

# Mahdi Duris

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My research interests revolve around pronunciation, phonetics, and phonology, particularly in relation to the automation of intelligibility ratings using the Acoustic Masking and Intelligibility (AMI) theory. In a broader sense, my focus encompasses the study of phonetic characteristics in second language speech, evaluating the intelligibility of L2 speakers, and exploring technological approaches to enhance language acquisition.

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## Education

### Iowa State University (IA)

Ph.D., Applied Linguistics and Technology (ALT) (2020-present)

### Saint Cloud State University (MN)

M.A., Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) (2018-2020)

### University of Cambridge, ESOL Examinations (DC)

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (2013)

### George Mason University (VA)

Bachelors of Science., Management (2006)

### Lycée Stéphane Hessel (France)

Baccalauréat Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Bac STI) (2000)

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## Published Work

**Duris, M.**, Levis, J. M., Neiriz, R. & Silpachai, A. O. (2024). Methodological influences on word stress identification: Implications for research and teaching. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Proc. Speech Prosody 2024*.

**Duris, M.** (2024, forthcoming). "Accentedness and intelligibility: The typical phonetic story of an Lx couple in the U.S.," *Linguistic Portfolios*: Vol. 13 (1).

Na, I., Nagle, C. L., **Duris, M.**, Levis, J. M., Kurt, S. & Rehman, I. (2024). Longitudinal perception and production development of second language vowels. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *System*.

**Duris, M.** (2022). The Acoustic Intelligibility of Consonants in Saudi Spoken English. *Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies*, 14 (1), 9-46. doi: 10.18485/bells.2022.14.1.

**Duris, M.** (2022). Technology review: Fluent Forever. *Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Proceedings*, 12 (1). doi: 10.31274/psllt.14334.

**Duris, M.**, & Koffi, E. (2022). "Let's Stress it! Investigations of Saudi EFL Teachers' Lexical Stress Patterns," *Linguistic Portfolios*: Vol. 11, Article 9. [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud\\_ling/vol11/iss1/9](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol11/iss1/9)

**Duris, M.** (2021). "Vowel Intelligibility Analysis of Female Saudi Spoken English," *Linguistic Portfolios*: Vol. 10, Article 3. [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud\\_ling/vol10/iss1/3](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol10/iss1/3)

**Duris, M.** (2020). "Vowel Intelligibility of Saudi Spoken English." *Culminating Projects in TESL*. 29. [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/tesl\\_etds/29](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/tesl_etds/29)

**Duris, M., & Koffi, E.** (2020). "English Proficiency Profile Study of an L2 Speaker from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," *Linguistic Portfolios*: Vol. 9, Article 4. [https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud\\_ling/vol9/iss1/4](https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/stcloud_ling/vol9/iss1/4)

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## Conference Presentation

- 2024 **Methodological influences on word stress identification: Implications for research and teaching.** Paper presented at the 12th biennial Speech Prosody Special Interest Group meeting (SP2024). Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 2024 **Voices of Love: Accentedness and Intelligibility in the Narratives of Lx Couples and Register.** Paper presented at the 45th annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference (SWPACA). Albuquerque, NM.
- 2023 **Controlled Tasks for Longitudinal L2 Pronunciation Studies: Read aloud.** Poster presented at the Iowa State University Symposium for Second language speech learning: Balancing big data and individual learning trajectories. Ames, IA.
- 2023 **Non-Lexical Words and Prosodic Prominence: The Role of Speaker Background and Register.** Poster presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). West Lafayette, IN.
- 2023 **Longitudinal Perception and Production Development of Second Language Vowels.** Paper presentation at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). West Lafayette, IN.
- 2023 **The Automaticity of Intelligibility Ratings by way of Acoustics Measurements.** Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Linguistics Conference for Ph.D. Students (STaPs). Virtual/ Online format.
- 2022 **The Acoustic Intelligibility of Consonants in Saudi Spoken English.** Paper presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Belgrade International Meeting of English Phoneticians (BIMEP). Virtual/ Online format.
- 2021 **Using Acoustic Measurement as an Estimate of Vowel Intelligibility.** Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). Virtual/ Online format.
- 2019 **The VOT of Arabic [ʔ] Produced by English Speakers.** Poster presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Undergraduate Linguistics Symposium (MULS). Minneapolis, MN.
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## Academic Service

- Present **Webmaster**, Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). Responsible for design and continuity.
- Present **Webmaster**, Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). Responsible for design and continuity.
- 2024 **Article Reviewer**, *Linguistic Portfolios*, Vol. 13.
- 2024 **Article Reviewer**, Proceedings for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL).

- 2024 **Article Reviewer**, Proceedings for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT).
- 2023 **Organizing Committee Co-Chair**, 20<sup>th</sup> Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). Scheduled for October 20-21. In-person/ Virtual format (Hybrid).
- 2023 **Article Reviewer**, Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 12.
- 2022 **Organizing Committee Co-Chair**, 19<sup>th</sup> Technology & Second Language Learning conference (TSLL). Scheduled for October 14-15. In-person/ Virtual format (Hybrid).
- 2022 **Article Reviewer**, Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 11.
- 2021 **Article Reviewer**, Proceedings for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT).
- 2021 **Article Reviewer**, Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 10.
- 2021 **Conference Moderator**, 18<sup>th</sup> TSLL and 22<sup>nd</sup> MwALT Conference. October 8-9. Virtual/ Online format.
- 2021 **Organizing Committee Co-Chair and Conference Moderator**, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). June 18-19. Virtual/ Online format.
- 2020 **Article Reviewer**, Linguistic Portfolios, Vol. 9.
- 2020 **Conference Moderator**, 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Conference of ISU's Doctoral Program in Applied Linguistics & Technology (ALT). December 3-5. Virtual/ Online format.
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## Professional Experience

### **Graduate Research Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University January 2022 – Present

- Research Assistant to Dr. John M. Levis
- Project: Adaptive explicit and implicit feedback in second language pronunciation training
- Research funded by the National Science Foundation (2020)

### **Graduate Research Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University April 2022 – Present

- Research Assistant to Dr. Volker Hegelheimer
- Project: Using educational technology in the English language classroom
- Research funded by the U.S. Department of State (2020)

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University August 2020 – Present

- Instructor for ENGL 101B: Academic Writing I
- Instructor for ENGL 101C: Academic Writing II (for Undergraduates) (Spring 2024)
- Instructor for ENGL 101D: Academic Writing II (for Graduates) (Summer 2024)
- Instructor for SP CM 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking

### **English Placement Test Rater (Iowa, USA)**

Iowa State University August 2021 – Present

- Assess the oral communication ability of international students for academic contexts
- Test administration every semester (Fall and Spring)

**Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Lead Facilitator :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University May 2023 – July 2023

- Responsible for leading 80 Alumni Facilitators and 5302 English language instructors in the *Using Educational Technology in the English Language Classroom* course, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by FHI 360

**Co-teacher Oral Language & Technology :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University August 2022 – December 2022

- ENGL 530 Teaching Assistant to Dr. John M. Levis
- Course Objectives: Structure and description of oral language and discourse. How spoken language is linguistically described, analyzed, and taught for research and for education. Using technology to record, transcribe, and analyze spoken language at all levels of linguistic structure.

**Global Online Course Mentor :: Ames, IA (USA)**

Iowa State University August 2020 – May 2022 (2 years)

- Mentor for the Online Professional English Network (OPEN), previously known as American English (AE) E-Teacher Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by FHI 360

**Graduate Teaching Assistant :: Saint Cloud, MN (USA)**

Saint Cloud State University August 2018 - May 2020 (2 years)

- Develop and teach EAP courses for Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing and US Culture for International students
- Mentor new TAs throughout the Academic Year

**Academic Coordinator :: Ar-Riyadh (KSA)**

King Saud University September 2017 - July 2018 (10 months)

- Provided Academic support to the English Language Skills Department (ELSD) for lesson planning, classroom management, mentoring, professional development sessions, teacher observations/feedback
- Provided support to the Examination, Curriculum, Quality Assurance, Development and E-Record units

**English Language Instructor :: Ar-Riyadh (KSA)**

King Saud University September 2016 - September 2017 (1 year)

- Taught General and Academic Skills for First Year Common students level C
- Conducted examinations and grading for Speaking and Writing skills

**Site Director :: Al-Qassim (KSA)**

TVTC | INTERLINK Project September 2014 - September 2016 (2 years)

- Provided Orientation and continuous training for all Site teachers and administrators
- Attended to the logistics and human resources between the assigned site, central office, and Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC)

**English Language Instructor & Acting Site Director :: Al-Qassim (KSA)**

TVTC | INTERLINK Project December 2013 - September 2014 (1 year)

- Taught more than 160 students from A0 to B1 levels of EFL in Jizan & Buraydah Sites
- Engaged and planned Project Based Learning workshops

**Financial Center Coach :: Washington, DC (USA)**

Capital One Bank, N.A. May 2006 - November 2013 (7 years)

- Coached over 65 ESL adults using English for Specific Purposes (ESP) specifically for the Banking Industry environment
  - Facilitated monthly and quarterly training sessions around targeted language to achieve company objectives
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**Internal Grants and Awards**

**Duris, M.** (2023). English Department L2 Writing Research Rating. Amount awarded: \$225.  
**Duris, M.** (2023). Applied Linguistics & Technology Award (TSLT). Amount awarded: \$500.  
**Duris, M.** (2023). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: \$500.  
**Duris, M.** (2022). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: \$500.  
**Duris, M.** (2021). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: \$400.  
**Duris, M.** (2020). Global Online Course Mentorship Grant. Amount awarded: \$100.

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**Travel Grants**

**Duris, M.** (2024). Department of English Travel Grant for attending the 45th annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference (SWPACA). Amount funded: \$500.

**Duris, M.** (2023). Global Online Course Mentorship Professional Development Grant for attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference (PSLLT). Amount funded: \$750.

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**Languages**

**Native** in English, French, Spanish and **Beginner** Arabic

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