



Code: Geva-A

APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2023-24 FALL/WINTER

Name and Title: *Drs. Esther Geva & Fataneh Farnia*

Lab Website: *higherorderlanguage.com*

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: *Toward standardizing a test of higher order language*

NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE: *2-4*

PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION (circle one option and describe):

☐ *IN PERSON*

☒ *REMOTE (ONLINE)*

☐ *HYBRID/FLEXIBLE*

Please describe:

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY: The Test of Higher Order Language (TOHOL) project, funded by SSHRC, involves developing, refining, and pilot-testing items for a modern, standardized, interoperable, and developmentally sensitive measure of higher order language. Work on this project has started in 2015. When the TOHOL tool development is complete, it will be administered in both computerized (touch screen computers) and paper-based formats and will be used in a large-scale community screening evaluation. We expect that the TOHOL will allow reliable assessment of markers of higher order language comprehension among typically developing children and adolescents, second language learners, and those who may have a learning disability or language impairment. We also anticipate that the test will be useful in studies of cross-cultural differences in interpretation and use of higher order language. It should also be helpful in identifying aspects of higher order language that are universally understood regardless of ethnic and cultural background.



DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):

RESPONSIBILITIES

Transcription

- Transcribe recordings of the expressive component of the "higher order/figurative language" test for participants in different age groups (2yrs-25yrs)
- Participate in establishing inter-rater reliability of the transcribed data
- Participate in final consensus reaching and quality assurance

Data Management

- Score and enter data into quantitative statistical package (SPSS)
- Check and organize data using SPSS
- Code the transcribed data using qualitative software (Nvivo)
- May receive training in virtual data collection procedures to implement the study measures online with participants of different ages

Depending on performance, knowledge translation and dissemination opportunities (e.g., poster or oral presentations in national and international conferences) will be available under the supervision of the project investigators.

Biweekly Virtual Lab Meetings

- Report research activities in the virtual research lab meetings
- Involve in discussion about new insights gained working on different research activities
 - what works and what is challenging/problematic,
 - key issues presented in the reading materials

QUALIFICATIONS

- Academic and/or professional experience in at least one of the following areas:
 - language learning/acquisition
 - developmental language disorders
 - psychology
 - psycholinguistics
 - neurolinguistics
 - typical and/or atypical language development across ability levels and life span
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Proficient computer skills (Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Ability to carry out all project requirements remotely (under the supervision of the project staff). **NB Handheld devices are not allowed**
- Unrestricted access to U of T online resources and search engines
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Professionalism, dependability, work ethics, thoroughness and accuracy



ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Tri-Council Policy Statement Certificate. Obtain and submit the certificate of Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2) [https://tcps2core.ca/welcomeConfidential Information & Intellectual Property \("CIIP"\) Agreement](https://tcps2core.ca/welcomeConfidential%20Information%20&%20Intellectual%20Property%20(CIIP)%20Agreement)

DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS: DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS

- Attendance in biweekly virtual lab meetings is required. Every other Monday from 9:30 to 11:30
- Working group meetings in smaller groups as required (will be determined on a needs bases)
- Consistent and timely on-line submission of timesheets is expected on a weekly basis