

# Mahdi Duris

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My research interests are in pronunciation, phonetics, and phonology. Specifically, the automation of intelligibility ratings by way of the Acoustic Masking and Intelligibility (AMI) theory. More broadly, I have an interest in the phonetic characteristics of second language speech, the intelligibility of L2 speakers, and technological approaches to 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)

B.S., Management (2006)

### Lycée Stéphane Hessel (France)

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

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## Published Work

**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.** (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

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.
- 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)

### **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)

### **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

- 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 :: Ames, IA (USA)**

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

- Instructor for ENGL 101B: Academic Writing I
- Instructor for ENGL 101C: Academic Writing II
- Instructor for SP CM 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking

**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 site, Central Office, and 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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**Languages**

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

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