

Brianna L. Yamasaki, Ph.D.

March 2021

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Post-Doctoral Research Scholar *Aug. 2018-Present*
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

EDUCATION

Doctorate in Cognitive Psychology *Jun. 2018*
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with Honors *Jun. 2012*
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Grants in Preparation

R21 (PI: Yamasaki) *to be submitted Jun. 2021*
This longitudinal developmental cognitive neuroscience grant is aimed at investigating how executive attention supports the development of early second-language reading skills in preschool to kindergarten readers.

Previously Funded Fellowships

Earl and Mary Lou Hunt Endowed Graduate Fellowship *Jun. 2017-Sep. 2017*
This fellowship supports doctoral students who are pursuing their passions and conducting research independent from their advisors.

Stroum Endowed Minority Fellowship *Sep. 2016-Jun. 2017*
This diversity-based fellowship supports a doctoral student's academic study and research during one of their final years as a graduate student.

AWARDS

Research

Warren Lambert Memorial Award *Sep. 2019*
This award recognizes excellent scientific presentation skills.

Jason Albrecht Outstanding Young Scientist Award *Jul. 2019*
This award recognizes outstanding doctoral dissertation research.

American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award *Nov. 2015-Nov. 2016*
This award assists with dissertation-related research costs.

Teaching

University of Washington Excellence in Teaching Award *Apr. 2017*
This award recognizes extraordinary teaching ability.

Department of Psychology Distinguished Teaching Award *May 2016*
This award honors significant contributions through teaching.

Service

Department of Psychology and Human Dev. Excellence in Mentoring Dec. 2020
This award honors a strong commitment to undergraduate mentorship.

PUBLICATIONS

- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2020). Predictors and consequences of individual differences in cross-linguistic interactions: A model of second language reading skill. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728920000279>
- Bice, K., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (2020). Bilingual language experience shapes resting-state brain rhythms. *Neurobiology of Language*, 1(3), 288-318. https://doi.org/10.1162/nol_a_00014
- Zhou, P., Prat, C. S., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Stocco, A. (2020). Monitoring of attentional oscillations through spectral similarity analysis predicts reading comprehension. *Brain and Language*, 200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bandl.2019.104709>
- Yamasaki, B. L.**, Stocco, A., Liu, A. S., & Prat, C. S. (2019). Effects of bilingual language experience on basal ganglia computations: A dynamic causal modeling test of the conditional routing model. *Brain and Language*, 197. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bandl.2019.104665>
- Prat, C. S., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Peterson, E. R. (2019). Individual differences in resting-state brain rhythms uniquely predict second language learning rate and willingness to communicate in adults. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 31(1), 78-94. https://doi.org/10.1162/jocn_a_01337
- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Luk, G. (2018). Eligibility for special education in elementary school: The role of diverse language experiences. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 49(4), 889-901. https://doi.org/10.1044/2018_LSHSS-DYSLC-18-0006
- Yamasaki, B. L.**, Stocco, A., & Prat, C. S. (2018). Relating individual differences in bilingual language experiences to executive attention. *Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience*, 33(9), 1128-1151. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2018.1448092>
- Stocco, A., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (2018). Human performance across decision making, selective attention, and working memory tasks: Experimental data and computer simulations. *Data in Brief*, 17, 907-914. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.01.056>
- Kim, D. S., McCabe, C. J., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Louie, K. T., & King, K. M. (2018). Detecting random responders with infrequency scales using an error balancing threshold. *Behavior Research Methods*, 50, 1960-1970. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-017-0964-9>
- Stocco, A., Murray, N., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Renno, T., & Nguyen, J. (2017). Individual differences in the Simon effect are underpinned by differences in the competitive dynamics in the basal ganglia: An experimental verification and a computational model. *Cognition*, 164, 31-45. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cognition.2017.03.001>
- Prat, C. S., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Kluender, K. A., & Stocco, A. (2016). Resting-state EEG predicts rate of second language learning in adults. *Brain and Language*, 157-158, 44-50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bandl.2016.04.007>
- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2014). The importance of managing interference for second language reading ability: An individual differences investigation. *Discourse Processes*, 51(5-6), 445-467. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0163853X.2014.913415>

Stocco, A., **Yamasaki, B.**, Natalenko, R., & Prat, C. S. (2014). Bilingual brain training: A neurobiological framework of how bilingual experience improves executive function. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 18(1), 67-92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367006912456617>

BOOK CHAPTERS

Prat, C. S., Seo, R., & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2016). The role of individual differences in working memory capacity on reading comprehension ability. In P. Afflerbach (Ed), *Handbook of Individual Differences in Reading: Text and Context* (pp. 331-347). New York, NY: Routledge.

Prat, C. S. & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2015). The cognitive and neural correlates of individual differences in inferential processes. In E. J. O'Brien, A. E. Cook, & R. F. Lorch, Jr. (Eds), *Inferences during Reading* (pp. 210-227). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

PUBLICATIONS (in progress)

Yamasaki, B. L., Bitan, T., Dronjic, V., Nathaniel, U., Lytle, M. N., Eidelsztein, S., Nir, B., & Booth, J. R. (revision under review). The role of prior knowledge in morphological learning in an artificial second language. *Registered Report

Mottarella, M., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (revision under review). Relating individual differences in reading skill to neural indices of proactive control and online filtering during a working memory task.

Yamasaki, B. L., McGregor, K. K., & Booth, J. R. (submitted). Early phonological neural specialization predicts later growth in word reading skills. *Pre-registered study: <https://osf.io/ek8rc/>

Wang, J., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Weiss, Y., & Booth, J. R. (submitted). Both frontal and temporal cortex exhibit phonological and semantic specialization during spoken language processing in 7- to 8-year-old children.

Wang, J., Lytle, M. N., Weiss, Y., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Booth, J. R. (in preparation). A longitudinal neuroimaging dataset on language processing in children ages 5, 7, and 9 years old.

Prat, C. S., Gallée, J., & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (in preparation). When language learning goes right: The role of the right hemisphere in language aptitude.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Yamasaki, B. L. (2021, March). *Exploring the Reciprocal Relation between Language and Executive Processes*. Invited oral presentation given at the Department of Psychology Brownbag Series, Mississippi State University, Virtual.

Yamasaki, B. L. (2021, February). *Understanding the Neural Systems that Support Early Language and Reading Development*. Invited oral presentation given as part of the Roger B. Loucks Lecture Series, University of Washington, Virtual.

Yamasaki, B. L. & Prat, C. S. (2020, July). *Modeling Individual Differences in Second-Language Reading Skill using Language Experience, Executive Attention, and Cross-Linguistic Interactions*. Invited oral presentation given at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics – Building Educational Applications Workshop, Virtual.

Yamasaki, B. L. (2018, February). *The Role of Selective Attention in Reading Skill*. Invited oral presentation given at the Annual Psychology Department Rapid Fire Research Talks, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Yamasaki, B. L. (2017, February). *Using Neurofeedback to Improve Second-Language Reading Ability*. Invited oral presentation given at the Annual Psychology Department Rapid Fire Research Talks, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Yamasaki, B. L., Bitan, T., Dronjic, V., Nathaniel, U., Lytle, M. N., Eidelsztein, S., Nir, B., & Booth, J. R. (2020, October). *Learning and Consolidation of Morphologically Derived Words in a Novel Language: Evidence from English Speakers*. Poster presentation given at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Virtual.

Nathaniel, U., Eidelsztein, S., Nir, B., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Dronjic, V., Lytle, M. N., Booth, J. R., Bitan, T. (2020, October). *Learning and Consolidation of Morphologically Derived Words in a Novel Language: Evidence from Hebrew Speakers*. Poster presentation given at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Virtual.

Yamasaki, B. L., McGregor, K. K., & Booth, J. R. (2020, July). *Exploring the Role of Language-Related Neural Specialization in Early Reading Skill Development*. Oral presentation given at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Virtual.

Mottarella, M. J., **Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2020, July). *Skilled Readers Engage More Proactive Attentional Control Processes During a Working Memory Task*. Oral presentation given at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Virtual.

Yamasaki, B. L. & Prat, C. S. (2019, July). *Modeling Individual Differences in Second-Language Reading Skill using Language Experience, Executive Attention, and Cross-Linguistic Interactions*. Oral presentation given at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, New York, New York.

Prat, C., Zeitlin, M., Mottarella, M., **Yamasaki, B.**, & Madhyastha, T. (2019, March). *Relating Individual Differences in Beta Oscillations Recorded at Rest to Second Language Aptitude and Basal Ganglia Signal Routing*. Poster presentation given at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, California.

Yamasaki, B. L., Luk, G., & Mancilla-Martinez, J. (2019, March). *Academic Performance among Elementary Students with Diverse Language Experiences*. Poster presentation given at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.

Prat, C. S. & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2019, February). *Automaticity and Second Language Reading: A Neurofeedback Investigation of Attention Training*. Oral presentation given at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Convention, Portland, Oregon.

Mottarella, M. J., Prat, C. S., & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2018, August). *Working Memory Filtering and Individual Differences in Second Language Aptitude*. Poster presentation given at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Québec City, Canada.

Prat, C. S. & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2018, August). *Resting-state qEEG Reveals Intrinsic Network Differences between Monolingual and Bilingual Adults*. Oral presentation given at the Bilingual Brain – A Lifelong Perspective Satellite Symposium, Québec City, Canada.

Yamasaki, B. L. & Prat, C. S. (2018, July). *Relating Individual Differences in Second Language (L2) Reading Skill to Linguistic Interference Management*. Poster presentation given at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Brighton, United Kingdom.

- Zhou, P., Prat, C. S., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Stocco, A. (2018, March). *A Wandering Mind is Not a Good Comprehending Mind: Evidence from Brain Oscillations*. Poster presentations given at the 31st Annual CUNY Sentence Processing Conference, Davis, California.
- Yamasaki, B. L.**, Ceballos, J. M., & Prat, C. S. (2017, November). *The Role of Basal Ganglia Filtering Mechanisms in Second Language Aptitude*. Poster presentation given at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Ceballos, J. M., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (2017, November). *Context-dependent Filtering in the Caudate Nucleus of the Basal Ganglia as a Predictor of Second-Language Learning Aptitude*. Poster presentation given at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Seo, R., Ceballos, J. M., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (2017, November). *A Dynamic Causal Modeling Analysis of the Role of the Caudate Nucleus and Prefrontal Cortex in Bilingual Language Control*. Poster presentation given at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2017, July). *Understanding the Nature of Cross-Linguistic Interference and its Importance for Second-Language Reading Skill*. Poster presentation given at the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Prat, C. S. & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2017, July). *A Neural Information Processing Account of Individual Differences in Reading Skill*. Oral presentation given at the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2016, July). *Neural Adaptability and Individual Differences in Native and Second-Language English Readers*. Oral presentation given at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Kassel, Germany.
- Yamasaki, B. L.** & Prat, C. S. (2015, July). *Cortical Dynamics and Individual Differences in Reading: Relating Beta Oscillations with Reading Skill*. Oral presentation given at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Prat, C. S. & **Yamasaki, B. L.** (2015, June). *Measuring Changes in Brain and Behavior Following Second Language Training*. Poster presentation given at Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Ceballos, J. M., Stocco, A., Becker, T., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C.S. (2015, June). *The Cognitive Neuroscience of Preparatory Processes: Isolating the "Execute" from Executive Functions*. Poster presentation given at Organization for Human Brain Mapping, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Prat, C. S., **Yamasaki, B. L.**, Ceballos, J. M., & Seo, R. (2015, May). *Relating the Demands of Bilingual Language Control to Inhibition: An Individual Differences Approach*. Poster presentation given at the Workshop on Bilingualism and Executive Function: An Interdisciplinary Approach, New York, New York.
- Yamasaki, B. L.**, Stocco, A., & Prat, C. S. (2014, August). *The Neural Correlates of Individual Differences in Bilingual Language Control*. Poster presentation given at the 6th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Yamasaki, B. L.**, & Prat, C. S. (2013, July). *Individual Differences in Executive Functioning and Language Control Indices Predict Second Language Reading Ability*. Poster presentation given at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Text and Discourse, Valencia, Spain.

Prat, C. S., Stocco, A., & Yamasaki, B. L. (2012, September). *Bilingual Brain Training: Investigating the Overlap Between Language Switching and General Set Switching in Bilinguals*. Poster presentation given at the Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing Conference, Riva del Garda, Italy.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Somers, J. (2021, March 3). Despite limitations of pandemic, research continues at Peabody, College of Arts and Science. Vanderbilt University myVU newsletter. <https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2021/03/03/despite-limitations-of-pandemic-research-continues-at-peabody-college-of-arts-and-science/>

Hogan, T. P. (2018, October 24). What SLPs need to know about dyslexia. *LSHSS Clinical Forum*. <https://academy.pubs.asha.org/2018/10/lshss-clinical-forum-what-slps-need-to-know-about-dyslexia/>

Wroblewski, T. (2017, June). Brianna Yamasaki. *The University of Washington Graduate School*. <http://grad.uw.edu/student-alumni-profiles/brianna-yamasaki/>

Fields, R. D. (2016, September). Learning when no one is watching. *Scientific American Mind*. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/learning-when-no-one-is-watching/>

Yamasaki, B. (2016, August 4). Why it's hard for adults to learn a second language. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/why-its-hard-for-adults-to-learn-a-second-language-61477>

Brazelton, A. (2016, June 2). Mind over mutter. *The Daily of the University of Washington*. http://www.dailyuw.com/science/article_d1d695b6-286e-11e6-8bc4-9f8d5a2d9adf.html

TEACHING

Lecturer (Instructor of Record)

Department of Psychology, University of Washington	
Cognitive Neuroscience	<i>Jun. 2018-Aug. 2018</i>
Undergraduate Peer-Teaching Experience	<i>Jun. 2018-Aug. 2018</i>
Cognitive Psychology	<i>Jun. 2018-Aug. 2018</i>
Cognitive Neuroscience	<i>Jun. 2016-Aug. 2016</i>

Teaching Assistant

Department of Psychology, University of Washington	
Cognitive Psychology	<i>Mar. 2018-Jun. 2018</i>
Introduction to Psychology (Teaching Fellow/Lead TA)	<i>Sep. 2017-Dec. 2017</i>
Psychobiology of Women	<i>Mar. 2016-Jun. 2016</i>
Statistical Inference in Psychological Research	<i>Jan. 2016-Mar. 2016</i>
Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Psychology	<i>Sep. 2015-Dec. 2015</i>
Introduction to Psychology (Teaching Fellow/Lead TA)	<i>Jan. 2015-Mar. 2015</i>
Introduction to Psychology (Teaching Fellow/Lead TA)	<i>Sep. 2014-Dec. 2014</i>
Statistical Inference in Psychological Research	<i>Mar. 2014-Jun. 2014</i>
Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Psychology	<i>Jan. 2014-Mar. 2014</i>
Abnormal Psychology	<i>Sep. 2013-Dec. 2013</i>
Developmental Psychology	<i>Apr. 2013-Jun. 2013</i>
Introduction to Psychology	<i>Jan. 2013-Mar. 2013</i>
Psychobiology of Women	<i>Sep. 2012-Dec. 2012</i>

MENTORING

Undergraduates

- J.M., Honor Student *Aug. 2020-May 2021*
Thesis: "The Role of the Left Inferior Frontal Gyrus in Morphological Processing"
- B.C., Honor Student *Jan. 2020-May 2020*
Thesis: "Neural Specialization of Semantic and Phonological Processing in Four-Year-Old Children"
- S.G., Honor Student *Aug. 2018-May 2020*
Thesis: "Using Semantic and Syntactic Specialization to Predict Growth in Oral Language"
- A.L., Summer Research Intern *May 2018-Aug. 2018*
Project: "Testing the Conditional Routing Model of Bilingual Language Control using Dynamic Causal Modeling"

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Adventure Science Center Volunteer** *Mar. 2020-Present*
Non-profit science museum in Nashville, Tennessee
- Camp Vandy – Sheep Brain Dissection Volunteer** *Jun. 2019*
Introduces children aged 5-11 to neuroanatomy through hands on activities
- WellFEST Volunteer** *Apr. 2019*
Brings resources and research to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community
- Brain Blast Volunteer** *Mar. 2019*
Connects brain scientists and their work to K-8th graders and their families

SERVICE

Ad Hoc Reviewer

- Brain and Language *since Mar. 2021*
Acta Psychologica *since Jan. 2021*
Neuropsychologia *since Oct. 2020*
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health *since Oct. 2020*
Language Learning *since Sep. 2020*
Brain Sciences *since Jul. 2020*
Language, Cognition, and Neuroscience *since Oct. 2019*
Journal of Psycholinguistic Research *since Jul. 2019*
American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology *since Jun. 2019*
PLOS One *since Oct. 2018*
Current Psychopharmacology *since Sep. 2018*
Bilingualism: Language and Cognition *since Apr. 2018*
Discourse Processes *since Oct. 2017*
Journal of Neurolinguistics *since Nov. 2016*
Learning and Individual Differences *since Jun. 2015*

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee** *2020-Present*
Vanderbilt Post-Doc Association, Vanderbilt University

- Women in the Academy Program Planning Committee** *2020-2021*
Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University

Annual Symposium Planning Committee 2019-2020
Vanderbilt Post-Doc Association, Vanderbilt University

Excellence in Teaching Award Selection Committee 2017-2018
Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Washington

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Psychology Research Pool Manager *Dec. 2014-Mar. 2018*
Department of Psychology, University of Washington

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Research in Child Development, Member *since 2018*
Society for Text and Discourse, Member *since 2013*

RELEVANT SKILLS

Research Experience with: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI and fMRI) and Electroencephalography (EEG)

Software Experience with: R, MATLAB, and SPSS (statistical software); E-Prime and DirectRT (programs for designing and running experiments)