

# CONSTANTINA THEOFANOPOULOU

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Constantina Theofanopoulou is an Associate Research Professor at Hunter College, City University of New York, Visiting Associate Professor at Rockefeller University, and Research Fellow at New York University.

She is interested in understanding the neurobiology of social communication, in complex human behaviors, such as speech and dance. For her Ph.D. (University of Barcelona, Duke University and Rockefeller University) she worked on the neurobiology of language, and specifically on the social reward mechanisms of vocal learning, studying the role of oxytocin in vocal learning in songbirds (Theofanopoulou et al. 2017 *Proceedings B*). This project led her to realize that the oxytocin/vasotocin field was suffering from an old and inconsistent gene nomenclature, which was hampering advances and translation of findings. During her Post Doc (Rockefeller University), she used genomic tools and proposed novel ways of how gene nomenclature should be revisited, aiming at a universal vertebrate gene nomenclature, shaking traditional views of the pre-genomic era (Theofanopoulou et al. 2021 *Nature*).

## EDUCATION-EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**2022 (July)-present:** Associate Research Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York, NY, USA  
Visiting Associate Professor, Rockefeller University, NY, USA  
Research Fellow, New York University, NY, USA

**2019-2022:** Post-Doctoral Researcher, Rockefeller University, NY, USA  
Research Fellow, New York University, NY, USA

**2016-2019:** **Phd cum laude (excellent)**  
**International Degree: University of Barcelona (Spain), Duke University (USA), Rockefeller University (USA)**  
PhD Committee: C. Scharff, B. Hare, N. Staes  
Supervisors: C. Boeckx, E. D. Jarvis

### Research visits during graduate school

2017 Rockefeller University (Jarvis Lab)

2017 Hunter College (Tchernichovski Lab)

2016 Duke University (Jarvis Lab)

2016 Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Marques-Bonet Lab)

**2014-2015:** **MA Cognitive Science and Language**, University of Barcelona, GPA: 9,4/10

**2010-2014:** **Undergraduate studies in Linguistics**, National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece  
GPA: 9,5/10 (1<sup>st</sup> place at the University)  
Erasmus: University of Seville, Spain (Honours)

**2010:** **Graduated from High School** Arsakeio Psychikou, Athens, Greece  
GPA: 19,7 /20 (national ranking: 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## TEACHING/MENTORING EXPERIENCE

**2022:** Co-mentor to a PhD Thesis Project at **University of Oslo** (Student: Alina M. Sartorius; Mentor: Dan Quintana). Project: The evolution of the oxytocin pathway.

Mentor to undergraduate student (Maryam Rauf; Yalow Honors Scholar) at **Hunter College**. Project: Evolutionary history of the dopamine receptors.

Mentor in the Interactive Telecommunications Masters' Program at **New York University** (Students: J. Kang, Q. Zhang, I. Hsieh, S. Chen).

**2021:** Invited lecturer to undergraduate students at **Hunter College** (City University of New York); course: Animal Behavior [Prof. Ofer Tchernichovski]

Mentor at the **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF)**: 10-week program where College sophomores and juniors receive personalized scientific training by a mentor-scientist. Rockefeller University, NY, USA. Project: Evolutionary history of the dopamine receptors.

Invited mentor to undergraduate students at **Barnard College** (Columbia University, NY, USA). Project: Neurobiology and Genomics of Language.

- 2019:** Trainer to PhD students: Get prepared and be ready for a scientific presentation. Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, PhD Day of Campus Can Ruti, Badalona, Spain, June 7.  
Trainer to the 5th Barcelona Science Slam-participants. 2019. Organizers: Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) and Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) (Biennal Ciutat I Ciència), CRG, Barcelona, Spain, February 6-8.
- 2017:** Mentor at the **Summer Science Research Program (SSRP)**: 7-week program, where high-school students receive personalized scientific training by a mentor-scientist. Rockefeller University, NY, USA. Project: Selective vocal learning in a social reward context.
- 2016:** **Master Thesis** advisor (student: Alejandro Andirkó), Cognitive Science and Language, University of Barcelona, Spain. Project: Oxytocin and Vasotocin Receptor variants as a window onto the evolution of human prosociality.
- Master course** teacher: Biological foundations of language-Interdisciplinary Applications of linguistic concepts (Cognitive Science and Language Master Program), University of Barcelona, Spain.
- 2010-2013:** **Biology and Ancient Greek teacher.** Pathways of Life (NGO offering voluntary classes to young immigrants (8-18 years old), Athens, Greece.

## AWARDS/GRANTS

- 2022:** **Champions Under 40**, Regional Growth Conference, Patras, Greece, June 12.
- 2021:** [\*\*Forbes 30 Under 30 2021 List -Science & Healthcare.\*\*](#)  
**New York University fellowship** on the Neurobiology of Language and Dance, NY, USA.
- 2020:** **Extraordinary PhD Thesis Award**, University of Barcelona, Spain.
- 2019:** **IBRO-Society for Neuroscience Travel Award**, San Diego, USA.  
**Glenn I. Hatton Memorial Award**, 13th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones, Ein Gedi, Israel.  
**Emmanouil Andreadis Award** for excellence, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.
- 2018:** **Nancy Rutledge Zahniser Trainee Professional Development Award (TPDA)**, Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, USA.  
**Leventis Foundation scholarship** for excellence, Greece.  
**3-MIN-Thesis competition winner**, University of Barcelona, Spain, March 21.  
**Student Travel Award**, Evolang XII, Torun, Poland, April 16-19.  
**Student Travel Award**, 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, June 4-9.
- 2017:** **Grant from AGAUR** (Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca) for a project aiming at supporting underrepresented minorities in science.  
**Barcelona Science Slam Winner 2017** (organized by: Marie Curie Alumni Association, Opaty, SINGEK, Incite, Euroleish).

- 2016:** **Best Poster presentation Award** BARCCSYN meeting (Barcelona Computational, Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience), Barcelona, Spain, June 17.
- Helmsley Fellowship** for the Genetics & Neurobiology of Language Course in Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, July.
- Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) travel grant**, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2-6.
- FI Grant for 3-year Phd Project (Generalitat de Catalunya), 2016-2018.
- FI Grant from the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (“Language disorders as oscillopathies: Towards a paradigm shift in clinical linguistics”).
- 2015:** **Honours for the best MA Thesis**, Cognitive Science and Language, University of Barcelona, Spain.
- 2014:** **Heritage of Pantia- Ralli:** Award from the University of Athens (Greece) for excellent performance among students of the Department of Linguistics.
- 2013:** **Honours (1<sup>st</sup> place in University)**, University of Seville, Spain.  
**Erasmus Scholarship**, University of Seville, Spain.
- 2010:** I.K.Y (State Scholarships Foundation) Scholarship, Greece.

## PUBLICATIONS

(14/23 1<sup>st</sup> author)

### Published/Accepted

1. Theofanopoulou\*, C., Andirkó\*, A., Jarvis, E.D., Boeckx C. (2022) [Oxytocin and vasotocin receptor variation and the evolution of human prosociality](#). *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology* 11, 100139.
2. Formenti, G.,...Theofanopoulou, C., et al. (2022) [Bridging the gap between genomics and biodiversity conservation](#). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 37(3), 197-202.
3. Theofanopoulou, C., Gedman, G., Cahill, J.A., Boeckx, C., Jarvis E. D. (2021) [A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families](#). *Nature* 592, 747-755.
4. Rhie, A....Theofanopoulou et al. (2021) [Towards complete and error-free genome assemblies of all vertebrate species](#). *Nature* 592, 737-746.
5. Theofanopoulou, C. (2021). [Reconstructing the evolutionary history of the oxytocin and vasotocin receptor gene family: insights on whole genome duplication scenarios](#). *Developmental Biology* 479, 99-106.
6. Tobari\*, Y., Theofanopoulou\*, C. et al. (2021) [Identification and brain expression of OT \(oxytocin\) in the wild White-rumped munias and the domesticated Bengalese finches](#). *Genes, Brain and Behavior* 21(2), e12780.
7. Borie\*, A., Theofanopoulou\*, C., Andari, E. (2021). [The promiscuity of the oxytocin-vasopressin systems and their involvement in autism spectrum disorder](#). In Swaab, D. et al. (Eds.), *Handbook of Clinical Neurology: The Human Hypothalamus: Neuropsychiatric Disorders*. Vol. 182, p. 121-140. Elsevier.
8. Núñez, C., Theofanopoulou, C., Senior, C., Cambra, M. R., Usall, J., Stephan-Otto, C., Brébion, G. (2018). [A large-scale study on the effects of sex on gray matter asymmetry](#). *Brain Structure and Function* 223, 183-193.
9. Boeckx, C. & Theofanopoulou, C. (2018). [\(Neural\) syntax](#). In Martin, R. & Gallego, A. (Eds.), *Language, Syntax, and the Natural Sciences*, 295-315. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

10. Theofanopoulou C., Gastaldon S. et al. (2017). [Self-domestication in \*Homo sapiens\*: Insights from comparative genomics.](#) *PLoS ONE* 12(10), e0185306.
11. Theofanopoulou C., Boeckx C., Jarvis E.D. (2017). [A hypothesis on a role of oxytocin in the social mechanisms of speech and vocal learning.](#) *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 284(186), 20170988.
12. Theofanopoulou, C. (2016). [Implications of oxytocin in human linguistic cognition: from genome to phenome.](#) *Frontiers in Neuroscience* 10(271).
13. Benítez-Burraco A., Theofanopoulou C. & Boeckx C. (2016). [Globularization and Domestication.](#) *Topoi* 37, 265-278.
14. Boeckx C., Theofanopoulou C. & Benítez-Burraco A. (2016). [How the Brain got grammaticalized: Globularization and \(self-\)domestication.](#) In S.G. Roberts et al. (Eds.), *The Evolution of Language: Proceedings of the 11th International Conference (EVOLANG11)*.
15. Theofanopoulou, C., & Boeckx, C. (2016). The central role of the thalamus in language and cognition. In Boeckx, C., & Fujita, K. (Eds.), *In Advances in Biolinguistics: The Human Language Faculty and its Biological Basis*, London: Routledge.
16. Theofanopoulou, C., & Boeckx, C. (2015). [Cognitive phylogenies, the Darwinian logic of descent, and the inadequacy of cladistic thinking.](#) *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* 3(64).
17. Theofanopoulou, C. (2015). [Brain asymmetry in the white matter making and Globularity.](#) *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(1355).
18. Boeckx, C. & Theofanopoulou, C. (2015). [Commentary on “Labels, cognomes, and cyclic computation: An ethological perspective”.](#) *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(784).
19. Theofanopoulou, C., Martins, P. T., Ramirez, J., Zhang, E., Arellano, D., Castillo, G., Shi, E., Alamri, S., Martinez-Alvarez, A., & Leivada, E. (2015). [Neurological foundations of language: Emerging perspectives.](#) *Llengua, Societat i Comunicació* 13.
20. Theofanopoulou, C. [Light Verbs in Modern Greek.](#) (2015). *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 35, 607- 631. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
21. Boeckx, C. & Theofanopoulou, C. (2014). [A Multidimensional Interdisciplinary Framework for Linguistics: The Lexicon as a Case Study.](#) *Journal of Cognitive Science* 15, 403-420.

Preprint/In Press/Under review/In preparation

22. Theofanopoulou, C. and Jarvis, E. D. (conditionally accepted) What’s in a gene name? A case for a Universal Vertebrate Gene Nomenclature Committee.
23. Sartorius, A.M., Theofanopoulou, C.\*, Quintana, D.S.\* (in prep.) An annotated evolutionary timeline of the oxytocin signaling pathway.

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TALKS

1. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2022. Champions Under 40: Paving the Way Forward. Regional Growth Conference, Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras, Greece, June 11. [[invited talk](#)]
2. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2022. The role of oxytocin in language. Ioannina Science Festival, Ioannina, Greece, June 5. [[invited talk/keynote](#)]
3. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. Genomic evolution of the oxytocin-vasotocin system and its implication in socially motivated behaviours. Harvard Medical School, BOS, MA, October 20. [[invited talk](#)]
4. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *Finishing your PhD*. Talk to the Yale Ciencia Academy. Yale School of Medicine, CT, US, August 10. [[invited talk](#)]
5. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *Universal nomenclature for oxytocin-vasotocin ligands and receptors: insights on whole genome duplication scenarios*. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Crete, Greece, July 13. [[invited talk](#)]
6. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *Eudaemonia; interdisciplinary*. TEDx talk, TEDxAUTH 2021, June 27. [[invited talk](#) + public engagement]
7. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *From social motivation of vocal learning to domestication: insights from the oxytocin-vasotocin system*. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico, June 25. [[invited talk](#)]
8. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *Universal nomenclature for oxytocin-vasotocin ligands and receptors*. Kavli Neural Systems Institute Mini-Symposium Series (Methods). Rockefeller University, NY, USA, June 17. [talk]
9. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2021. *Neurobiology of vocal learning*. Talk and Discussion with the Columbia University and Barnard college undergraduates in the context of the 'Neuroscience Frontiers' course. March 30. [[invited talk](#)]
10. **C. Theofanopoulou.** 2020. *Comparative genomics reveal the evolutionary history of oxytocin and vasotocin ligands and receptors*. University of Toledo, Ohio, USA, May 4. [[invited talk](#)]
11. **Theofanopoulou, C.** 2019. *A universal vertebrate gene nomenclature: a case study of the oxytocin/vasotocin ligand and receptor family*. Advancing the missions of the Vertebrate Genomes Project, Earth Biogenome Project, and other genome projects (VGP Annotation, Alignment and Data Coordination Breakout). Rockefeller University, New York, NY, August 28. [[invited talk](#)]
12. **C. Theofanopoulou, G. Gedman, J.A. Cahill, C. Boeckx, C., E. D. Jarvis.** 2019. *A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. 13<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones (WCNH2019), Ein Gedi, Israel, April 8-11. [poster+ poster blitz session+ [award winner](#)]
13. **C. Lee, S. Cho, C. Theofanopoulou, C. Boeckx, H. Kim, E. D. Jarvis.** 2019. *Molecular Convergence Between Humans and Bonobos vs Chimpanzee*. International Plant & Animal Genome XXVII, San Diego, CA, USA, January 12-16. [poster]
14. **C. Theofanopoulou, G. Gedman, J.A. Cahill, C. Boeckx, C., E. D. Jarvis.** 2019. *A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. Sfn Neuroscience 2019, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois, USA, October 23. [poster]
15. **C. Theofanopoulou, G. Gedman, J.A. Cahill, C. Boeckx, C., E. D. Jarvis.** 2019. *A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. Sfn Neuroscience 2019, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois, USA, October 19. [International Fellows poster session+ [IBRO award](#)]
16. **C. Theofanopoulou, D. Lipkind, O. Tchernichovski, C. Boeckx, E. D. Jarvis.** 2018. *The effect of social reward in vocal learning: Testing an oxytocin-dependent mechanism*. Nanosymposium: Social



Communication and Behavior. Sfn Neuroscience 2018, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA, USA, November 4. [talk]

17. **C. Theofanopoulou**, D. Lipkind, O. Tchernichovski, C. Boeckx, E. D. Jarvis. 2018. *The effect of social reward in vocal learning: Testing an oxytocin-dependent mechanism*. Nanosymposium: Social Communication and Behavior. Sfn Neuroscience 2018, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA, USA, November 3. [Trainee Professional Development Awards poster session]
18. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. *The evolutionary history of oxytocin and vasopressin ligands and receptors and their role in vocal learning*. Workshop: Understanding the neuroregulatory actions of oxytocin and its potential clinical applications, Erice, Sicily, Italy, May 22-27. [talk]
19. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. *Somos los humanos auto-domesticados?* BCNspiracy, CosmoCaixa (Museum of Science), Barcelona, Spain, October 27 [invited talk + public engagement]
20. B. Samuels, P.T. Martins, T. O'Rourke, A. Andirko, S. Alamri, **C. Theofanopoulou**, C. Boeckx. 2018. *Rethinking neoteny and neuroplasticity in language evolution*. Workshop: New Directions in Language Evolution Research, 51st Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europæa, Tallin, Estonia, August 29-September 1. [talk]
21. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. *Are we humans self-domesticated?* Sala Ramón y Cajal, University of Barcelona, March 21. [public engagement + award winner]
22. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. *Convergences in (self-)domesticated species*. Workshop: Self-domestication and language evolution, Evolang XII, Hotel Filmar, Torún, Poland, April 16<sup>th</sup> [talk+ award winner]
23. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2017. *Reward mechanisms of vocal learning. Does oxytocin 'excite' lanuage?* Minisymposium: Insights from birdsong into the evolution and development of spoken language, Protolang5, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, September 26-28 [talk]
24. Muñoz Andrikó, **C. Theofanopoulou** & C. Boeckx. 2017. *Differences on the OXTR between modern humans and extinct hominids: a window to our language-ready behavior*. Protolang5, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, September 26-28 [poster]
25. Boeckx, **C. Theofanopoulou**, B. Samuels & M. Kuhlwilm. 2017. *Genetic changes associated with bone remodeling activity and the origin of the modern human face*. 7th Annual ESHE Meeting, Stadsgehoorzaal, Leiden, Netherlands, September 21-23 [poster]
26. T. Goldstein, **C. Theofanopoulou** & E. D. Jarvis. 2017. *Social Reward Enhances Vocal Learning in the Zebra Finch*. Summer Science Research Program. Rockefeller University, NY, USA, August 10th [poster]
27. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2017. *Reward mechanisms of vocal learning. Does oxytocin 'excite' lanuage?* Laboratory of Neurogenetics of Language (PI: Erich D. Jarvis), Rockefeller University, NY, USA, June 28th [talk]
28. **C. Theofanopoulou**, G. Geldman, C. Boeckx & E. D. Jarvis. 2017. *A proposed universal nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. 18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Chateau Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, June 4-9. [poster + award winner]
29. **C. Theofanopoulou**, T. O' Rourke, S. Gastaldon, A. Messner, B. Samuels, P.T. Martins, S. Alamri & C. Boeckx. 2017. *Paleogenomic evidence for self-domestication in Homo sapiens*. European Human Behavior and Evolution Association 2017, Ecole normale supérieure (ENS), Paris, France, April 6-8. [talk + award winner]
30. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2017. *The role of oxytocin in language*. 2017 Marie Curie Alumni Association Conference and General Assembly, Alameda Palace Hotel, Salamanca, Spain, March 23-25. [invited talk + public engagement + award winner]

31. C. Theofanopoulou, G. Gedman, C. Boeckx, E. D. Jarvis. 2017. *The Oxytocin Receptor and the Vasopressin/Vasotocin Receptor 1A appear to be paralogous sister genes explaining their common functions*. Nanosymposium: Hormonal and Neuropeptide Control of Physiology and Behavior. Sfn Neuroscience 2017, Washington, D.C., USA, November 15. [talk]
32. C. Theofanopoulou. 2017. *The role of oxytocin in language*. Barcelona Science Slam 2017 organized by the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), Opaty, SINGEK, Incite and EuroLeish. Bar Mau Mau, Barcelona, Spain, March 3rd. [public engagement + Winner lecture]
33. C. Theofanopoulou, G. Geldman, C. Boeckx & E. D. Jarvis. 2017. *A proposed universal nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. Human Genome Meeting (Hugo-HGM). Hotel Barceló Sants, Barcelona, Spain, February 5-7. [poster]
34. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Self-domestication of the Homo sapiens and the case of oxytocin*. Dognition Laboratory (PI: Brian Hare), Duke University, NC, USA, November 30<sup>th</sup>. [invited talk]
35. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *The endocrinome of social communication*. Nanosymposium 'Oxytocin and Social Behavior'. Sfn Neuroscience 2016, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA, USA, November 12-16. [talk]
36. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *How social-reward hormones modulate language-learning*. Beyond Language Learning Workshop, Campus Poblenou, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, September 29-30. [poster]
37. C. Boeckx, C. Theofanopoulou & S. Alamri. 2016. *Characterizing the species-specific developmental trajectory underlying our enhanced learning capacity*. Beyond Language Learning Workshop, Campus Poblenou, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, September 29-30. [poster]
38. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Implications of oxytocin in language*. Cold Spring Harbor Lab, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, July 25<sup>th</sup>. [talk]
39. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Implications of oxytocin in the reward mechanisms of auditory-vocal learning*. Jarvis Laboratory. Duke University, NC, USA. July 31<sup>st</sup>. [talk]
40. C. Theofanopoulou & C. Boeckx. 2016. *Oxytocin pathways, language-related genes, and the emergence of modern cognition*. 10th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2-6 July. [poster]
41. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Oxytocin and Brain Rhythms*. BARCCSYN 2016 meeting (Barcelona Computational, Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience), Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, Spain, 16-17 June. [poster]
42. C. Boeckx, C. Theofanopoulou & S. Alamri. 2016. *A syntax of Brain Rhythms for natural language syntax*. BARCCSYN 2016 meeting (Barcelona Computational, Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience), Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, Spain, 16-17 June. [poster]
43. C. Theofanopoulou & C. Boeckx. 2016. *Sapiens-specific genetic changes affecting oxytocin pathways*. The European Conference of Human Genetics 2016, CCIB, Barcelona, Spain, 21-24 May. [poster]
44. C. Boeckx & C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Genomic evidence for self-domestication in anatomically modern humans*. The European Conference of Human Genetics 2016, CCIB, Barcelona, Spain, 21-24 May. [poster]
45. C. Boeckx & C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *The complex system underlying neoteny and the evolution of human cognition*. V Jornada Complexitat. Cat: Unifying Complexity Science, INEFC, Barcelona, Spain, 19 May. [talk]
46. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *A framework for studying self-domestication*. 8th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science, Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia, 28 April- 1 May. [poster]

47. C. Boeckx, C. Theofanopoulou & A. Benítez- Burraco. 2016. *How the brain got grammaticalized: Globularization And (self-)domestication*. EVOLANG 11, University of Mississippi, USA, 21-24 March. [talk]
48. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Why oxytocin might affect rhythmicity*. EVOLANG 11 (Workshop: Rhythm: Development, Evolution and Cognition), Tulane University, USA, 21 March. [talk]
49. C. Theofanopoulou, S. Alamri & C. Boeckx. 2016. *A brain symphony for natural language syntax*. The Nijmegen Lectures 2016 (David Poeppel), Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 20-22 January. [poster]
50. C. Boeckx & C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. *Some unconventional thoughts on neurolinguistics*. Universitat de Barcelona, Escola Universitaria D'Infermeria, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain. 15 January. [invited talk]
51. C. Boeckx & C. Theofanopoulou. 2015. *Brain-related genes and craniofacial development*. Center for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain, 3 December. [invited talk]
52. C. Theofanopoulou. 2015. *Rhythms in the Alzheimer's Disease's brain: A treatable endophenotype?* IV Clinical Linguistics International Congress, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18- 20 November. [talk]
53. C. Boeckx, C. Theofanopoulou, & A. Benítez-Burraco.. 2015. *Brain-related genes and craniofacial development: a robust molecular link for clinical linguistics*. IV Clinical Linguistics International Congress, University of Barcelona, Spain, 18- 20 November. [talk]
54. S. Alamri, E. Q. Zhang, C. Theofanopoulou, G. Castillo, E. R. Shi, E. P. T . Martins, S. Martínez-Ferreiro, & C. Boeckx. 2015. *Implications of subcortical structures in Aphasia*. Academy of Aphasia 53rd Annual Meeting. Tucson, Arizona, USA, 18- 20 October. [poster] [*Front. Psychol. Conference Abstract: Academy of Aphasia 53rd Annual Meeting*. doi: 10.3389/conf.fpsyg.2015.65.00081]
55. E.Q. Zhang, C. Theofanopoulou, S. Alamri, G. Castillo, E.R. Shi, P.T. Martins, S. Martinez Ferreiro & C. Boeckx. 2015. *Aphasia and subcortical structures*. Experimental Psycholinguistics Conference, University of Madrid, Spain, 7-9 October. [poster]
56. C. Theofanopoulou, E. Q. Zhang, S. Alamri, G. Castillo, E. R. Shi, P. T. Martins, S. Martinez Ferreiro, & C. Boeckx. 2015. *Subcortical structures and language disruption*. 16th Science of Aphasia Conference, University of Aveiro, Portugal, 17-22 September. [poster]
57. C. Theofanopoulou & C. Boeckx. 2015. *Can adequate cognitive phylogenies be constructed?* Protolang 4. Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, September 24-26. [talk]
58. C. Theofanopoulou. 2015. *Globularity and Laterality*. Symposium on "The emergence of the human language-ready brain". Protolang 4. Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, September 24-26 [invited talk]
59. Bentez-Burraco, C. Theofanopoulou, & C. Boeckx. 2015. *Recent brain-related gene mutations and the emergence of our language-ready brain*. Tokyo Lectures in Language Evolution. University of Tokyo, Japan. April 2-5. [poster].
60. Theofanopoulou. 2015. *What cognitive phylogenies got wrong*. Tokyo Lectures in Language Evolution. University of Tokyo, Japan. April 2-5. [poster].
61. Theofanopoulou. 2015. *A cognitive approach to the light verb constructions*. Formal Semantics Meets Cognitive Semantics. University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands. January 22-23. [poster]
62. C. Theofanopoulou. 2014. *Greek Light Verbs*. 35th Meeting of Linguistics' Department. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. May 9-10. [talk]



## PRESS MENTIONS/INTERVIEWS

### In English:

Science on the Subway-Columbia University: [Interview](#)

Rockefeller University: [A case for simplifying gene nomenclature across different organisms](#)

Nature: [The Vertebrate Genomes Project](#)

Forbes: [30 Under 30 2021 List - Science & Healthcare](#)

Science: [Can these birds explain how language first evolved?](#)

Science: [These docile foxes may hold some of the genetic keys to domestication](#)

Science: [Researchers reboot ambitious effort to sequence all vertebrate genomes, but challenges loom](#)

New scientist: [The tamed ape: were humans the first animal to be domesticated?](#)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute: [Project to Read Genomes of All 70,000 Vertebrate Species Reports First Discoveries](#)

Spectrum News: [Blocking oxytocin causes birds to sing solitary tunes](#)

Phys.org: [Did humans domesticate themselves?](#)

Science News: [How humans \(maybe\) domesticated themselves](#)

ScienceDaily: [Did humans domesticate themselves?](#)

Quanta magazine: [In Birds' Songs, Brains and Genes, He Finds Clues to Speech](#)

Zme Science: [Man-made: we've domesticated our own species](#)

University of Barcelona news: [Did humans domesticate themselves?](#)

### In Spanish:

LaSexta: [Da comienzo una nueva era para la genómica de la biodiversidad](#)

LaVanguardia: [Los humanos se domesticaron eligiendo congéneres más sociales](#)

El Periódico: [Los humanos se autodomesticaron seleccionando a los ejemplares más sociables](#)

Ambientum: [¿El ser humano se domesticó a sí mismo?](#)

Muy Interesante: [¿El ser humano se domesticó a sí mismo?](#)

Catalunya Vanguardista: [¿El ser humano se domesticó a sí mismo?](#)

Canal Extremadura: [Entrevista sobre la autodomesticación humana \(Principio de Incertidumbre\)](#)

### In Catalan:

Universitat de Barcelona: [Proposta d'una nova nomenclatura universal per als gens oxitocina i vasotocina](#)

El Punt Avui: [Som humans amansits?](#)

Al día: [Els humans es "van autodomesticar" i van seleccionar actituds socials, segons un estudi](#)

El Mon: [Un nou estudi reforça la teoria de l'autodomesticació humana](#)

### In Greek:

Marie Claire Greece: [Interview](#)

ERT1 TV: [interview for the program 'I Zoi allios' by Ina Tarantou](#)

Ant1 News TV: [interview on Forbes distinction](#)

[Kathimerini, Ta Nea, Open TV, Athens Voice, Lifo, Ethnos, It's Possible](#) interviews on Forbes distinction

To Vima Science (interview): [Η ωκυτοκίνη πίσω από τις λέξεις \(Oxytocin behind speech\)](#)

Fly News (interview): [Μπορεί Η Ωκυτοκίνη Να Χαρίσει Το Λόγο Σε Άτομα Με Αυτισμό; \(Can oxytocin improve speech in autism patients?\)](#)

## INTERVIEWS/ARTICLES ON COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, Constantina has been invited to give her opinion on the biology and treatment of COVID-19, as well as lockdown measures. She was the first scientist to analyze and explain the official vs. real number of cases in her home country, Greece.

To Vima (interview): [Η μάχη κατά του COVID-19 \(The battle against COVID-19.\)](#)

Athens Voice: [Γιατί ο κορωνοϊός ΔΕΝ είναι ανθρώπινο κατασκεύασμα \(Why the virus is NOT human-made.\)](#)

Athens Voice (most read article on COVID-19 in Greece for a week): [Κορωνοϊός: Η Ελλάδα πρέπει να μπει σε καραντίνα σήμερα \(Coronavirus: Greece must go lockdown today\).](#)

ERT TV: [interviews](#)

SKAI TV: [interviews](#)

STAR CHANNEL: [interviews](#)

KRITI TV: [interviews](#)

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

2020-present: [European Reference Genome Atlas](#) Council Member, Leader of ERGA-Greece

2016-present: [Vertebrate Genomes Project](#) member, Annotation Team

2020-present: [COVID-Human Genetic Effort member](#)  
Oxy-COVID19 Project member, University of Toledo, Ohio, USA

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

BioAcCES: a virtual conference for undergraduate students, organized by Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative, Científico Latino, and the Rockefeller University Dean's Office of Graduate Studies, October 3, 2020. [poster session reviewer]

Vertebrates Genomes Project Workshop (with S. Paez and G. Formenti). **Plant and Animal Genome Conference (PAG)**, Handlery Hotel San Diego, CA, Jan 15, 2020.

Nanosymposium "Social Communication and Behavior, **Society for Neuroscience 2018**, San Diego, CA, November 4. [Chair: **C. Theofanopoulou**]

Workshop on "Self-domestication and language evolution", **Evolang XII**, Hotel Filmar, Torún, Poland, April 16, 2018 (Invited speakers: C. Boeckx, R. Kluender, Z. Clay, K. Okanoya, M. Fröhlich). [Organiser: **C. Theofanopoulou**]

**Protolang5**: with C. Boeckx, P. T. Martins, S. Alamri and T. O'Rourke), University of Barcelona, Spain, September 26–28, 2017.

Minisymposium: Insights from birdsong into the evolution & development of spoken language (Speakers: C. ten Cate, C. Scharff, E. D. Jarvis, C. Theofanopoulou), **Protolang5**, University of Barcelona, Spain, September 26-28, 2017. [Organiser: C. Theofanopoulou]

## ACTIONS EMPOWERING UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES IN SCIENCE

- 2020-present:** [New York Academy of Sciences \(NYAS\) selected STEM mentor](#) in teaching Life Sciences to elementary and middle school students in underserved communities throughout NYC.
- [ALBA Network](#) volunteer.
- [Women on Top](#) selected STEM mentor for young female generation (volunteer).
- [ForbesWomen Forum](#) Invited Member.
- 2020-2021:** [Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative \(RiSI\)](#) network coordinator.
- 2020:** Lecturer to students aged 9-16 in MSKCC, Columbia, Regeneron, and other institutes: My trajectory as a scientist. Zoom.
- Volunteer at [BioAcCES](#): a virtual conference for undergraduate students, organized by RiSI, Científico Latino, and the Rockefeller University Dean's Office of Graduate Studies, October 3.
- 2019:** Luncheon for Women in Neuroscience, Society for Neuroscience, Chicago, US, October 22.
- 2018:** “Dones a la història de la ciència? Les grans desconegudes.” (“Women in the history of science? Great but unknown.”), Barcelona, Spain, March 4.
- 2017:** Luncheon for Women in Neuroscience, Society for Neuroscience, Washington D.C., US, November 14.
- 2016:** Luncheon for Women in Neuroscience Luncheon at Society for Neuroscience, San Diego, November 15.
- 2010-2014:** Member of ‘Pathways of Life’: voluntary support classes to young immigrants from adverse backgrounds (war, extreme poverty, family abuse) coming to Greece for a better life.

### Involved/Featured in:

[1 million Women in STEM](#)

[BrainNY Brunch Fridays](#): high school and early college science journal club

Women in Science initiative at Rockefeller University ([WISeR](#))

[500 Women Scientists](#)

[Mujeres con.ciencia](#)

[Comissió Dona i Ciència](#)

[Foro de mujeres en ciencia](#)

[TEDxWomen](#)

## SCIENCE POLICY & SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

**2022:** Member of the Rockefeller Science Diplomacy delegation of the [Hurford Initiative](#) (organizers: Jesse Ausubel & Mandë Holford).  
Course: February-April  
Field Trip to Washington D.C.: Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Office of Science and Technology Policy of the White House, US-Russia Foundation).

Participant in the Science Policy Panel for non-US citizens (Rockefeller University; Jan. 25).

## PEER REVIEW

External Reviewer for: *Science, Neuron, Cell, Current Biology, BMC Genomics, Trends in Ecology and Evolution, Journal of Comparative Neurology, Psychonomic Bulletin and Review, Evolutionary Psychological Science, Journal of Anthropological Sciences, Frontiers in Psychology, Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience, Bilingualistics.*

## LANGUAGES

Greek: native level  
English: C2 Level (University of Michigan, 2006)  
Spanish: C2 Level (B2 Instituto Cervantes, 2012).  
Italian: C2/Diploma di Lingua Italiana (Istituto Italiano di Cultura, 2006)  
French: B1 level  
Catalan: B2 level  
Latin: 10/10 at the University of Athens, Greece  
Ancient Greek: 10/10 at the University of Athens, Greece

## POETRY PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS/AWARDS

**2019-present:** Poetry monthly column at [Natural Selections](#), Rockefeller University mag.  
**2022:** [ERT Radio interview](#) on poetry.  
**2021:** Dissected: *Kalo Mina Newsletter*.  
Poetry recitation: The New House Center, Snug Harbor Cultural Center.  
**2020:** Scents they sent: *Lumiere Review* (1).  
**2015:** Figi: *Eneken* (36) 142.  
**2014-2019:** Monthly poetry review column at [Culturenow](#).  
**2013-2014:** Monthly literature Reviews [www.artic.gr](#).  
**2014:** 1st Place at the 9th Panhellenic Poetry Competition.  
**2010-2011:** Article writer at the 'Organisation for the Spread of Greek Language'.  
**1999:** Kid Fairytale Prize from [Minoas](#) Publications.

## FLAMENCO DANCE/AWARDS

**2022:** Solo Dance Alegrías at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, Virginia, US, April 8.  
Rumba Flamenca, Dance Party, Bryant Park, New York, NY, US, May 10.  
**2020:** Solo show at 'Club Bona Fide', with Gabriel Hermida, New York, NY, US, Feb 20.  
**2019:** Show at Auditorio de Cornellá, Escuela José de la Vega, Barcelona, Spain, July 5.

48th Feria de Abril de Catalunya, Parc del Forum, Barcelona, Spain, May 5.  
Show FLASHMOB, FLAMENC-ON festival opening, Santa Coloma de Gramanet,  
Barcelona, Spain, March 29.

Show 'Poetas Andaluces, La Generación del 27', Escuela José de la Vega,  
Barcelona, Spain, March 22.

Show for the Día de Andalucía, Comercial La Farga, Barcelona, Spain, February  
23.

**2018:** Show at Auditorio de Cornellá, Escuela José de la Vega, Barcelona, Spain, July 8.

**2016:** Show at Teatro Blas Infante, Escuela de Baile La Tani, Badalona, Spain, July 10.

**2014:** Show 'Pasabia', Acropol Theater, Athens, Greece, June 25.

**2013:** Show 'Diez', Acropol Theater, Athens, Greece, June 14.

**2012:** Show 'Cuerda Viajera', National Opera, Athens, Greece, June 10.

1<sup>st</sup> prize in the flamenco competition of the Spanish Dance Society (scholarship  
to the UK).

**2011:** Show 'Duende', National Opera, Athens, Greece, June 29.

**2010:** Show 'El Pulso del Alma', National Opera, Athens, Greece, June 27.

**2009:** Ballet Show, Iliisia Theatre, Athens, Greece, June 9.