



Turning psycholinguistics research into AI products that help people communicate more clearly

Contact

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[GitHub Portfolio](#)



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Languages

Ukrainian — Native/Bilingual

Russian — Native/Bilingual

Portuguese — Full Professional Proficiency (C2)

English — Full Professional Proficiency (C2)

German — Limited Working Proficiency (B1)

Spanish — Professional Working Proficiency (B2)

Polish — Elementary Proficiency (A2)

Italian — Elementary Proficiency (A2)

YOLANDA XAVIER

AI & PSYCHOLINGUISTICS RESEARCHER

Bridging psycholinguistics, natural language processing and human-centered AI to build technologies that improve communication. Currently developing an AI-assisted communication platform (MVP stage) that helps users understand how messages may be interpreted before they are sent.

Bio

PhD candidate in Psycholinguistics at the Research Center for Linguistics, NOVA University Lisbon — School of Social Sciences and Humanities, funded by an FCT PhD scholarship. My research investigates how native speakers of European Portuguese perceive non-native speakers with deviant phonetic features and how these perceptions influence their placement into lower- and higher-level job positions.

Research Interests

Psycholinguistics • Sociolinguistics • Human-Centered AI • NLP • Language Technologies • Speech Perception • AI Evaluation • Multilingual Communication

Soft Skills

Analytical Thinking • Problem-solving • Clear Communication • Autonomy • Cross-cultural Collaboration • Adaptability • Attention to Detail • Independent Researcher • Proactivity • Empathy • Critical Thinking

Core competencies

- Human-Centered AI
- NLP
- Psycholinguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Product Development
- Machine Learning
- Experimental Design
- Statistical Modelling
- UX Research

Experience, Research & Skills

Highlights

- **Visting Student** — Leiden University · 2022 and Potsdam University · 2025
- **LINGATHON Winner** — LOT Graduate School, Utrecht University · 2024
- **Hackathon Winner** — Linguistics Research Software Hackathon, Best Challenge 1, LingHero Team · 2025
- **FCT Doctoral Fellowship** — Competitive Portuguese national doctoral scholarship · 2023-2026

Expertise

- **Psycholinguistics** — Research on acoustic properties of European Portuguese and language attitudes of native European Portuguese speakers towards non-native speakers in hiring decisions
- **AI & NLP** — Human-centered communication tools and language understanding
- **Product Building** — MVP development and validation-stage execution

Selected Publications

- [Lingua \(2026\)](#) — An acoustic analysis of nasal vowels and reduced oral vowels produced by L1 Ukrainian speakers of L2 European Portuguese. *Speech perception · Acoustic phonetics · Second-language speech*
- [Global PIQA \(2025\)](#) — Evaluating Physical Commonsense Reasoning Across 100+ Languages and Cultures. *Multilingual AI · LLM Evaluation · Cross-cultural reasoning*
- [Automated POS Tagging \(2025\)](#) — Automated Parts-of-Speech Tagging in 52 Languages. *Natural Language Processing · Multilingual NLP · Clinical Language Analysis*

Professional Experience (last two)

- **PhD Researcher · CLUNL, NOVA University Lisbon · 2022–Present**
Designed and conducted behavioural experiments on language perception and social evaluation · Analyzed multilingual datasets using mixed-effects models and multinomial logistic regression in R · Conducted acoustic analyses with Praat · Presented at international conferences and published peer-reviewed research · Applied AI and NLP methods to multilingual language analysis.
- **Quality Analyst · Majorel Portugal · 2019–2023**
Evaluated communication quality and process compliance in multilingual environments. Produced structured quality assessments and performance reports.

Technical Stack

- **Programming** — Python · R (RStudio) · Git · GitHub · pandas · Jupyter/Colab · LaTeX
- **AI & NLP** — PyTorch · Hugging Face Transformers · SentenceTransformers · Prompt Engineering · LLM Evaluation
- **Statistics & Research** — Mixed-effects Models · Multinomial Logistic Regression · jamovi · Experimental Design · Survey Design · Acoustic analysis in Praat · Gorilla Experiment Builder · Methodology · Manuscript and conference drafts

Education

1. **PhD Candidate** — **Psycholinguistics**
NOVA University Lisbon · 2021–Present
2. **MA** — **English Didactics**
NOVA University Lisbon and Aberta University · 2019–2021
3. **BA** — **Languages, Literatures & Cultures**: Major in English Studies
University of Lisbon · 2012–2015