National Science Foundation-Gallaudet University Science of Learning Center, Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2)

About the Ph.D. in Educational Neuroscience Program

Growing from our mission to educate the next generation of students, scholars in our National Science Foundation-Gallaudet University Science of Learning Center, Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) created the pioneering Ph.D. in Educational Neuroscience (PEN) Program. The PEN program encompasses research in how humans learn across the lifespan, from infants to adults, with a special interest in the neuroplasticity of visually-guided learning that contributes to language learning and bilingualism, reading and literacy, and higher cognitive processes (such as action perception, math and numeracy, memory and attention, emotional and social development, and more). The PEN Program at Gallaudet University further provides a unique strength in groundbreaking scientific discoveries about learning that have important translational significance for the education of all children, especially young visual learners.

Proud Sponsors

The 2023-2024 PEN Distinguished Lecture Series in Educational Neuroscience is sponsored by the Ph.D. in Educational Neuroscience (PEN) Program, the National Science Foundation-Gallaudet University Science of Learning Center, Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2); the Cognitive Neuroscience Institute; and Gallaudet University. We wish to specifically thank the William H. and Ruth Crane Schaefer Endowment for supporting our PEN Distinguished Lecturers funding.

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Gallaudet University's Ph.D. In Educational Neuroscience (PEN) Program is proud to announce the

PEN Distinguished Lecture Series in Educational Neuroscience

2023-2024 Theme

Exploring the human mind from diverse perspectives

This series honors world-renowned scientists and aims to form a bridge between basic science discoveries and their meaningful benefits for society.

Please register to join our presentations via webinar.
Two presentations will also be in-person.

https://tinyurl.com/RegisterPEN-DLS23-24

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

NSF

PhD in EDUCATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

VISUAL LANGUAGE AND VISUAL LEARNING CENTER

COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE

About This Year's Presenters

This high-profile lecture series honors our presenters -- true pioneers in science -- who work in various sister disciplines to Educational Neuroscience. The PEN Distinguished Lecture Series will slowly return to in-person presentations with two guests, one per semester, presenting their work at Gallaudet. All lectures will continue to be broadcast as webinars. After each presentation, our esteemed guests will take questions from the audience. Starting this year, the PEN Distinguished Lecture Series will feature one diversity-related presentation to ensure greater equity, diversity, and inclusion in science. Please join us as our presenters open the doors to their research labs and share their field-advancing discoveries in the field of language, creativity, and emotion in relation to learning and development.

Join the presentations:
https://tinyurl.com/RegisterPEN-DLS23-24

The PEN program's Distinguished Lecture Series in Educational Neuroscience honors researchers who have changed the landscape of science. We invite them to share their discoveries as we forge new links across research communities within Gallaudet University, Washington D.C., and the world.

To view past presentations, visit:
http://vl2.gallaudet.edu/pen-distinguished-lecture-series

Presenters

Braille and the Science of Reading: Research, Diversity, and Engagement

Dr. Robert Englebretson

Associate Professor of Linguistics at Rice University
September 21, 2023
2-3:30 p.m. EST

In-person and webinar

Dr. Englebretson is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at Rice University. In 2019, the Braille Authority of North America recognized Englebretson with the Darleen Bogart Braille Excellence Award for his work on IPA Braille, which empowers access to phonetics for blind people working in the language sciences. Also in 2019, Englebretson, Simon Fischer-Baum (Rice University), and Cay Holbrook (University of British Columbia) were awarded an Exploration research grant from the Institute for Education Sciences "Exploring the Knowledge, Skills, and Strategies Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments Need to Effectively Teach Braille Reading and Writing." His work seeks to bring braille research squarely into the mainstream of the reading sciences and to contribute to evidence-based approaches to improving braille literacy.

Dynamics of Communication in Infant's Lives.

Dr. Casey Lew-Williams

Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Psychology,
Princeton University
October 19, 2023
2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

In-person and webinar

Dr. Lew-Williams is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Princeton University. He directs the Princeton Baby Lab, where his students and postdocs study how babies learn, focusing in particular on early communication. Their current work is funded by NICHD, the McDonnell Foundation, and Wellcome Leap. He received his Ph.D. at Stanford and was previously on the faculty at Northwestern in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He is co-chief editor of Frontiers for Young Minds, a science journal for kids, and co-founder of ManyBabies, a collaborative group of developmental scientists from around the world.

In-person talks will take place in the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center (JSAC) room 1011.
A small reception with light refreshments will follow.
Attendees can also join these talks by registering for the webinar.

Towards an Anti-Racist Neuroscience

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Science Talk

Dr. Oliver Rollins

Assistant Professor of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington
November 16, 2023
2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

Dr. Rollins is an Assistant Professor of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. He focuses on the impacts of race/racism in and through neuroscience. Dr. Rollins is the author of Conviction: The Making and Unmaking of The Violent Brain (Stanford University Press, 2021), which examines the sociological impacts of neuroimaging research on violence, especially its limitations when dealing with social inequalities. He is currently working on two new projects. One project examines the neuroscience of implicit bias and the challenges of operationalizing racial prejudice and identity as neurobiological processes. The other project seeks to elucidate the barriers and potentials for "antiracist" neuroscience. Dr. Rollins received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco.

Exploring the Role of Visual Language Skills in Reading Development in Deaf Children

Dr. Mairéad MacSweeney

Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow at University College London
February 8, 2024
1:00-2:15 p.m. EST - Different Time!

Dr. MacSweeney is a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow at the Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre (DCAL) at University College London (UCL). She is also the leader of the Visual Communication Research Group at the UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience. She uses both behavioral and neuroimaging approaches with deaf adults and children to understand further how sign language, reading, and visual speech (lipreading) are processed. Her current research explores how these inputs are represented in the brain and how similar (or not) these representations are to each other. She is particularly interested in how visual language inputs support reading development in young deaf children.

Functional Imaging of the Human Brain: A Window into the Architecture of the Human Mind

Dr. Nancy Kanwisher

Walter A. Rosenblith Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at MIT and founding member of the McGovern Institute
February 29, 2024
2-3:30 p.m. EST

Possibly also in person

Dr, Kanwisher is the Walter A. Rosenblith Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience in the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences at MIT and an Investigator at MIT's McGovern Institute for Brain Research. She received her B.S. in 1980 and her Ph.D. in 1986, both from MIT. After receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Kanwisher held a MacArthur Fellowship in Peace and International Security for two years. She then served as a faculty member for several years in the UCLA and Harvard Psychology departments before returning to MIT in 1997. Kanwisher's lab has contributed to identifying and characterizing several regions in the human brain that conduct very specific cognitive functions, including four that are involved in the visual perception of specific kinds of stimuli (faces, places, bodies, and words). Dr. Kanwisher received a Troland Research Award from the National Academy of Sciences in 1999, a MacVicar Faculty Fellow Teaching Award from MIT in 2002, and the Golden Brain Award from the Minerva Foundation in 2007. She was elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2005 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009.

Feelings are the Source of Consciousness

Dr. Antonio Damasio

David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, Professor of Psychology, Philosophy and Neurology, University of Southern California
April 4, 2024
2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

Dr. Damasio is the David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, Professor of Psychology, Philosophy, and Neurology, and Director of the Brain and Creativity Institute at the University of Southern California. Trained as a neurologist and a neuroscientist, Damasio has made seminal contributions to understanding brain processes underlying affect and consciousness. His work on the role of emotions and feelings in decision-making has significantly impacted neuroscience, psychology, and philosophy. He is the author of numerous scientific articles and has received continuous Federal funding for over 30 years. He is the recipient of many awards of which most recently the Paul MacLean Award for Outstanding Neuroscience Research in Psychosomatic Medicine, 2019. Dr. Damasio is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. He has been named "Highly Cited Researcher" by the Institute for Scientific Information and also holds Honorary Doctorates from several universities.