

Peer recognition

COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

2018 – 2021	Advisory Board for research project "Broken Grammar and Beyond", (University of Copenhagen) Danish Research Council
1998 -	PhD Examination Committees - 16 in total - Norway, the UK, France, Italy, Finland, Sweden, India, Bulgaria
1999-	17 search committees for university positions (professor/associate and assistant professor level) in Norway (Bergen University, Tromsø University, Agder University, HiNT), Denmark (University of Southern Denmark 1, Aarhus University 1) and Sweden (Stockholm University, 1 professor position; Lund University, 2 professor positions, 1 associate professor, 1 Docent position).

EDITOR & EDITORIAL BOARDS

Specialty Chief Editor for *Language Communication*, *Frontiers in Communication*; Associate Editor and Editorial Board *Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science* (Springer Nature); Associate Editor, *Frontiers - Language Sciences*; Associate Editor, *Frontiers – Cognition*; Guest Editor *Developmental Psychology*; Associate Guest Editor: *Frontiers - Human Neuroscience*; *Frontiers – Speech and Language*; Editorial Board – *Dyslexia; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (Springer Nature); *Lingue e Linguaggio* (Il Mulino); *Bulgarian Language* (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2008-2009 Fellow in Residence of The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Centre for Advanced Study (VLAC)

HONOURS

2002 - Elected Fellow of The Royal Norwegian Society of Science and Letters, Vice chair Humanities Division & group lead Linguistics (DKNVS)

2015 – 2017 President, Scandinavian Association for Language & Cognition (SALC)

MOBILITY (*research stays abroad lasting more than three months*)

2001 Visiting Professor at the University of California, San Diego (Department of Linguistics and Centre for Research in Language (CRL)) – sponsor Prof. Masha Polinsky

2005 Visiting Professor, Lincoln University, UK (Psychology department)

2010 Visiting Professor, School of Life and Health Sciences, Aston University, UK – sponsor Prof. Joel B. Talcott

2010 Visiting Professor, Cognition & Communication Research Centre, Northumbria University, UK – sponsor Prof. Kenny Coventry

2021 Visiting Professor, Universidad de Islas Baleares, Spain

2020-22 Visiting Professor, MIUR Department of Excellence, Linguistics and Cultural Studies & Developmental Disorders Lab, Ca'Foscari University, Venice

SELECTED KEYNOTES & INVITED TALKS

Ca' Foscari University MIUR Department of Excellence talk series, March 2025

The Attentive Listener in the Visual World - AttLiS22 – Conference, University of Connecticut, USA, October, 2022

Beyond Horizons, UAS4EUROPE Biannual Conference, April 2, 2019, Brussels

New Technologies in the Diagnostics and Therapy of Developmental Disorders, March, 23-25 2018, New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Grammar Forum 2017/2018/2021 National Conference, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2017/2018/2021

Beyond Reading 2017 International Conference, Cá Foscari University, Venice, Sept 22-23, 2017

LACompLing 2017 Workshop on Logic and Algorithms in Computational Linguistics 2017, Stockholm, August 16-19, 2017

International Conference *The Attentive Listener (AttLiS) 2017*, Hyderabad University, India, Mar. 2-5th, 2017

University of Essex, *Research Seminar* – May 2016, Invited Talk

Ca Foscari University, Venice *Master Classes in L1 and L2 Acquisition and Language Disorders,* Nov., 2015

University of Reading, *Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism Research Seminar*, February 2015, Invited talk

EU Conference *The Future of the Doctorate*, Riga - May 28-29, 2015, Invited Panel Speaker

NetWordS Summer School *Words: structure, meaning, acquisition, processing***,** Trondheim, August 4-9, 2014, Course Instructor *Neurolinguistic issues in lexical access and organisation*

Wiener Sprachgesellschaft Seminar, Vienna - January, 2014, Invited talk

Rom for Språk International Conference, University of Bergen, March 2013, Plenary talk

Advanced Methods in Language & Perception, Training School 1, Aston University, September, 2013, Course Instructor

Research Seminar *Centre of Excellence for the Biology of Memory - Kavli Institute*, Invited talk, Feb. 2012

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MAJOR GRANTS

2025-2031	ERC Synergy Grant *SHAPE* (10 459 000 €), Corresponding PI
2024-2028	*SCALA* HorizonEurope Excellent Science MSCA ITN, WP Lead & PI (4 MLN €)
2021-2024	*SellSTEM* Horzion2020 Excellent Science Marie Curie ITN, WP Lead & PI (4 MLN €)
2020-2024	*EDULANG* NFR INTPART grant (4,5 MLN NOK), project lead
2019-2024	*e-LADDA* Horizon2020 Excellent Science Marie Curie ITN, Scientific Coordinator (4 MLN €)
2016-2020	*DCOMM* Horizon2020 Excellent Science Marie Curie ITN, WP Lead & PI (4 MLN €)
2015-2019	*COST Action IS1406* "Enhancing children's oral language skills across Europe and beyond - a collaboration focusing on interventions for children with difficulties learning their first language" Management Committee Member, Training Coordinator
2013-2016	EU Marie Curie 7 FP *LanPercept* Initial Training Network project, Scientific Coordinator (4,2 MLN €)
2013-2016	NFR FRIHUM project "Situated reference in Language Acquisition", project lead (7 000 000 NOK)
2013-2021	NFR Norwegian National Graduate School of Linguistics and Philology, project leader and Scientific Director (24 000 000 NOK)

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND RESEARCH FELLOWS

2000 -	23 doctoral dissertations as main supervisor (NTNU), 3 postdocs, over 100 MA theses, Faculty of Humanities, NTNU – Norway
2013-2020	7 NTNU-external and international PhD theses: University of Oslo, Tamar Kalandadze; cotutelle, University of Seville, Spain, Martina Micai; co-supervision, Aston University, UK, Dorota Smith; cotutelle, Copenhagen University, Katrine Flacon Søby; PhD Committee, Georg Augustus University, Göttingen, Martina de Eccher & Fatih Sivridag; PhD Committee, Bangor University, Estefania Burga

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2007-2013	PhD Programme in Linguistics, NTNU – Director
2006-2020	Acting Equal Opportunities Ombud – Faculty of Humanities, NTNU
2001-2013	International MPhil Programme in Language Acquisition and English Linguistics, NTNU - Director

REFEREE

Cognition, Developmental Psychology, Developmental Review, Infant Behaviour and Development, Developmental Science, Learning and Individual Differences, Psychological Review, Acta Psychologica, Language and Cognition, Dyslexia, Research in Developmental Disabilities, Nature Neuroscience Letters, Journal of Child Language, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, Journal of Communication Disorders, Scientific Reports, International Journal of Bilingualism, PloS One, Spatial Cognition and Computation, Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science, Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, The Linguistic Review, Lingua, Studia Linguistica, Folia Linguistica, Journal of Linguistics, Cognitive Linguistics,

Slavic Journal of Linguistics, International Journal of Applied Linguistics, Child: Care, Health and Development, Human Factors, Nordic Journal of Linguistics

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION

2023	FWO Interdisciplinary Panel, Member and rapporteur
2022 – current	Estonian Research Council, Chair of Expert Panel
2021 – current	Singapore Agency for Science, Technology & Research
2021 – current	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique FNRS Research Excellence Programme
2020 – 2024	Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) – Expert Panel College
2016 - current	EU Horizon 2020 FET fast track Innovation programme & Pathfinder programme, Vice Chair and MSCA-IF Programme, evaluator
2016 - current	ESF College of Expert Reviewers, ESF Panel Member
2017- current	EU COST Actions
2020	National Research Agency (ANR) - France
2010	The European Science Foundation (ESF), John Benjamins, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press
2008	The National Science Foundation - USA
2011	The Austrian Science Fund
2009, 2019	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
2013	The Croatian Science Foundation
2013, 2025	National Science Centre of Poland
2013, 2022	Riksbankens Fond (Sweden)
2012 - 2018	The Velux Research Fund (Denmark)
2013- current	Det Frie Forskningsråd and Det Strategiske Forskningsråd (Denmark)
2018	Scientific Committee member, *15th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference*, Japan

MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

2023-*current*	COST Action *Enabling multilingual eye-tracking data collection for human and machine language processing research* (MultiplEYE)
2020-current	Cognitive Science Society
2010-current	Association for Psychological Science (APS)
2016-current	Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL)
2016-current	European Literacy Network (ELN), Founding Member
2016-current	COST Action Network *Improving Children's Oral Language Skills in Europe and beyond*
2011-2014	ESF Research Network Programme *NetWordS*, Member of the Programme Board
2011-2014	NordForsk Research Network Language and Perception (2011-2014), Coordinator