

MALAK ELMESSIRY

Curriculum Vitae, September 2026

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Northwestern University
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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

September 2023 – June 2028

- Ph.D. Candidate in Communication Sciences and Disorders
- NSF GRFP Fellow
- Advisors: Dr. Viorica Marian, Dr. Adriana Weisleder, Dr. Lisa Fazio (Vanderbilt University)
Qualifying Research Project: *The Illusory Truth Effect Varies Within and Across Languages in Bilinguals*

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

August 2019 – May 2023

- Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience
- Minor in Language Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Bilingualism; the effect of language and higher-order cognition; memory; cognitive biases; decision making; science communication and education

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Candidate

September 2023 – Present

Bilingualism and Psycholinguistics Research Laboratory | Northwestern University

- Advisor: Dr. Viorica Marian

Visiting Ph.D. Student

January 2024 – March 2024

Child Language Lab | Northwestern University

- Advisor: Dr. Adriana Weisleder

Research Assistant

January 2020 – May 2023

Building Knowledge Lab | Vanderbilt University

- Advisors: Dr. Lisa Fazio, Dr. Raunak Pillai

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Elmessiry, M.**, Chuang, J., Huerta, A., & Marian, V. (2025). Myths and Realities of Communication Disorders in Bilinguals. *Psychology Today*. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/language-and-mind/202505/myths-and-realities-of-communication-disorders-in-bilinguals>
2. Pillai, R. M., **Elmessiry, M.**, Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2026). Is that true? Examining the effects of question wording on the effectiveness of political fact checks. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 32(1), 80–98. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000559>
3. Williams, A. I., Chung-Fat-Yim, A., **Elmessiry, M.**, & Marian, V. (manuscript in preparation). Depression symptoms differ across languages in bilinguals.
4. **Elmessiry, M.**, & Marian, V. (manuscript in preparation). The Illusory Truth Effect Varies Within and Across Languages in Bilinguals.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Elmessiry, M.**, Pillai, R. M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2022 April). “Examining the effect of question phrasing on memory for fact-checks” Abstracts of the 2022 Spring *Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Fair*, Nashville, TN
2. **Elmessiry, M.**, Pillai, R. M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2022 April). “Examining the effect of question phrasing on memory for fact-checks” Abstracts of the *Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association*, Chicago, IL.
3. **Elmessiry, M.**, Pillai, R. M., Brown-Schmidt, S., & Fazio, L. K. (2023 Feb). “Examining the effect of question phrasing on belief revision” Abstracts of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention*, Atlanta, GA

4. **Elmessiry, M.**, Williams, A. I., Chung-Fat-Yim, A., & Marian, V. (2024 October). Bilinguals express depression symptoms differently across languages. Abstracts of the *Bilingualism Forum*. Chicago, Illinois
5. **Elmessiry, M.**, Williams, A. I., Chung-Fat-Yim, A., & Marian, V. (2025 April). Language shapes expression of depression symptoms in Spanish-English bilinguals. Abstracts of the *Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association*, Chicago, IL. Winner of the *Graduate Student Best Paper Award*.
6. Al-Beeshi, A., **Elmessiry, M.**, Suh, K., & Marian, V. (2025 April). "Language context influences Arabic-English bilinguals' susceptibility to misinformation." Abstracts of the *Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association*, Chicago, IL.
7. **Elmessiry, M.**, Al-Beeshi, A., Suh, K., Al Zaabi, A., & Marian, V. (2025 May). "Language shapes expression of depression symptoms in Spanish-English bilinguals" Abstracts of the *Cognitive Neuroscience of Individual Differences in Adult Language Learning Conference*, Chicago, IL
8. **Elmessiry, M.**, Al-Beeshi, A., Suh, K., & Marian, V. (2025 June). "Susceptibility to misinformation differs across bilingual speakers' first and second languages: Evidence from the illusory truth effect" Abstracts of the *Biennial Meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory & Cognition (SARMAC)*, County Kildare, Ireland
9. **Elmessiry, M.**, Al-Beeshi, A., Suh, K., & Marian, V. (2025 June). "Bilingual Arabic-English speakers' susceptibility to misinformation varies across languages" Abstracts of the Annual Meeting of the *International Symposium on Bilingualism*, San Sebastian, Spain
10. **Elmessiry, M** & Marian, V. (2026 April). "Second-Language Use and Language Switching Increase the Illusory Truth Effect" Abstracts of the *Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association*, Chicago, IL.
11. **Elmessiry, M** & Marian, V. (2026 November). "Language Modulates the Illusory Truth Effect in Bilinguals" Abstracts of the *Psychonomic Society 67th Annual Meeting*, San Diego, CA.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

TGS Conference Travel Grant (\$1,100)	May 2025
MPA Graduate Student Paper Award (\$200)	April 2025
NSF GRFP Fellowship: STEM Education and Learning Research (\$111,000)	March 2023
Reverend Beverly A. Asbury Award for Interfaith Dialogue (\$400)	April 2022
Vanderbilt University Interfaith Scholar Fellowship (\$800)	August 2022 – February 2023
Kojaian Global Fellowship and Global Summer Fellowship (\$8,500)	May 2022
LittleJohn Summer Research Scholarship (\$1,000)	Summer 2021
Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program Fellowship (\$5,000)	Summer 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Pediatric Language Disorders <i>Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Northwestern University</i>	March 2024 – June 2024
- Instructor: Dr. Megan Roberts - Overall instruction rating: mean = 5.64, median = 6 (out of 6)	
Teaching Assistant, Phonetics <i>Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Northwestern University</i>	January 2024 – March 2024
- Instructor: Dr. Judith Roman - Guest Lecture: Accents and Dialects	
Teaching Assistant, Language Science <i>Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Northwestern University</i>	August 2023 – December 2023
Instructor: Dr. Tracy Conner	
Learning Assistant, Developmental Neuroscience Course <i>Department of Neuroscience Vanderbilt University</i>	August 2021 – December 2022
Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Catania	

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Graduate:

Review for the <i>Journal on Monolingual and Bilingual Speech</i>	June 2026
Trainee in The Graduate School <i>Mentoring Up + Down Workshop</i>	April 2026
Reviewer for the <i>15th International Symposium on Bilingualism</i>	December 2024 – January 2025
Volunteer for <i>Bilingualism Matters Chicago</i>	October 2024

Mentee in The Graduate School <i>Diversity Peer Mentor Program</i>	October 2023 – June 2024
Research Mentorship	
• Aalya Al-Beeshi, <i>Research Assistant</i> • Kelly Suh, <i>Research Assistant</i> • Alzaharaa Al Zaabi, <i>Research Assistant</i>	October 2023 – June 2025 January 2024 – June 2025 January 2024 – June 2025
Undergraduate:	
President of the Vanderbilt Interfaith Council	Fall 2019 – May 2023
Cofounder and Vice President of Minority Women in STEM	Fall 2020 – May 2023
Member of the College of Arts and Science Dean’s Undergraduate Advisory Board	Fall 2020 – May 2023
Undergraduate Delegate for the University Diversity Council	Fall 2020 – May 2023

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages: English (native) Egyptian Arabic (native), Modern Standard Arabic (proficient)

Skills: Windows and Mac, Microsoft Office, statistical analysis and programming (R and R studio), survey design (Qualtrics), participant management (RedCap, CloudResearch, Prolific), social media and graphic design (Canva)