FWO-funded MUMA graduates with ongoing PhDs at Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Brussels Centre for Language Studies

Anastasija Jagafarova



Anastasija.Jagafarova@vub.be

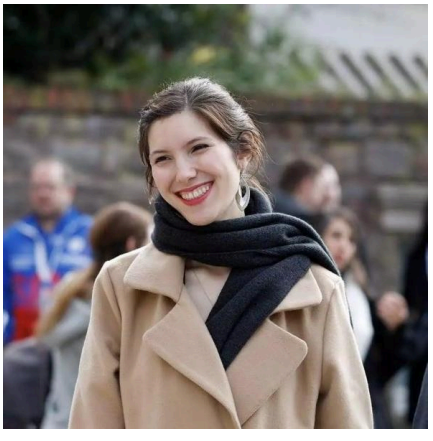
LinkedIn

CRIS profile

ORCID profile

Anastasija Jagafarova obtained her master's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies (2020) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. After being granted an FWO fellowship for fundamental research in 2021, she started working on her PhD dissertation titled "Metaphors learners live by: metaphoric anaphora resolution in L2 Spanish" (FWOTM1071) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. An Vande Casteele. Her research focuses on the processing of metaphoric referential descriptions by L2 learners of Spanish, using real-time eye-tracking data to gain a better insight of the factors influencing metaphoric anaphora comprehension and resolution. Anastasija's research interests involve the cognitive theory of metaphor, metaphor as a referential mechanism, and metaphoric competence in second language acquisition.

Samantha Pérez Rodríguez



Samantha.Perez.Rodriguez@vub.be

LinkedIn

ORCID profile

Samantha Pérez Rodríguez holds a master's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies (English-Spanish) from Vrije Universiteit Brussel. From 2023 to 2024, she worked as a Spanish pedagogical assistant at the university, helping with bachelor courses such as 'Gramática y lingüística del español', 'Morfosintaxis del español', and 'Cultura hispánica e historia''. In 2024, she was granted an FWO PhD fellowship for fundamental research for her project "Tracing Sibilance: A Sociolinguistic Exploration of Spanish Heritage Language Varieties in Brussels" under the supervision of Prof. dr. Rik Vosters and Prof. dr. An Vande Casteele. Her research focuses on Spanish as a heritage language in Brussels from a sociolinguistic and sociodialectological point of view.

Luz María Sánchez



Luz.Maria.Sanchez.Ramirez@vub.be

LinkedIn

CRIS profile

ORCID profile

María Sánchez completed a BA in Linguistics at Leipzig University (Germany) and an MA in Linguistics and Literary Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB, Belgium). Currently, she is an FWO fellow in the department of Linguistics and Literary Studies at the VUB, working under the supervision of Prof. Mathieu Declerck (VUB), Prof. Esli Struys (VUB) and Prof. David Peeters (Tilburg University, Netherlands). Her PhD project investigates bilingual language control through language switching, using a more ecologically valid experimental setup that relies on immersive Virtual Reality.

Thakshila Nuwanthi



Thakshila.Nuwanthi2@vub.be

LinkedIn

ORCID profile

Thakshila Nuwanthi graduated with a Master's degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies (specialisation in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics) from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium, in 2025. Her master's thesis received the Master's Thesis Award for Linguistics. She previously obtained a Bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences, and has six years of clinical experience as a speech-language therapist, with a particular focus on speech and motor speech disorders. She is currently a PhD researcher at VUB, supported by an FWO PhD Fellowship in Fundamental Research. Her research investigates speech motor programming across Sinhala and Dutch, examining how speech production is organised and coordinated in neurotypical speakers and individuals with acquired apraxia of speech. Using articulatory kinematic methods, including electromagnetic articulography (EMA), her project aims to contribute to a better understanding of the cross-linguistic organisation of speech motor control and its implications for theories of speech production.

Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings

Rachele Gusella

Rachele.Gusella@vub.be

PURE Profile



Rachele Gusella graduated with distinction from the Master in Linguistics and Literary Studies (French-Italian) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her thesis entitled “Street poetry and democratization of the poetic genre in Italy” was awarded the Emile Lorand Prize for the Best Master Thesis in Literary Studies (2019). She is currently a PhD candidate at VUB. Her research project funded by FWO, “Street Poetry and Socio-Political Engagement in Contemporary Western Europe”, examines how exposed poetry expresses present issues such as consumerism, capitalism, sexism, and modern communication in the urban context.