

# CONSTANTINA THEOFANOPOULOU

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Constantina Theofanopoulou is the Herbert and Nell Singer Research Assistant Professor at Rockefeller University, Visiting Scholar at New York University, and Research Associate at Emory University and the US Department of Veteran Affairs. Her research aim is to understand the neural circuits of complex sensory motor behaviors that serve social communication, specifically, speech and dance, and to identify possible therapies for speech and motor disorders.

For her Ph.D., she worked on the social reward mechanisms of vocal learning, studying the role of oxytocin in vocal learning in songbirds (e.g., Theofanopoulou et al. 2017 *Proceedings B*) and in human evolution of sociality, in general (e.g., Theofanopoulou et al. 2017 *PLOS ONE*, Theofanopoulou et al. 2022 *Compr. Psychoneuroendocrinology*). These projects led her to realize that the evolution of the oxytocin/vasotocin gene family was largely misunderstood, an issue that percolated down to an inconsistent gene nomenclature. Using computational genomic tools, she shed light on the evolutionary history of these genes and proposed a universal gene nomenclature (Theofanopoulou et al. 2021 *Nature*, Theofanopoulou & Jarvis 2023 *Nature*). This work laid the foundations for her clinical projects on testing the therapeutic role of oxytocin in speech deficits.

## EDUCATION-EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 01/2024-present:** Herbert and Nell Singer Research Assistant Professor, Rockefeller University, USA  
Adjunct Professor, Drexel University, USA  
Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA (The Center for Ballet and the Arts)  
Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA (Jameel Arts & Health Lab)  
Research Associate, Emory School of Medicine, US Dept of Veteran Affairs, USA
- 08/2023-12/2023:** Herbert and Nell Singer 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  
Visiting Scholar, New York University, USA (The Center for Ballet and the Arts)
- 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<sup>st</sup> in MA program)
- 2010-2014:** Undergraduate studies in Linguistics, National and 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 Psichikou, Athens, Greece  
GPA: 19,7/20 (national ranking: 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-present:** [International Brain Research Organization, Early Career Committee](#)  
[ALBA Network \(division of FENS\)](#), Global Diversity Committee
- 2022-present:** [Allen Institute Next Generation Leaders'](#) Advisory Board

- 2022-2023: **Vangeline 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

### Published

1. **Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.**, Paez<sup>+</sup>, S., Huber, D., Todd, E., Ramirez-Moreno, M.A., Khaleghian, B., Munoz Sanchez, A., Gand, V., Contreras-Vidal<sup>+</sup>, J.L. (2024) [Mobile brain imaging in butoh dancers: from rehearsals to public performance.](#) *BMC Neuroscience* 25,62.
- 2.
3. **Theofanopoulou, C.** (2024). [Tapping into the vocal learning and rhythmic synchronization hypothesis.](#) *BMC Neuroscience* 25, 63.
4. Sartorius, A. M., Rokicki, J., Bettella, F., Barth, C., de Lange, A. G., Haram, M., ... **Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.**, Quintana<sup>+</sup>, D. S. (2024) [An evolutionary timeline of the oxytocin signaling pathway.](#) *Communications Biology*.
5. **Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.** and Jarvis<sup>+</sup>, E. D. (2023) [Reply to: The case for standardizing gene nomenclature in vertebrates.](#) *Nature* 614, E33-E36.
6. **Theofanopoulou, C.** (2023) [A journey from speech to dance through the field of oxytocin.](#) *Compr. Psychoneuroendocrinology* 16, 100193.
7. Theissinger, K., Fernandes, C., Formenti, G., Bista, I., Berg, P.R., Bleidorn, C., Bombarely, A., Crottini, A., Gallo, G.R., Godoy, J.A. and Jentoft, S., Malukiewicz, J., Mouton, A., Oomen, R., Paez, S., Palsbøll, P., Pampoulie, C., Ruiz-López, M., Secomandi, S., Svardal, H., **Theofanopoulou, C.**, de Vries, J., Waldvogel, A., Zhang, G., Jarvis, E.D., Bálint, M., Ciofi, C., Waterhouse, R., Mazzoni, C. Höglund, J., European Reference Genome Atlas Consortium. (2023) [How genomics can help biodiversity conservation.](#) *Trends in Genetics* 39(7), P545-559.
8. **Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.**, Andirkó<sup>\*</sup>, A., Jarvis, E.D., Boeckx<sup>+</sup>, C. (2022) [Oxytocin and vasotocin receptor variation and the evolution of human prosociality.](#) *Compr. Psychoneuroendocrinology* 11, 100139.
9. Formenti, G., Theissinger, K., Fernandes, C., Bista, I., Bombarely, A., Bleidorn, C., Ciofi, C., Crottini, A., Godoy, J.A., Höglund, J. and Malukiewicz, J., Mouton, A., Oomen, R., Paez, S., Palsbøll, P., Pampoulie, C., Ruiz-López, M., Svardal, H., **Theofanopoulou, C.**, de Vries, J., Waldvogel, A., Zhang, G., Bálint, M., Mazzoni, C., Jarvis, E.D., 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.
10. **Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.**, Gedman, G., Cahill, J.A., Boeckx, C., Jarvis<sup>+</sup>, E. D. (2021) [A universal evolution-based nomenclature for the oxytocin and vasotocin ligand and receptor families.](#) *Nature* 592, 747-755.
11. Rhie, A., McCarthy, S.A., Fedrigo, O., Damas, J., Formenti, G., Koren, S., Uliano-Silva, M., Chow, W., Functamman, A., Kim, J., Lee, C.,...**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.
12. **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.

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. [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.
18. [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.
19. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2016) [Implications of oxytocin in human linguistic cognition: from genome to phenome.](#) *Frontiers in Neuroscience* 10(271).
20. Benítez-Burraco, A., [Theofanopoulou, C.](#), Boeckx, C. (2016) [Globularization and Domestication.](#) *Topoi* 37, 265-278.
21. [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.
22. [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).
23. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2015) [Brain asymmetry in the white matter making and Globularity.](#) *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(1355).
24. Boeckx, C. and [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) (2015) [Commentary on “Labels, cognomes, and cyclic computation: An ethological perspective”.](#) *Frontiers in Psychology* 6(784).
25. [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.
26. [Theofanopoulou, C.](#) [Light Verbs in Modern Greek.](#) (2015) *Studies in Greek Linguistics* 35, 607- 631. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
27. 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

28. [Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C.](#) and [Jarvis<sup>+</sup>, E. D.](#) (2023) [Converging evidence for a human spoken language pathway.](#) *PsyArXiv*.

29. Theofanopoulou, C. (under review). [Dancing towards speech improvement: repurposing dance for speech deficits in neurodegenerative diseases](#). *PsyArXiv*.

## AWARDS/GRANTS

2024:

- **Herbert and Nell Singer fund** (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$90,000).
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award** (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$3,000).

2023:

- **Robertson Therapeutic Development Fund/Women Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, Rockefeller University** (PI: C. Theofanopoulou; \$52,000).
- **Presidential Award**, Hunter College, City University of New York (\$2,500).

2022:

- **Next Generation Leader**, Allen Institute.
- **Spectrum (Simons foundation) "40 Under 40 list"** of researchers working on autism-related Science.
- **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 where C. Theofanopoulou and Tereza Manousaki serve as co-PIs).

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**, 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Opathy, 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 (\$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 from the 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** (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 for excellent undergraduate performance), Greece.

## TEACHING & MENTORING

2024-present:

- Adjunct Professor-instructor of record: Interdisciplinary Seminar in Creative Art Therapies (Ph.D. Level course: CATX 704), College of Nursing and Health Professions, **Drexel University**.
- Mentor at the Beyond Barnard Internship Program (BBIP), **Barnard College** (Columbia University).
- Instructor of the “Science at the Cutting Edge: Fundamentals to Frontiers” course offered to the Macaulay Honors College in partnership with the [World Science U](#).

2023:

- Teaching Fellow for the [World Science Festival](#) course: Neurobiology of vocal learning and spoken language.
- -present: Mentor to **World Science Scholars** (Students: G. Alonso, S. Elgart, M. B. Kaur, M. Kuznicki, M. Labib, P. Maliya, J. Prasar). Project: Neurobiology of speech and dance.
- Instructor of record: Summer Research Institute Program, **Barnard College** (Columbia University). Project: Speech and Dance Electroencephalography.

2022:

- Co-advisor to a PhD Thesis Project 2022-2025 (Student: A. M. Sartorius; Advisor: Dan Quintana), **University of Oslo**. Project (2022-2025): The evolution of the oxytocin pathway.
- -present: Instructor of record: Independent Studies in Psychology (2022-2023) (Students: M. Rauf Yalow Honors Scholar-, S. Schwartz, A. Michaca), **Hunter College** (CUNY).
- -present: Post-Doctoral thesis supervisor (2022-2024) (Post Doc: Bonnie Asher), **Hunter College** (CUNY) and **Rockefeller University**. Project: Infant vocal learning from a human adult versus a robot.
- Certificate holder of the **Tri-I Course (Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medicine)** “Launching Undergraduate Science Teaching Careers” (course design and implementation, online teaching, effective assessments and evaluations, and inclusive teaching).
- MA thesis advisor: Interactive Telecommunications Master’s Program (Students: J. Kang, Q. Zhang, I. Hsieh, S. Chen), **New York University**. Project: Interactive rhythm entrainment game.

2021:

- Invited teaching lecturer at **Hunter College** (CUNY); undergraduate course: Animal Behavior [instructor of record: 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. (Student: J. Zheng), **Rockefeller University**. Project: Evolutionary history of the dopamine receptors.
- Invited teaching lecturer at **Barnard College** (Columbia University); undergraduate course: Neuroscience Frontiers [instructors of record: Michelle Miozzo and Rae Silver].

2019:

- Trainer to PhD students on “Career Orientation” course. 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 Ciencia), 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. (Student: T. Goldstein), **Rockefeller University**. Project: Selective vocal learning in a social reward context.

2016:

- **Master Thesis** advisor, Cognitive Science and Language Program, (Student: A. Andirkó), **University of Barcelona**. 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**.

2010-2013:

- **Biology and Ancient Greek teacher**. Pathways of Life (NGO offering voluntary classes to young immigrants (8-18 years old), Athens, Greece.

## SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LECTURES (PEL)

### INVITED LECTURES

1. **C. Theofanopoulou** (upcoming). TBA. CARTA Symposium, UC San Diego/Salk Institute Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny (CARTA), CA, USA.
2. **C. Theofanopoulou** (upcoming). TBA. University of Pennsylvania (Computational Neuroscience Initiative), PA, USA.
3. **C. Theofanopoulou** (upcoming). TBA. McMaster University (Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behavior), ON, Canada.
4. **C. Theofanopoulou** (upcoming). TBA. Gordon Research Conference (“Neuroethology: Behavior, Evolution and Neurobiology”), Tuscany, Italy.
5. **C. Theofanopoulou** (upcoming). TBA. Pace University, NY, USA.
6. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Tapping into the Neurobiology of Speech and Dance Production. Yale University (The Franke Program in Science and the Humanities), CT, USA, October 23.
7. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). The Neuroscience of the Arts and Social Connection. The Art and Science of Social Connection Symposium, UN General Assembly (UNGA) Healing Arts Week, New York University (Steinhardt), NY, USA, Sept 18. (PEL)
8. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Dance, Movement, & the Brain. Dana Foundation, NY, USA, July 24. (PEL)
9. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance production. The Science and Art of Movement Festival, Virginia Tech, VA, USA, June 20.
10. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). My experience as a mentor to the World Science Scholars. World Science Festival, Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College, NY, USA, May 30. (PEL)
11. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Neurobiology of human sensory-motor communication: from speech to dance. Gordon Research Conferences (“Neural Mechanisms of Acoustic Communication”), MA, USA, May 20.
12. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Tapping into the neurobiology of speech and dance production. Dance and Dialogues (“Social Bridges Series” conference), Dresden University of Technology, Germany, April 9.
13. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2024). Hardwired for Speech and Dance. New York University, Center for Ballet and the Arts, NY, USA, February 5. (PEL)
14. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2023). Art & the Brain. The “Dana Foundation Neuroscience & Society Talk Series”. Secret Science Club, NY, USA, December 5. (PEL)
15. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2023). Neurobiology of social communication: from speech to dance. City College of New York, NY, USA, November 27.
16. **C. Theofanopoulou** (2023). Insights into the neurobiology of sensory-motor communication. Yale University, CT, USA, November 1.

17. C. Theofanopoulou. 2023. [Testing a dance intervention to alleviate speech deficits in mental health disorders](#). Stavros Niarchos Foundation Nostos Conference. Athens, Greece, June 22. (PEL)
18. C. Theofanopoulou. 2023. Dissecting the neurobiology of speech and dance in humans. [World Science Festival](#). Simons Foundation, NY, USA, June 2. (PEL)
19. C. Theofanopoulou. 2023. [Hardwired for Song and Dance: The Neurobiology of Language and Movement](#). 2023 Lecture for The Rockefeller University Council and The Committee on Trust and Estate Gift Plans. [Rockefeller University](#), NY, USA, April 27. (PEL)
20. C. Theofanopoulou. 2023. Insights into the neurobiology of sensory-motor communication. Dance Science Symposium. [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#), MA, USA, April 22. [keynote]
21. C. Theofanopoulou. 2022. Neurobiology of social communication: from speech to dance. 2022 Showcase Symposium. [Allen Institute](#), WA, USA, December 14.
22. C. Theofanopoulou. 2022. The Oxytocin-Vasotocin System: From Speech to Nomenclature. Clinical Scholars lecture. [Rockefeller University](#), NY, USA, October 19.
23. C. Theofanopoulou. 2022. Human self-domestication and speech evolution through the lens of the oxytocin and vasotocin gene family. [Cultural Evolution Society meeting](#). Aarhus, Denmark, September 22.
24. 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.
25. C. Theofanopoulou. 2022. The role of oxytocin in language. [Ioannina Science Festival](#), Ioannina, Greece, June 5. [keynote]
26. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Genomic evolution of the oxytocin-vasotocin system and its implication in socially motivated behaviours. [Harvard Medical School](#), BOS, MA, October 20.
27. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Finishing your PhD. [Yale School of Medicine & Yale Ciencia Academy](#), CT, US, August 10. [keynote]
28. 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.
29. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. [Eudaemonia; interdisciplinary](#). TEDx talk, TEDxAUTH 2021, June 27. (PEL)
30. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. From social motivation of vocal learning to domestication: insights from the oxytocin-vasotocin system. [National Autonomous University of Mexico](#), Mexico City, Mexico, June 25.
31. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Neurobiology of vocal learning. [Barnard college \(Columbia University\)](#), NY, USA, March 30.
32. C. Theofanopoulou. 2020. Comparative genomics reveal the evolutionary history of oxytocin and vasotocin ligands and receptors. [University of Toledo](#), Ohio, USA, May 4.
33. C. Theofanopoulou. 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. [Rockefeller University](#), NY, USA, August 28.
34. C. Theofanopoulou. 2018. Somos los humanos auto-domesticados? BCNspiracy, [CosmoCaixa \(Museum of Science\)](#), Barcelona, Spain, October 27. [keynote + PEL]
35. C. Theofanopoulou. 2017. The role of oxytocin in language. 2017 Marie Curie Alumni Association Conference and General Assembly, Alameda Palace Hotel, Salamanca, Spain, March 24. (PEL)
36. 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.

## LECTURES

1. C. Theofanopoulou, S. Elgart, M. Kuznicki, E.D. Jarvis. (2023). Dissecting the relationship between speech and dance in humans: from brain pathways to clinical therapy. [Society for Neuroscience 2023](#), Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, USA, November 12.
2. C. Theofanopoulou. 2022. How to identify true gene orthologs across species. [Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists](#), CA, USA, November 10.
3. C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Universal nomenclature for oxytocin-vasotocin ligands and receptors. [Kavli Neural Systems Institute Mini-Symposium Series](#). Rockefeller University, NY, USA, June 17.
4. 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. [Society for Neuroscience 2018](#), San Diego Convention Center, CA, USA, November 4.

5. **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, The Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture, Sicily, Italy, May 24.
6. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. Are we humans self-domesticated? Sala Ramón y Cajal, University of Barcelona, Spain, March 21. [PEL + award winner]
7. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2018. Convergences in (self-)domesticated species. Workshop: Self-domestication and language evolution, Evolang XII, Hotel Filmar, Torún, Poland, April 16. [award winner]
8. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2017. Reward mechanisms of vocal learning. Does oxytocin 'excite' language? Minisymposium: Insights from birdsong into the evolution and development of spoken language, Protolang5, University of de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, September 27.
9. **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. [award winner]
10. **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. Society for Neuroscience 2017, Washington, DC, USA, November 15.
11. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2017. The role of oxytocin in language. Barcelona Science Slam 2017 organized by the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), Opathy, SINGEK, Incite and EuroLeish, Barcelona, Spain, March 3. [PEL + winner lecture]
12. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2016. The endocrinome of social communication. Nanosymposium 'Oxytocin and Social Behavior'. Society for Neuroscience 2016, San Diego Convention Center, CA, USA, November 12.
13. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2016. Implications of oxytocin in language. Cold Spring Harbor Lab, NY, USA, July 25.
14. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2016. Why oxytocin might affect rhythmicity. EVOLANG 11 (Workshop: Rhythm: Development, Evolution and Cognition), Tulane University, LA, USA, March 21.
15. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2015. Rhythms in the Alzheimer's Disease's brain: A treatable endophenotype? IV Clinical Linguistics International Congress, University of Barcelona, Spain, November 18.
16. **C. Theofanopoulou** & C. Boeckx. 2015. Can adequate cognitive phylogenies be constructed? Protolang 4, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy, September 25.
17. **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2014. Greek Light Verbs. 35th Meeting of Linguistics' Department. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. May 9.

## POSTERS

1. Lima Carmona, Y., Theofanopoulou<sup>+</sup>, C., J.L. Contreras-Vidal<sup>+</sup>. (2024). Unveiling Brain Activity during Dancing: Insights from mobile EEG Hyperscanning of Professional Butoh Dancers. Society for Neuroscience 2024, McCormick Place, IL, USA, October 8.
2. Barceló, L., Contreras-Vidal, J.L., **C. Theofanopoulou**. (2023). A pipeline to denoise mobile electroencephalography data of dance performance. Barnard College Summer Research Institute 2023 Poster Session, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA, August 23.
3. **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 9. [award winner]
4. **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. Society for Neuroscience 2019, McCormick Place, IL, USA, October 19. [International Fellows poster session+ IBRO award]
5. **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. Society for Neuroscience 2018, San Diego Convention Center, CA, USA, November 3. [Trainee Professional Development Awards poster session]
6. **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. [award winner]



7. 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.
8. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. How social-reward hormones modulate language-learning. [Beyond Language Learning Workshop](#), Campus Poblenou, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, September 29.
9. 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, July 3.
10. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. Oxytocin and Brain Rhythms. [BARCCSYN 2016 meeting](#) (Barcelona Computational, Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience), Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, Spain, June 16.
11. C. Theofanopoulou, C. Boeckx. 2016. Sapiens-specific genetic changes affecting oxytocin pathways. [The European Conference of Human Genetics 2016](#), CCIB, Barcelona, Spain, May 21.
12. C. Theofanopoulou. 2016. A framework for studying self- domestication. [8th Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science](#), Center for Advanced Studies of Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 1.
13. C. Theofanopoulou, S. Alamri, C. Boeckx. 2016. A brain symphony for natural language syntax. [The Nijmegen Lectures 2016](#), Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, January 22.
14. 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, September 17.
15. C. Theofanopoulou. 2015. What cognitive phylogenies got wrong. [Tokyo Lectures in Language Evolution](#), University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, April 2.
16. C. Theofanopoulou. 2015. A cognitive approach to the light verb constructions. [Formal Semantics Meets Cognitive Semantics](#), University of Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, January 22.

## PRESS MENTIONS/INTERVIEWS

### In English:

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

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

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](#)

Spectrum news: [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](#)

Spectrum news: [Interview](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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: [Seven Greek women whose achievements reach all humanity](#)  
ERT1: [Interview](#) (Sindeseis)  
Regional Growth Conference: [Interview](#)  
Marie Claire Greece: [Interview](#)  
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 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](#)

## ACTIONS & LECTURES EMPOWERING WOMEN & UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES IN SCIENCE

2024-present:

- [International Brain Research Organization, Early Career Committee](#) (e.g., Reviewer for the [International Brain Research Organization Parenthood Grant](#)).
- [ALBA Network \(division of FENS\)](#), Global Diversity Committee.

2022-2023:

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

2021:

- C. Theofanopoulou. 2021. Finishing your PhD. [Yale Ciencia Academy](#), Yale School of Medicine, CT, US, August 10. [keynote]
- 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.

2020:

- **2020-2023: [New York Academy of Sciences \(NYAS\) selected STEM mentor](#)** in teaching Life Sciences to elementary and middle school students in underserved communities throughout NYC.
- **[Women on Top](#)** selected STEM mentor for young female generation.
- **[ForbesWomen Forum](#)** invited member.

2020-2021:

- **[Rockefeller Inclusive Science Initiative \(RiSI\) Network Coordinator](#)**.
- **Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI) Committee member** of the **[European Reference Genome Atlas](#)**.

2020:

- **C. Theofanopoulou**. 2020. My scientific trajectory. 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, Científico Latino, and the Rockefeller University Dean's Office of Graduate Studies, October 3.

2017-present:

- **Women in Science initiative at Rockefeller University ([WISeR](#)) member**.

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 €).

2019:

- **[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.

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.

## 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. **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. [Organiser: 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]

## REVIEW

External Journal Reviewer for: *Science* (with Dr. E.D. Jarvis), *Neuron* (with Dr. E.D. Jarvis), *Cell* (with Dr. 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*, *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, *Journal of Anthropological Sciences*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience*, *Biolinguistics*.

External Grant Reviewer for: National Science Foundation (Cognitive Neuroscience Program), 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

**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 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 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

- 2024: 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.