

CONSTANTINA THEOFANOPOULOU



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www.neurobiologyofsocialcommunication.com

Constantina Theofanopoulou's research aims to understand the neural circuits of complex sensory-motor behaviors that serve social communication, specifically speech and dance, and to uncover effective drug (with a focus on oxytocin) and arts-based interventions (with a focus on dance and music) for addressing sensory-motor deficits commonly seen in brain disorders, such as Parkinson's Disease.

Dr. Theofanopoulou's scientific findings have garnered worldwide media attention (e.g., The New York Times, Science, New Scientist, The Guardian). She has been elected to leadership roles including the Society for Neuroscience Global Membership Committee and the International Brain Research Organization US/Canada Regional Committee, and honored as a Renée Fleming Neuroarts Investigator, a Next Generation Leader by the Allen Institute, and a Forbes 30 Under 30 Lister in 2021. Additionally, Constantina is an awarded flamenco dancer and poet.

EDUCATION-EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

12/01/25-12/01/26	Visiting Research Faculty, Yale University
01/2024-present	Herbert and Nell Singer Research Assistant Professor, Rockefeller University, USA Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA Research Associate, Emory School of Medicine, US Dept of Veteran Affairs, USA
01/2024-06/2024	Adjunct Professor, Drexel University, USA
08/2023-12/2023	Senior Research Associate, Rockefeller University, USA Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA (The Center for Ballet and the Arts)
2022-2023	Associate Research Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York, USA Visiting Associate Professor, Rockefeller University, USA
2019-2022	Post-Doctoral Researcher, Rockefeller University, USA Fellow, New York University, USA (The Center for Ballet and the Arts)
2016-2019	PhD cum laude (excellent) International PhD title: University of Barcelona (Spain), Duke University (USA), Rockefeller University (USA) PhD Committee: C. Scharff (Free University of Berlin), B. Hare (Duke University), N. Staes (University of Antwerp) Supervisors: C. Boeckx (University of Barcelona), E. D. Jarvis (Duke University, Rockefeller University)
2014-2015	MA Cognitive Science and Language, University of Barcelona, Spain GPA: 9,4/10 (1 st in MA program)
2010-2014	Undergraduate studies in Linguistics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece GPA: 9,5/10 (1 st place at the University) Erasmus: University of Seville, Spain (Honours)
2010	Graduated from High School Arsakeio Psichikou, Athens, Greece GPA: 19,7/20 (national ranking: 2 nd)

SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS

2025-present	Society for Neuroscience , Global Membership Committee
2024-present	International Brain Research Organization , US/Canada Regional Committee

[ALBA Network \(division of FENS\)](#), Global Diversity Committee

2022-2025 [Allen Institute Next Generation Leaders'](#) Advisory Board

2022-2023 Vangelina Theatre Scientific Advisor
[Gibney Dance](#) Fellowship Scientific Advisor

2020-present [European Reference Genome Atlas](#) Council Member

2016-present [Vertebrate Genomes Project](#) member

PUBLICATIONS

*co-first author

*co-corresponding author

Accepted

1. [Theofanopoulou, C.*](#), Bajaj, N., Muñoz Sánchez, A., Crosson, B., Wolf, S. L., Krishnamurthy, V., McGregor, K. M., Hackney, M. E.* (2026). [Functional Reorganization of Motor Subcircuits in Parkinson's disease. *bioRxiv* \(Brain Communications; accepted\).](#)

Published

2. Arigony Prates, R., Guzzo Júnior, C. C. E., Duarte, M. V. A., Muñoz Sánchez, A., Pauli, P., Martinez, F. G., Passos-Monteiro, E., García, A. M., Haas*, A. N., [Theofanopoulou, C.*](#) (2026). [Impact of Amazonian Dance on Speech Performance in People with Parkinson's Disease. *iScience* 8\(29\), 117185.](#)
3. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2025) [Dancing towards speech improvement: Repurposing dance for motor speech deficits in neurodegenerative diseases. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* 105\(4\), 1085-1096.](#)
4. Karkou, V., Sacco, P. V., Pelowski, M., [Theofanopoulou, C.](#), Carr, C., Huet, V., Bourne, J., Dowlen, R., Chatterjee, H. (2025). [Towards a more nuanced evaluation of current research on the health outcomes of arts-based interventions. *Physics of Life Reviews* 54, 147-151.](#)
5. Sartorius, A.I., [Theofanopoulou, C.](#), Quintana, D.S. (2025). [The Evolution of Oxytocin Receptor Signaling.](#) In Grinevich, V., Oliveira, R. (Eds.), *Evolutionary and Comparative Neuroendocrinology. Masterclass in Neuroendocrinology*, 17. Springer, Cham.
6. Iversen, I.A., Alaerts, K., ... [Theofanopoulou, C.](#), ... Quintana, D.S. (2025). [The active monitoring of oxytocin research evidence \(AMORE\) platform. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 107713.](#)
7. [Theofanopoulou, C.*](#), Paez, S.*, Huber, D., Todd, E., Ramirez-Moreno, M.A., Khaleghian, B., Munoz Sanchez, A., Gand, V., Contreras-Vidal, J. L.* (2024) [Mobile brain imaging in butoh dancers: from rehearsals to public performance. *BMC Neuroscience* 25,62.](#)
8. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2024). [Tapping into the vocal learning and rhythmic synchronization hypothesis. *BMC Neuroscience* 25, 63.](#)
9. Sartorius, A. M., Rokicki, J., Bettella, F., Barth, C., de Lange, A. G., Haram, M., ... [Theofanopoulou, C.*](#), Quintana, D. S.* (2024) [An evolutionary timeline of the oxytocin signaling pathway. *Communications Biology*.](#)
10. [Theofanopoulou, C.*](#) and Jarvis, E. D.* (2023) [Reply to: The case for standardizing gene nomenclature in vertebrates. *Nature* 614, E33-E36.](#)
11. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2023) [A journey from speech to dance through the field of oxytocin. *Compr. Psychoneuroendocrinology* 16, 100193.](#)

12. Theissinger, K., Fernandes, C., Formenti, G., ..., Theofanopoulou, C., ..., Waterhouse, R., Mazzoni, C. Höglund, J., European Reference Genome Atlas Consortium. (2023) How genomics can help biodiversity conservation. *Trends in Genetics* 39(7), 545-559.
13. Theofanopoulou, C.*, Andirkó, A.*, Jarvis, E.D., Boeckx, C.* (2022) Oxytocin and vasotocin receptor variation and the evolution of human prosociality. *Compr. Psychoneuroendocrinology* 11, 100139.
14. Formenti, G., Theissinger, K., ..., Theofanopoulou, C., ..., Bálint, M., European Reference Genome Atlas Consortium. (2022) Bridging the gap between genomics and biodiversity conservation. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 37(3), 197-202.
15. 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.
16. Rhie, A., McCarthy, S.A., Fedrigo, O., ..., Theofanopoulou, C., ... Howe, K., Myers, E.W., Durbin, R., Phillippy, A. M., Jarvis, E.D. (2021) Towards complete and error-free genome assemblies of all vertebrate species. *Nature* 592, 737-746.
17. 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.
18. Tobari, Y.*, Theofanopoulou, C.*, Mori, C., Sato, Y., Marutani, M., Fujioka, S., Konno, N., Suzuki, K., Furutani, A., Hakataya, S. Yao, C., Yang, E., Tsai, C., Tang, P., Chih-Feng, C., Boeckx, C., Jarvis, E. D., Okanoya, K. (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.
19. 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*, 182, 121-140. Elsevier.
20. Nuñez, 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.
21. Boeckx, C. and Theofanopoulou, C. (2018) (Neural) syntax. In Martin, R. & Gallego, A. (Eds.), *Language, Syntax, and the Natural Sciences*, 295-315. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
22. Theofanopoulou, C.*, Gastaldon, S.*, O'Rourke, T., Samuels, B.D., Messner, A., Martins, P.T., Delogu, F., Alamri, S., Boeckx, C. (2017) Self-domestication in Homo sapiens: Insights from comparative genomics. *PLoS ONE* 12(10), e0185306.
23. 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.
24. Theofanopoulou, C. (2016) Implications of oxytocin in human linguistic cognition: from genome to phenome. *Frontiers in Neuroscience* 10(271).
25. Benítez-Burraco, A., Theofanopoulou, C., Boeckx, C. (2016) Globularization and Domestication. *Topoi* 37, 265-278.
26. Theofanopoulou, C. and Boeckx, C. (2016) The central role of the thalamus in language and cognition. In Boeckx, C., & Fujita, K. (Eds.), *Advances in Biolinguistics: The Human Language Faculty and its Biological Basis*, 230-255. London: Routledge.

27. Theofanopoulou, C., and Boeckx, C. (2015) [Cognitive phylogenies, the Darwinian logic of descent, and the inadequacy of cladistic thinking](#). *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology* 3(64).
28. Theofanopoulou, C. (2015) [Brain asymmetry in the white matter making and Globularity](#). *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(1355).
29. Boeckx, C. and Theofanopoulou, C. (2015) [Commentary on “Labels, cognomes, and cyclic computation: An ethological perspective”](#). *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(784).
30. Theofanopoulou, C. [Light Verbs in Modern Greek](#). (2015) *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 35, 607- 631. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
31. Boeckx, C. and Theofanopoulou, C. (2014) [A Multidimensional Interdisciplinary Framework for Linguistics: The Lexicon as a Case Study](#). *Journal of Cognitive Science* 15, 403-420.

Preprints/Under review

32. Theofanopoulou, C.⁺, Bajaj, N., Muñoz Sánchez, A., Crosson, B., Wolf, S. L., Krishnamurthy, V., McGregor, K. M., Hackney, M. E.⁺ (2026). [Leader and Follower Roles in Adapted Tango Reveal Complementary Neural Routes to Motor Improvement in Parkinson's Disease](#). *medRxiv*.
33. Anderson, K. L., Oishee, T., Doolittle, V., Theofanopoulou, C.⁺, Whitney, O.⁺ (2026) [Oxytocin receptor antagonism alters context-sensitive song and social brain network activity in male zebra finches](#). *Research Square*.
34. Theofanopoulou, C.⁺ and Jarvis, E. D.⁺ (2026) [Defining brain pathways for human spoken language and vocal learning](#). *PsyArXiv*.

AWARDS/GRANTS

- 2026 **Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund** (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; co-PI: N. Sajnani; \$25,000).
NEA Research Lab Award (PI: M. Hackney; co-PIs: C. Theofanopoulou & M. Foster; \$600,000).
World Women in Neuroscience Award (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$1,000).
Melamid Foundation (PIs: N. Sajnani & C. Theofanopoulou; \$50,000).
Jameel Foundation (PIs: N. Sajnani & C. Theofanopoulou; \$40,000).
Center for Brain Imaging (New York University) (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; co-PIs: A. Sunderlage & N. Sajnani; \$6,000).
Herbert and Nell Singer fund, The Rockefeller University (PIs: C. Theofanopoulou & E. D. Jarvis; \$90,000).
Price Family Center for the Social Brain, The Rockefeller University (PIs: E. D. Jarvis & C. Theofanopoulou; \$32,136).
- 2025 **[Renée Fleming Neuroarts Investigator](#)** Award (PI: C. Theofanopoulou & D. Leventhal; \$25,000).
Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; co-PI: N. Sajnani; \$25,000).
Music4Pain Research Network (funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health and the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (Multiple PIs: Allsop, C. Theofanopoulou, J.P. De Aquino; \$75,000).
Jameel Foundation (PIs: N. Sajnani & C. Theofanopoulou; \$40,000).
Melamid Foundation (PIs: N. Sajnani & C. Theofanopoulou; \$40,000).
Herbert and Nell Singer fund, The Rockefeller University (PIs: C. Theofanopoulou & E. D. Jarvis; \$90,000).
International Brain Research Organization Parenthood Grant (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$3,000).

- 2024 Veterans Health Administration Grant** (PI: M. Hackney; co-PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$1.2M).
Herbert and Nell Singer fund, The Rockefeller University (PIs: C. Theofanopoulou & E. D. Jarvis; \$90,000).
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, The Rockefeller University (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$3,000).
- 2023 Robertson Therapeutic Development Fund/Women Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund**, The Rockefeller University (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$52,000).
Presidential Award, Hunter College, City University of New York (\$2,500).
- 2022 Next Generation Leader, Allen Institute.**
The Transmitter (previously called Spectrum, supported by the Simons Foundation) "**40 Under 40 list**".
Champions Under 40, Regional Growth Conference, Patras, Greece, June 12.
European Union Funding for the European Reference Genome Atlas (ERGA) (20 million €; 720,000 € allocation to the team with co-PIs C. Theofanopoulou & T. Manousaki).
- 2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 2021 List -Science & Healthcare.**
New York University fellowship on the Neurobiology of Language and Dance, NY, USA (\$12,000).
- 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, 18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, June 4-9.
- 2017 Grant from AGAUR** (Agencia de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca: Agency for the Management of University Grants and Research) for a project aiming at supporting underrepresented minorities in science (3,000 €).
Barcelona Science Slam Winner 2017 (organized by: Marie Curie Alumni Association).
- 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 25-31 (\$2,000).
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 (80,000 €).
FI Grant Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness ("Language disorders as oscillopathies: Towards a paradigm shift in clinical linguistics") (co-I: C. Theofanopoulou; 20,000 €).
- 2015 Honours for the best Master's 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 (1st place in University), University of Seville, Spain.
Erasmus Scholarship, University of Seville, Spain.

2010 I.K.Y. State Scholarships Foundation (excellent undergraduate performance), Greece.

MENTORING, TEACHING, AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Mentoring & Supervision

2026-present Yocheved Amrami, MA, Mount Sinai
Elisabeth Bahr, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, New York University

2025-present Alexis Sunderlage, OTD, OTR/L, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis / NYU Steinhardt (Doctorate Capstone Mentor, 2025; Associate Research Scientist, 2025-present)

2024-present Brigid Maloney, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, The Rockefeller University
Siddhartha Sharma, Graduate Student, The Rockefeller University
Julian Hernandez, Research Assistant, The Rockefeller University
Olympia Dialekti Vouzina, MA, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research & The Rockefeller University
Neha Bajaj, Emory University / Harvard Medical School (Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor, 2024-2025; Research Assistant, 2025-present)

2023-present Katherine L. Anderson, City College of New York / The Rockefeller University (Graduate Student 2023-2025; Postdoctoral Fellow, 2025-present)

2023-2025 Leah Barceló, Undergraduate, Barnard College, Columbia University (Beyond Barnard Internship Program Mentor)

2023-present Shoshana Elgart, Undergraduate, Stanford University (previously World Science Scholar)
Matthew Kuznicki, Undergraduate, Lehigh University (previously World Science Scholar)

2022-present Bonnie Asher, PhD, Tel Aviv University & The Rockefeller University
Shevy Schwartz, Undergraduate, Hunter College, CUNY

2022-2025 A. M. Sartorius, PhD Student, University of Oslo (PhD Co-advisor)

2022-2023 M. Rauf, Undergraduate, Hunter College, CUNY
A. Michaca, Undergraduate, Hunter College, CUNY
J. Kang, Q. Zhang, I. Hsieh & S. Chen, MA Students, New York University (MA Thesis Advisor)

2021 J. Zheng, Undergraduate, The Rockefeller University (SURF Mentor)

2017 T. Goldstein, High School Student, The Rockefeller University (SSRP Mentor)

2016 A. Andirkó, MA Student, University of Barcelona (Master's Thesis Advisor)

Teaching

2024 Adjunct Professor (Instructor of Record), *Interdisciplinary Seminar in Creative Art Therapies* (CATX 704; PhD level), Drexel University, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Instructor, *Science at the Cutting Edge: Fundamentals to Frontiers*, Macaulay Honors College / World Science U

2023 Teaching Fellow, *Neurobiology of Vocal Learning and Spoken Language*, World Science Festival
Instructor of Record, Summer Research Institute Program, Barnard College, Columbia University

2021 Invited Lecturer, *Animal Behavior*, Hunter College, CUNY
Invited Lecturer, *Neuroscience Frontiers*, Barnard College, Columbia University

2019 Trainer, *Career Orientation for PhD Students*, Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, PhD Day of Campus Can Ruti, Badalona, Spain
Trainer, 5th Barcelona Science Slam, Centre for Genomic Regulation / Marie Curie Alumni Association, Barcelona, Spain

2016 Course Instructor, *Biological Foundations of Language - Interdisciplinary Applications*, University of Barcelona

Pedagogical Training

2022 Certificate, Launching Undergraduate Science Teaching Careers, Tri-Institutional Program, The Rockefeller University / Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center / Weill Cornell Medicine

Thesis and Dissertation Committee Service

2025 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee, Neha Bajaj, Emory University
2024 Master's Thesis Committee, Olympia Dialekti Vouzina, University of Crete

SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES

Upcoming *Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance*, University of Florida
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance, Atlantic Center for the Arts
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance, McMaster University, Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behavior
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance, University of Pennsylvania, Computational Neuroscience Initiative

2026 *Dance for Parkinson's*, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Julliard School, United Nations General Assembly Healing Arts Week
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance, The Rockefeller University, Summer Neuroscience Program

2025 *Arts for collective and community health*, Summer for the City Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
Oxytocin's pathway to the origins of speech and dance, CARTA Symposium
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance, The Rockefeller University Neuroscience Symposium
Speech, dance, and the brain, Neurohumanities Network, Harvard University

2024 *Neurobiology of speech and dance*, Pace University
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance production, Yale University, Franke Program in Science and the Humanities
The neuroscience of the arts and social connection, Art and Science of Social Connection Symposium, United Nations General Assembly (Healing Arts Week), NYU Steinhardt
Dance, movement, and the brain, Dana Foundation
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance production, Science and Art of Movement Festival, Virginia Tech
My experience as a mentor to the World Science Scholars, World Science Festival, John Jay College, CUNY
Neurobiology of human sensory-motor communication: From speech to dance, Gordon Research Conference, Neural Mechanisms of Acoustic Communication
Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance production, Dance and Dialogues, Dresden University of Technology
Hardwired for speech and dance, Center for Ballet and the Arts, New York University [Keynote]

2023 *Art and the brain*, Dana Foundation Neuroscience & Society Talk Series [Keynote]
Neurobiology of social communication: From speech to dance, City College of New York
Insights into the neurobiology of sensory-motor communication, Yale University
Dance-based interventions to alleviate speech deficits, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Nostos Conference
Dissecting the neurobiology of speech and dance in humans, World Science Festival / Simons Foundation
Hardwired for song and dance: The neurobiology of language and movement, The Rockefeller University Council and Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans Lecture

- 2022 *Insights into the neurobiology of sensory-motor communication*, Dance Science Symposium, University of Massachusetts Amherst [Keynote]
Neurobiology of social communication: From speech to dance, Allen Institute Showcase Symposium
The oxytocin-vasotocin system: From speech to nomenclature, Clinical Scholars Lecture, The Rockefeller University
Human self-domestication and speech evolution through the lens of the oxytocin and vasotocin gene family, Cultural Evolution Society Meeting, Aarhus University
Champions under 40: Paving the way forward, Regional Growth Conference, University of Patras
- 2021 *The role of oxytocin in language*, Ioannina Science Festival [Keynote]
Genomic evolution of the oxytocin-vasotocin system and its implication in socially motivated behaviors, Harvard Medical School
Finishing your PhD, Yale School of Medicine / Yale Ciencia Academy [Keynote]
Universal nomenclature for oxytocin-vasotocin ligands and receptors, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
Eudaemonia: Interdisciplinary, TEDxAUTH
From social motivation of vocal learning to domestication: Insights from the oxytocin-vasotocin system, National Autonomous University of Mexico
Neurobiology of vocal learning, Barnard College, Columbia University
- 2020 *Comparative genomics reveal the evolutionary history of oxytocin and vasotocin ligands and receptors*, University of Toledo (USA)
- 2019 *A universal vertebrate gene nomenclature: A case study of the oxytocin/vasotocin ligand and receptor family*, Vertebrate Genomes Project / Earth BioGenome Project Meeting, The Rockefeller University
- 2018 *¿Somos los humanos auto-domesticados?*, BCNspiracy, CosmoCaixa, Barcelona [Keynote]
- 2017 *The role of oxytocin in language*, Marie Curie Alumni Association Conference and General Assembly, Salamanca
- 2016 *Self-domestication of Homo sapiens and the case of oxytocin*, Duke University

CONFERENCE LECTURES

- 2023 Theofanopoulou, C., Elgart, S., Kuznicki, M., & Jarvis, E. D. *Dissecting the relationship between speech and dance in humans: From brain pathways to clinical therapy*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA
- 2022 Theofanopoulou, C. *How to identify true gene orthologs across species*. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists, CA, USA
- 2021 Theofanopoulou, C. *Universal nomenclature for oxytocin-vasotocin ligands and receptors*. Kavli Neural Systems Institute Mini-Symposium Series, New York, NY, USA
- 2018 Theofanopoulou, C., Lipkind, D., Tchernichovski, O., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D. *The effect of social reward in vocal learning: Testing an oxytocin-dependent mechanism*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Nanosymposium, San Diego, CA, USA
Theofanopoulou, C. *The evolutionary history of oxytocin and vasopressin ligands and receptors and their role in vocal learning*. Workshop on the Neuroregulatory Actions and Clinical Applications of Oxytocin, Sicily, Italy
Theofanopoulou, C. *Are we humans self-domesticated?* University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain [Award Winner]
Theofanopoulou, C. *Convergences in (self-)domesticated species*. Self-domestication and Language Evolution Workshop, Evolang XII, Toruń, Poland [Award Winner]
- 2017 Theofanopoulou, C. *Reward mechanisms of vocal learning: Does oxytocin excite language?* Protolang5 Minisymposium, Barcelona, Spain
Theofanopoulou, C., O'Rourke, T., Gastaldon, S., et al. *Paleogenomic evidence for self-domestication in Homo sapiens*. European Human Behavior and Evolution Association Meeting, Paris, France [Award Winner]
Theofanopoulou, C., Gedman, G., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D. *The oxytocin receptor and the vasopressin/vasotocin receptor 1A appear to be paralogous sister genes explaining their common functions*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Nanosymposium, Washington, DC, USA

- Theofanopoulou, C.** *The role of oxytocin in language*. Barcelona Science Slam, Barcelona, Spain [Winner Lecture]
- 2016 **Theofanopoulou, C.** *The endocrinome of social communication*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Nanosymposium, San Diego, CA, USA
- Theofanopoulou, C.** *Implications of oxytocin in language*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, NY, USA
- Theofanopoulou, C.** *Why oxytocin might affect rhythmicity*. EVOLANG 11, Rhythmic Development, Evolution and Cognition Workshop, New Orleans, LA, USA
- 2015 **Theofanopoulou, C.** *Rhythms in the Alzheimer's disease brain: A treatable endophenotype?* IV Clinical Linguistics International Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- Theofanopoulou, C.,** & Boeckx, C. *Can adequate cognitive phylogenies be constructed?* Protolang 4, Rome, Italy
- 2014 **Theofanopoulou, C.** *Greek light verbs*. 35th Meeting of the Linguistics Department, Thessaloniki, Greece

POSTERS

- 2026 Anderson, K. L., Oishee, T., Doolittle, V., **Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, & Whitney, O.⁺ *Oxytocin receptor antagonism alters context-sensitive song and social brain network activity*. Gordon Research Conference, Neural Mechanisms of Acoustic Communication, Newry, MA, USA
- Prates, R. A., Guzzo Júnior, C. C. E., Duarte, M. V. A., Muñoz Sánchez, A., Pauli, P., Martinez, F. G., Passos-Monteiro, E., García, A. M., Haas, A. N., & **Theofanopoulou, C.** *From dance to speech: Amazonian dance improves speech features of people with Parkinson's disease*. 37th Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, Lyon, France
- Prates, R. A., Guzzo Júnior, C. C. E., Duarte, M. V. A., Muñoz Sánchez, A., Pauli, P., Martinez, F. G., Passos-Monteiro, E., García, A. M., Haas, A. N., & **Theofanopoulou, C.** *Culturally resonant Amazonian dance and speech performance in Parkinson's disease: A randomized controlled trial*. Brain Congress on Behavior and Emotions, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 2025 Sunderlage, A., Lima Carmona, Y. E., Das, D., Gale, C., **Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, & Contreras-Vidal, J. L.⁺ *Shared neural substrates during Butoh meditative dance*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA
- Vouzina, O., **Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, & Manousaki, T.⁺ *Tracing dopamine receptor evolution: Phylogenetic insights and a new synteny metric*. Mathematical and Statistical Aspects of Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, London, UK
- 2024 Lima Carmona, Y. E., **Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, & Contreras-Vidal, J. L.⁺ *Unveiling brain activity during dancing: Insights from mobile EEG hyperscanning of professional Butoh dancers*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2019 **Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, Gedman, G., Cahill, J. A., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D.⁺ *A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. 13th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones, Ein Gedi, Israel [Award Winner]
- Theofanopoulou, C.⁺**, Gedman, G., Cahill, J. A., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D.⁺ *A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA [International Fellows Poster Session; IBRO Award]
- 2018 **Theofanopoulou, C.**, Lipkind, D., Tchernichovski, O., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D. *The effect of social reward in vocal learning: Testing an oxytocin-dependent mechanism*. Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA [Trainee Professional Development Award Poster Session]
- 2017 **Theofanopoulou, C.**, Gedman, G., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D. *A proposed universal nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. 18th International Congress of Comparative Endocrinology, Lake Louise, AB, Canada [Award Winner]
- Theofanopoulou, C.**, Gedman, G., Boeckx, C., & Jarvis, E. D. *A proposed universal nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families*. Human Genome Meeting, Barcelona, Spain
- 2016 **Theofanopoulou, C.** *How social-reward hormones modulate language learning*. Beyond Language Learning Workshop, Barcelona, Spain

Theofanopoulou, C., & Boeckx, C. *Oxytocin pathways, language-related genes, and the emergence of modern cognition*. 10th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, Copenhagen, Denmark

Theofanopoulou, C., & Boeckx, C. *Sapiens-specific genetic changes affecting oxytocin pathways*. European Conference of Human Genetics, Barcelona, Spain

Theofanopoulou, C. *A framework for studying self-domestication*. 8th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Theofanopoulou, C., Alamri, S., & Boeckx, C. *A brain symphony for natural language syntax*. Nijmegen Lectures, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

2015 **Theofanopoulou, C., Zhang, E. Q., Alamri, S., Castillo, G., Shi, E. R., Martins, P. T., Martinez Ferreiro, S., & Boeckx, C.** *Subcortical structures and language disruption*. Science of Aphasia Conference, Aveiro, Portugal

Theofanopoulou, C. *What cognitive phylogenies got wrong*. Tokyo Lectures in Language Evolution, Tokyo, Japan

Theofanopoulou, C. *A cognitive approach to light verb constructions*. Formal Semantics Meets Cognitive Semantics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

PRESS MENTIONS/INTERVIEWS

In English:

Issues in Science and Technology (National Academy of Sciences) (podcast): [Music and Health: Dancing Together](#)

New York Academy of Sciences: [From the Dance Floor to the Neurobiology Lab](#)

Discover: [A Dose of Dance](#)

Guardian: [‘It’s like collective daydreaming’: the giant study showing how dancing affects our brains](#)

The New York Times: [“You Think, So You Can Dance?” Science Is on It.](#)

Scientific American: [Why Some Songs Make Everyone Want to Dance](#)

Dancing Into Brain Health (podcast): Dancing into Speech Improvement w/ Dr. Constantina Theofanopoulou [\[Spotify\]](#) [\[Apple Podcasts\]](#)

Women In Science at Rockefeller (WiSeR): [Interview for Women’s History Month Celebration](#)

Dance magazine: [What Neuroaesthetics, a New Field of Research, Can Tell Us About What Dance Does to Our Brains and Bodies](#)

Scientific American: [Male Songbirds Need Daily Vocal Practice to Woo Females](#)

Natural Selections (Tri-I magazine): [Choreographing the Mind: Dancing Scientists Decode the Neurobiology of Dance](#)

The Transmitter: [31 Women making a mark on autism research](#)

STARTS-Demystifying the Boundary Between STEM and the Arts: [Podcast \(Spotify\)](#)

Nature Methods (News): [Method of the year: long-read sequencing](#)

New York University-Center for the Ballet and the Arts 2022 Issue: [Fellowship project](#)

The Transmitter (interview): [Beyond the bench: Learning new moves with dancer-scientist Constantina Theofanopoulou](#)

Clubhouse: [Podcast](#)

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: [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](#)

The Transmitter: [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](#)

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 amants?](#)

Al dia: [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:

Jenny.gr (interview): [Η γυναικεία δύναμη στο STEM \(Women's power in STEM\)](#)

Marie Claire Greece: [Seven Greek women whose achievements reach all humanity](#)

ERT1: [Interview](#) (Sindeseis)

Regional Growth Conference: [Interview](#)

Marie Claire Greece: [Two Greek women of the Forbes "30 Under 30" list speak to Marie Claire](#)

Star Kentrikis Elladas TV: [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

When the pandemic broke, Constantina was the first scientist to analyze and explain the official vs. real number of COVID-19 cases in 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](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025 Jenny.gr (interview): [Η γυναικεία δύναμη στο STEM \(Women's power in STEM\)](#)
Women In Science at Rockefeller (WiSeR): [Interview for Women's History Month Celebration](#)
Society for Neuroscience, Global Membership Committee.

2024-present

[International Brain Research Organization, US/Canada Regional Committee](#) (e.g.,
Chief Reviewer for the [International Brain Research Organization Parenthood Grant](#)).
[ALBA Network \(division of FENS\)](#), Global Diversity Committee.

Diversity microgrant, Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of Rockefeller University (PI: C. Theofanopoulou).

- 2023 Marie Claire Greece: [Seven Greek women whose achievements reach all humanity](#)
- 2022 The Transmitter (interview): [Beyond the bench: Learning new moves with dancer-scientist Constantina Theofanopoulou](#)
Science on the Subway-Columbia University: [Interview](#)
- 2021 C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Finishing your PhD. [Yale Ciencia Academy](#), Yale School of Medicine, CT, US, August 10. [keynote]
Marie Claire Greece: [Two Greek women of the Forbes “30 Under 30” list speak to Marie Claire](#)
Member of the 1 million Women in STEM initiative, a global campaign spotlighting women in STEM by sharing their stories to provide visible role models to inspire the next generation of girls.
Network Coordinator on the Executive Board of the Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative (RiSI)
- 2020 [Women on Top](#) selected STEM mentor for young female generation.
[ForbesWomen Forum](#) invited member.
[Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative \(RiSI\)](#) Network Coordinator (2020-2021).
Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI) Committee member of the European Reference Genome Atlas (2020-2021).
Lecture to students coming from underrepresented minorities from Memorial Sloan Kettering, Columbia University and Regeneron, December 4.
Volunteer at [BioAcCES](#): a virtual conference for undergraduate students, organized by Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative, Cientifico Latino, and the Rockefeller University Dean’s Office of Graduate Studies, October 3.
- 2019 [STEM mentor for the New York Academy of Sciences](#): taught biological concepts to elementary and middle school students in underserved communities across New York City (2019-2022).
[500 women scientists](#) member, contributing to [Gage](#), a resource for journalists, educators, policy makers and others seeking the expertise of women and gender diverse STEM professionals.
- 2018 Volunteer at: “Dones a la història de la ciència? Les grans desconegudes.” (“Women in the history of science? Great but unknown.”), 7 Portes, Barcelona, Spain, March 4.
- 2017-present
Women in Science initiative at Rockefeller University ([WiSeR](#)) member.
Mentor to students from underrepresented backgrounds through the [Summer Science Research Program \(SSRP\)](#) and the [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships program \(SURF\)](#).
- 2017 Grant from AGAUR (Agència de Gestió d’Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca: Agency for the Management of University Grants and Research) for a project aiming at supporting underrepresented minorities in science (3,000 €).
- 2014-2017
[Mujeres con.ciencia](#) member.
[Comissió Dona i Ciència](#) member.
[Foro de mujeres en ciencia](#) member.
- 2010-2014
[Pathways of Life](#) member: gave voluntary support classes to young immigrants from adverse backgrounds (war, extreme poverty, family abuse) coming to Greece for a better life.

MEETING ORGANIZATION

Rhythms of Exchange: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion event, **The Rockefeller University**, April 15, 2025 [Organizer: **C. Theofanopoulou**]

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.

Vertebrates Genomes Project Workshop. **Plant and Animal Genome Conference (PAG)**, Handlery Hotel, San Diego, CA, Jan 15, 2020. [Organizers: C. Theofanopoulou, S. Paez, G. Formenti]

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). [Organizer: **C. Theofanopoulou**]

Protolang5 Conference, University of Barcelona, Spain, September 26-28, 2017. [Organizers: **C. Theofanopoulou**, C. Boeckx, P. T. Martins, S. Alamri and T. O'Rourke]

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

SCIENCE POLICY & SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

2022

Member of the Rockefeller Science Diplomacy delegation of the [Hurford Initiative](#) (Organizers: Jesse Ausubel and Mandë Holford).

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 (Organizers: Jesse Ausubel and Mandë Holford).

Science Policy Panel for non-US citizens, Rockefeller University, January 25. [Participant: C. Theofanopoulou]

JOURNAL/GRANT REVIEWER/EDITOR

Editor: *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* (Associate Editor; 2025).

External Journal Reviewer for: *Cell*, *Science* (with E.D. Jarvis), *Neuron* (with E.D. Jarvis), *Current Biology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Translational Psychiatry*, *PLOS ONE*, *BMC Genomics*, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, *Imaging Neuroscience*, *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, *Journal of Anthropological Sciences*, *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Biolinguistics*.

External Grant Reviewer for: National Science Foundation (Cognitive Neuroscience Program), World Health Organization, United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation.

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

FLAMENCO DANCE/AWARDS

- 2025** Rhythms of Exchange, The Rockefeller University Caspary Auditorium, NY, USA, April 15.
- 2024** Flamenco performance at the “The Art and Science of Social Connection Symposium”, UN General Assembly (UNGA) Healing Arts Week, New York University (Steinhardt), NY, USA, Sept 18.
 Flamenco performance with live percussion at the Center for Ballet and the Arts, New York University, New York, NY, February 5.
- 2023** Flamenco demonstration in the context of my science lecture (“Testing a dance intervention to alleviate speech deficits in mental health disorders.”), Stavros Niarchos Foundation Nostos Conference, Athens, Greece, June 22.
- 2022** Solo Show Alegrías at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, Virginia, US, April 8.
 Rumba Flamenca, Bryant Park, New York, NY, US, May 10.
- 2020** Solo show at ‘Club Bona Fide’, with guitarist Gabriel Hermida, New York, NY, US, Feb 20.
- 2019** Show at Auditori de Cornellà, 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 Auditori de Cornellà, 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.
1st prize in the flamenco competition of the Spanish Dance Society (scholarship to study flamenco in the United Kingdom).
- 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.

POETRY PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS/AWARDS

- 2025** Invited poet at ESTIA Creative Home
- 2024** Invited poet at Inspired Word NYC
 Poetry recitation: Brooklyn Poets, New York.
- 2023** Haiku I, Dormant, You See, Cord: Published at *The Bridge*.
- 2019-2022** Poetry monthly column published at [*Natural Selections*](#), Rockefeller University.
- 2022** [*ERT Radio interview*](#) on poetry.
 Poems published in *Stuck in Library*, Fall ’22 issue, Brooklyn College, City University of New York.
- 2021** Dissected: Published at *Kalo Mina Newsletter*.
Poetry recitation: The New House Center, Snug Harbor Cultural Center.
- 2020** Scents they sent: Published at *Lumiere Review* (1).
- 2015** Figi: Published at *Eneken* (36) 142.

2014-2019	Monthly poetry review column published at Culturenow .
2013-2014	Monthly literature Reviews published at www.artic.gr .
2014	1st Place at the 9th Panhellenic Poetry Competition.
2010-2011	Writer at the “Organization for the Spread of Greek Language”.
1999	Kid Fairytale Prize from Minoas Publications.