

## 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 2018-2019 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); and Gallaudet University.

### Contact Us

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The Ph.D. In Educational Neuroscience (PEN) Program and Gallaudet University are proud to announce the

# 2018-2019

## PEN Distinguished Lecture Series in Educational Neuroscience

THEME:

*From Mirror Neurons To Society:  
How The Brain And Experience  
Provide New Insights Into Learning*

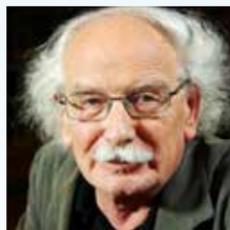
This series honors world-renowned scientists and aims to form a bridge between basic science discoveries and their meaningful benefits for society.



## About This Year's Presenters

This high-profile lecture series honors our presenters – true pioneers in science – who work at the intersection of the Science of Learning (learning across the lifespan) and Educational Neuroscience (learning across early life). This year's theme, "From Mirror Neurons To Society: How The Brain And Experience Provide New Insights Into Learning," showcases work investigating the neural underpinnings of learning and experience. How does our brain learn through differing experiences and societal context? Our esteemed scientists will guide us in their quest for answers presenting their brain and behavioral discoveries on infants and adults in the attempt to unravel the human ability to learn.

# Presenters



### Dr. Giacomo Rizzolatti

University of Parma and Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy

Title: *The "mirror" brain*

**October 25, 2018 / 4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

Professor Emeritus of Human Physiology at University of Parma and Responsible of the CNR -URT Neuroscience of Parma. The main focus of his research concerns the motor system and its role in cognitive functions. He is the discoverer of the mirror neurons. He is Member of Academia Europaea, of Accademia dei Lincei, of the Institute de France (Académie des Sciences), and Honorary Foreign Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Foreign Member of National Academy of Science (USA). He is Honorary member of Italian Society for Neuroscience and Italian Physiological Society. He received many awards among which the most recent are: "Feltrinelli Prize for Medicine" of Accademia dei Lincei, prix IPSEN, Neuroplasticity, the Grawemeyer Award for Psychology, Prix Signoret, Neuropsychology, Fondation IPSEN and the Brain Prize from Lundbeck Foundation. He received Honorary Degrees from the University Claude Bernard of Lyon, from the University of St. Petersburg, from the University of Sassari, from KU Leuven and University of St. Martin, Buenos Aires. Recently, he received the prestigious "Premio Lombardia è Ricerca" of 1 million Euros.



### Dr. Sebastián Lipina

Unidad de Neurobiología Aplicada (UNA, CEMIC-CONICET), Argentina

Title: *Contemporary neuroscientific contributions to the study of childhood poverty*

**November 15, 2018/ 4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

Dr. Lipina has obtained his PhD in Psychology and is now a researcher of the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) in Argentina. He is also the Director of the Unit of Applied Neurobiology. The main focus of his research concerns the impact of poverty on development, cognition and the brain. He is the Professor of the Seminar on Childhood Poverty and Cognitive Development at National University of San Martín (UNSAM, Argentina). Outside of Argentina, Dr. Lipina is a Fellow of the Center for Neuroscience and Society (CNS, University of Pennsylvania) and the Codirector of the Mind, Brain and Education School (Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture, Italy). He is also part of the On-call Scientist Program for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Associate Editor for Frontiers in Psychology. The high impact and translational applications of Dr. Lipina have brought him to be a Consultant for the Panamerican Health Organization, the UNICEF and the UNDP.

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.



### Dr. Marie Coppola

University of Connecticut, USA

Title: *Amodal neurolinguistic and cognitive representations:*

*Evidence from prosody and number concepts in ASL signers and English speakers*

**January 31, 2019 / 4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

Dr. Marie Coppola, currently working in the Departments of Psychological Sciences and Linguistics, began her academic career at MIT and majored in Cognitive Sciences. Dr. Coppola earned her PhD with Drs. Elissa Newport and Ted Supalla in the Sign Language Research Center at the University of Rochester, and then worked with Dr. Susan Goldin-Meadow at the University of Chicago. Dr. Coppola and her colleagues pioneered the field of emerging languages, which offers insights into the human capacity for language, effects of language modality, sensitive periods, and the impact of variable language experiences on cognitive development. Since 1994, Dr. Coppola has conducted fieldwork in Nicaragua, and worked closely with a small number of homesigners. She has discovered that despite this lack of linguistic input, homesigners innovate a number of linguistic properties in their gesture systems. However, the negative consequences of such language deprivation can be observed in other domains; this work led her to study the impact of language experience on number concepts and social cognition in deaf children in the United States. She now directs the Language Creation Laboratory and the NSF-funded Study of Language and Math.



### Dr. Sian Beilock

Barnard College, USA

Title: *Overcoming anxiety about math*

**February 21, 2019 / 4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

Dr. Beilock is the 8th President of Barnard College. Before beginning her tenure at Barnard in July, 2017, Dr. Beilock spent twelve years at the University of Chicago. There, she served on the faculty as the Stella M. Rowley Professor of Psychology and a member of the Committee on Education. Additionally, she was a member of the senior leadership, serving as the Executive Vice Provost and an Officer of the University. Her work as a cognitive scientist has revolved around performance anxiety, with a focus on success in math and science for women and girls. She has explored the brain and body factors that influence learning and performance, including how simple psychological strategies can be used to ensure success in everything from public speaking to athletics. In 2010, she wrote the critically acclaimed book *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal about Getting It Right When You Have To*, and in 2015, *How the Body Knows Its Mind: The Surprising Power of the Physical Environment to Influence How You Think and Feel*. For her groundbreaking work on human performance, she won the 2017 Troland Award from the National Academy of Sciences.



### Dr. Ted Supalla

Georgetown University, USA

Title: *Revisiting the process of grammaticalization in signed languages*

**April 4, 2019 / 4:00 pm-5:30 pm**

Dr. Supalla is a Professor of Neurology, Linguistics and Psychology at Georgetown University and the director of the Sign Language Research Lab. Previously worked at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Rochester in New York. His lab hosts a Historical Sign Language Database ([www.hsldb.georgetown.edu](http://www.hsldb.georgetown.edu)) as a resource tool for public use. He is a co-author of Sign Language Archaeology: Understanding Historical Roots of American Sign Language. In addition, Dr. Supalla teaches a massive open online course entitled: Sign Language Structure, Learning, and Change, as part of the GeorgetownX curriculum. Dr. Supalla's research centers on sign language in its developmental and global context, including studies of the grammatical structure and evolution of American Sign Language and other sign languages. He has published a book and several journal articles on the history of American Sign Language and the processes of linguistic change that introduce new grammatical forms into a sign language over its history. In all of these works, his overarching claim is that the structure of sign languages is quite parallel to that of spoken languages, in complexity and in the processes that introduce grammatical complexities into the language.